



HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Newsletter of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies 04/09/2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 9 Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor)
- April 9-11 AIIAS African Theological Association Forum
- Apr 14 DMin Project Oral Defense: [Von John L. Sanchez](#)
- Apr 27 Last day to defend for May Graduation
- May 1 Labor Day
- May 15 Last Day of Class
- May 22-24 Graduation Weekend

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

May 16- June 7 - Term Break

Blue: Dissertation / Thesis Defense Schedules.
Red: No Class / No Work

ALUMNI - Gathering in Loma Linda, CA

We would like to thank all the former AIIAS students, faculty, and staff that attended the "[AIIAS Alumni and Friends Fellowship and Potluck](#)" at the Loma Linda Chinese SDA Church, in Loma Linda, California on April 5, 2026. We are happy everyone had a wonderful time seeing familiar faces, sharing memories, and listening to Dr. Ginger's report about our beloved campus. We were excited to learn that there is a strong interest in forming a U.S.-West AIIAS alumni chapter in the near future.



A special thanks to Bryan Sumendap for serving as the ever enthusiastic emcee, and for keeping the atmosphere fun and lively by inserting fun little anecdotes and trivia about AIIAS!

EDUCATION - Community Engagement in Davao

Most of our education professors traveled to Mindanao on April 1, 2026 to spend their Easter holidays engaged in their department's community engagement activity with the goal to "promote the Adventist philosophy of education and integration of faith & learning among educators and institutions in the area".

The Sabbath was spent at the Upper Room Fellowship Center in Davao Adventist Hospital, where Dr. Leni Casimiro spoke on the topic "Thinking Christianly in the 21st Century". In the afternoon, they held a panel discussion about Faith and Learning, which was attended by the education directors from the nearby missions and conferences. They also visited South Philippine Adventist College (SPAC) before flying back on April 5.



CHAPEL PERIOD - Leadership and Communication

Alyssa Truman, Communication Director of the General Conference, gave an enlightening talk about "What Leaders Should Know about Communication" for our Chapel series on [Applied Leadership](#) on April 6, 2026. Alyssa shared how she was called to serve at the GC, as well as some reasons why communication plays a vital role in accomplishing the church's mission. "When you don't communicate, you become the bottleneck, and the work slows down".

She ended by making an appeal for everyone to work together so that God's work can move forward.

AIIAS ACADEMY - STEAM Fair

The AIIAS Academy held their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Fair on April 8, 2026 in the gymnasium from 8:30 to 11:15am; in the afternoon, they featured a Quiz Bee at the Function Hall and student TEDx Talks at the amphitheater.

Congratulations to all the students and teachers who worked hard on the project exhibits, oral presentations, and quiz bee!

Photos by the AIIAS Academy Media Club

AQRA - Virtual Colloquium Series

On April 6, 2026, the Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA) presented the 4th session in their ongoing 2026 Virtual Colloquium Series, with Dr. Ajay Gupta, a Professor at VES Business School in India, speaking on the topic, "High-Context Coding: Innovations in Non-Verbal Data."

AQRA trusts that the attendees / researchers were challenged by the engaging colloquium session designed to deepen their understanding of the rigors of qualitative research.

NOT YET AN AQRA MEMBER? Email aqra@aaias.edu and our administrative assistant will gladly assist you with your membership application or renewal.

EDUCATION - PhD in Education Cohort

We would like to welcome our newest cohort on campus, the PhD in Education Cohort sponsored by the Southern-Asia Pacific Division (SSD). These 36 students are currently working in the different missions and conferences within the SSD, but have taken a "break" from work to come and study for the next 6 weeks.

We wish you all the best as you begin your AIIAS journey!

CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR SUCCESSFUL ORAL DEFENSE!

- April 7: (in person) **Lovanomena Zandritiana**, PhD in Religion candidate from Madagascar. Dissertation Title: "*Pragmatic Function of 'Ἀλλὰ in Counter-Propositional Constructions in Comparison to Αξ, Κάι, and Asyndeton in the Fourth Gospel*"
- April 8: (virtual) **Kate Yeboah-Appiagyei**, PhD in Education candidate from Ghana. Dissertation Title: "*University-Industry Collaboration in the Development of Curriculum in Higher Education in Ghana: A Case Study*"

"I LOVE AIIAS BECAUSE..."

an ongoing social media campaign featuring

- Isaac Vah, Jr., MAR student from West Africa
- Rebeca Ferreira, MPH Student from Brazil
- Daniel Truong, MPH student from Vietnam

We welcome video entries from our current and former students on-campus, online, extension sites, and cohorts.

You may contact preaiias.edu for more info.

FUNNY BONE

(Alumni Contributor: Dr. G. T. Ng)

"The task of the preacher is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." Finley Peter Dunne

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

- **AIIAS COMMUNITY GROUP** - the [AIIAS Community Facebook Group](#) is intended for the current AIIAS Faculty, Staff, and Students. The AIIAS policy is to remove members of the group when they've been gone for one year. If you are reaching that point, we invite you to join us at the [AIIAS Alumni Group](#) instead.
- **SABAH EVANGELISTIC MEETING** - The Applied Theology Department has organized the reaping phase of their evangelistic ministry in Sabah on July 19-25, 2026. If you wish to join, please register [HERE](#).
- **CAMPUS WATER** - The most recent water quality test conducted has confirmed that our water is safe, clean, and perfectly suitable for drinking.
- **AIIAS STORE OUTSOURCING** - AIIAS is looking for Adventist entrepreneurs who are willing to take over the AIIAS Store operations inside the campus. Interested applicants may request the full guidelines, requirements, and submission details from: finance@aaias.edu . Deadline for Application: April 19