

# EDUCATION



## International Academy Continues to Partner With Adventist Schools

Chris Juhl, a principal and teacher at Louisville Junior Academy (LJA) in Kentucky prayed that the Lord would lead his school in a direction that would enable his older students to continue to receive a quality Christian education. The prayer was personal since his son, Nathan, was entering the 7th grade, and LJA offered classes only through the 9th grade. No local Adventist

school offered education beyond the junior academy level, which posed a problem, as LJA was continuing to grow.

In the spring of 2007, Juhl explored the Alternative Programs for Learning Enrichment (APLE) provided by Griggs International Academy. He had taken college classes from Griggs (then Home Study International) and was familiar with the program offered in the 1980s. Recognizing the advancement made by Griggs in the past three decades, Chris reflected that, “it didn’t take long to realize that instead of a restric-

tive learning environment, God would use Griggs not only to be beneficial for my son but also to grow our school and provide a wonderful educational opportunity for all of our students.”

- Griggs International Academy’s regional and national accreditation enables it to offer Adventist schools a variety of programs, which enable them to expand their services in partnership with GIA in multiple ways:

- The Elementary Extension Pro-

BY SUMEETA RAJ, GLYNIS BRADFELD, and LaRONDA FORSEY

gram (EEP) helps provide a Christian education for children who are unable to attend a traditional Seventh-day Adventist school. If churches or small schools are unable to hire enough teachers to offer a complete K–8 program, the EEP enables them to do so through partnership with Griggs’s experienced teachers and accredited programs of study.

• The North American Division Office of Education and Griggs International Academy have developed the Alternative Program for Learning Enrichment (APLE) to assist local elementary schools seeking to offer grades 9–12 to students who would otherwise have to enroll in the public school system. Adventist secondary schools also use this program to extend course offerings in areas such as foreign languages. The APLE program also pro-

vides a transitional solution for schools wishing to permanently expand their program.

• A contract with USA Job Corp Centers provides opportunities for adults to complete high school by taking Griggs International Academy courses online.

• Currently, Griggs International Academy offers off-campus programs on four continents to a range of schools seeking a U.S.A.-accredited Christian elementary and/or secondary program of study. Requests for affiliate programs are processed through the Office of Off-Campus Programs.

With Griggs International Academy’s APLE program, the renamed Louisville Adventist Academy (LAA) now offers both a basic diploma and a college preparatory diploma program. Since 2008–2009, more than 90 percent of eligible LAA students have gradu-

ated or received their General Education Diploma (GED) on time, 75 percent have gone on to higher education, and a third have chosen to attend an Adventist college. Three-quarters of these young people are still active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year’s graduating class is on track to do the same. “In the past several years, the school has grown from 35 students in kindergarten through 9th grade, to 80 students attending the full range of elementary and high school classes. God is always very good,” acknowledges Juhl.

### **New Directions in Griggs Service**

Parents and teachers are always seeking options to provide quality Christian education. Tanya Spann, a Georgia resident and teacher, and her husband de-



The staff of Griggs International Academy and Griggs University gather outside their new building on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Rachel, a high school distance education student, instant messages her teacher for help with Geometry.

cided that she would stay at home once they started a family. As her children grew, she researched school options. When asked why she chose Griggs, she stated simply, “There wasn’t an Adventist school close by. I had an Adventist education all my life, and Griggs is accredited. Accreditation mattered. Everything was included—instruction guides, textbooks, and other materials.” Tanya

enrolled her three daughters with GIA. Her son turns 5 years old soon and will be enrolled, too.

With more than 100 years of experience in Christian distance education, Griggs University and Griggs International Academy have enrolled more than a quarter-million students from around the world. Now owned by Andrews University and operated by the School of Distance Education, Griggs provides a diverse array of educational services:

- Griggs Consortium provides more than 120 correspondence and interactive online tertiary courses for Adventist certification, college transfer credit, or online degrees, facilitated by 52 adjunct faculty working from a variety of locations.

- Griggs International Academy offers nearly 100 elementary and secondary courses using 46 certified teachers who live thousands of miles apart.

With its ability to extend access to Adventist education beyond campus, community, and national boundaries, Griggs is able to apply best practices in distance education. It strives to create a virtual community designed to nurture learning at multiple levels. Under the experienced leadership of School of Distance Education Dean Alayne Thorpe, Associate Dean and Principal La Ronda Forsey, Vice-Principal (Elementary) Stacy Gusky, Vice-Principal (JobCorps) Lamar Nangle, and Registrar Kathy Iwasa, Griggs's dedicated and professional staff understand the importance of:

- Developing student-teacher relationships that inspire lifelong learning;
- Supporting homeschooling parents and teachers in partnering schools;
- Creating services to bridge gaps in the availability of Adventist education;
- Understanding and flexibly serving an internationally diverse student body;
- Designing learning experiences that foster their students' holistic growth; and
- Continually training teachers to integrate faith and technology in NAD standards-aligned courses.

Spann reflects on her interactions with GIA's teachers and administrators alike, with the following accolade: "Thumbs up! You are awesome in helping my girls with questions, and are a team of wonderful people to partner with."

The absence of Adventist schools isn't always the problem. GIA is available for parents who long to have an Adventist education for their children, but are unable to enroll them in traditional programs due to overseas jobs, learning disabilities, illness, and children pursuing careers in sports and entertainment. Griggs International Academy helps parents and students solve these challenges in a number of ways. Interactive online and correspondence paper-based courses provide a variety of course delivery methods appropriate to the varying levels of tech-

## Griggs International Academy Accreditation

### Regional:

- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commissions on Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Schools
- The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) Commission on Elementary Schools

### National:

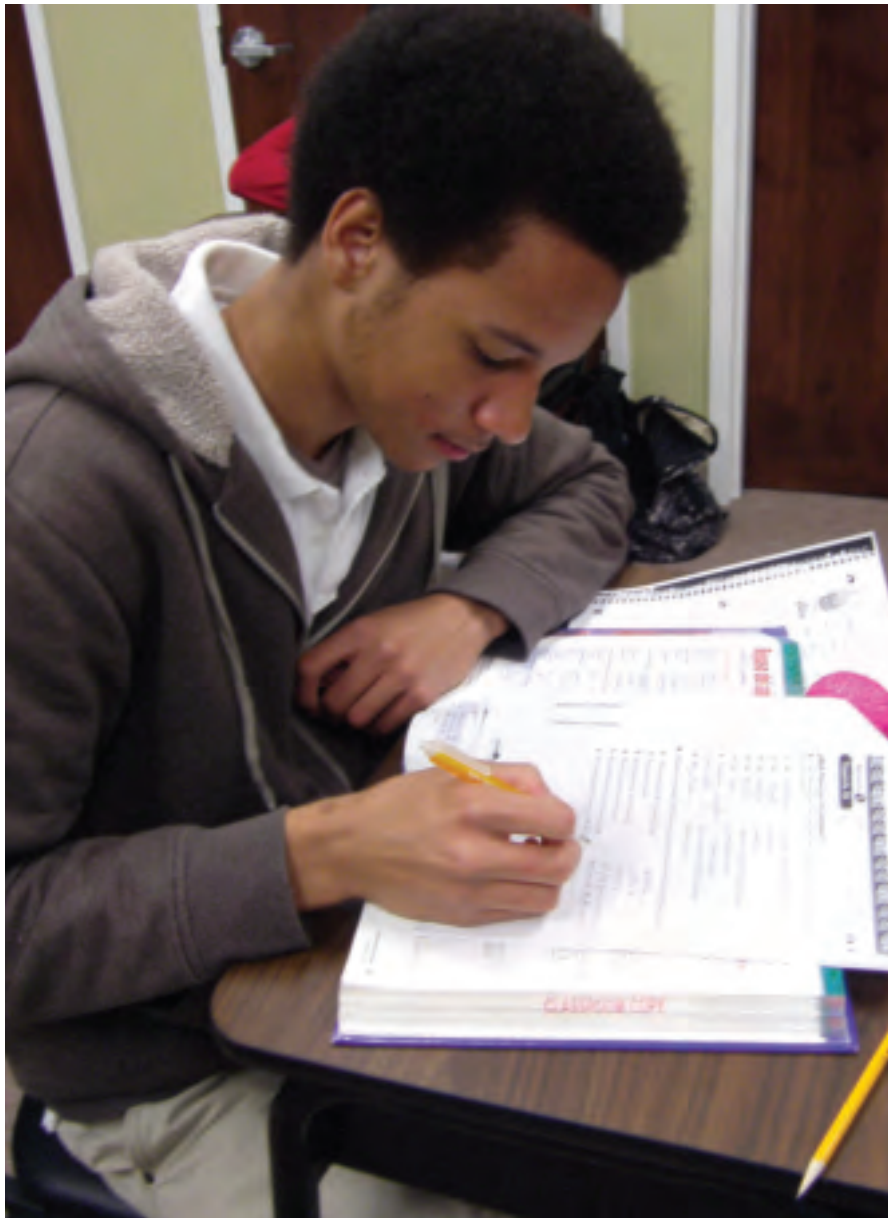
- Distance Education and Training Council (DETC)
- USA Department of Education for accrediting online schools
- Commission on International and Trans Regional Accreditation (CITA)

### General Conference:

- Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA)



Ninth-grade students at Objetivo Sorocaba, a Griggs-affiliated school in Sorocaba, Brazil.



**Paul Turner, a senior at Louisville Adventist Academy in Kentucky, is one of many students who have benefited from the APLE program.**

nology available around the world. Reasonable tuition and payment plans facilitate access to Adventist education.

- Open enrollment makes it possible to complete studies at a pace set by the student to fit any type of lifestyle, illness, travel, or special education needs. With year-round registration and self-paced instruction, students can tailor

their class schedules to their individual learning needs.

- Griggs students can enjoy traveling, interaction with the distance education community for support and guidance, educational visits to museums and historical sites, and participation in faith-based and sport activities in their local communities.

Griggs International Academy serves students attending local Adventist

schools as well as children who are homeschooled. Flexible enrollment options make it possible for a secondary student to pursue a college preparatory or basic high school diploma, or simply take individual courses to fulfill credits at his or her current secondary school. Elementary students typically enroll in a full grade level in the accredited program, but individual courses, such as the Adventist Bible curriculum, can be ordered by families seeking to supplement public schooling or homeschooling.

### **Serving Adventist Teachers**

The quality of a Christian school depends largely on the character of its teachers. Because of its dedication to teacher education, Andrews University provides flexible teacher preparation and continuing education options for Seventh-day Adventist teachers through the School of Education, and the new School of Distance Education. Three options are available for North American Division K-12 teachers seeking Seventh-day Adventist certification or recertification (subject to approval by their union certification registrar):

1. Educators can register for Andrews University online or on-campus courses to meet specific requirements, or to earn a Master's or doctoral degree.

2. Teachers well-grounded in Seventh-day Adventist education and beliefs may challenge exams to fulfill certification requirements for courses such as Adventist Heritage and Mission, Principles of Christian Faith, Jesus and the Gospels, and Philosophy of Adventist Education.

3. The four courses listed above also provide teacher candidates who have not attended Adventist colleges with necessary religion courses and an orientation to Adventist education.

Griggs International Academy and Andrews University acknowledge and

appreciate the dedication of Adventist education leaders and teachers to the holistic purposes of true education. Qualified teachers committed to improving teaching and learning from a biblical perspective utilizing current technology are contracted as adjunct faculty in their area of expertise and certification at the elementary, secondary, and tertiary level. Prospective adjunct faculty can visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/86wc7kd> to complete an interest form.

As the transition continues from Griggs University to Andrews University, the new School of Distance Education, managing Griggs International Academy, is improving and expanding its services to Adventist schools, homeschools, and church workers. Visit <http://www.griggs.edu> for updates and

announcements about programs, tuition rates, student life, and employment opportunities at Griggs International Academy, and <http://www.andrews.edu/distance> for Andrews University distance education options for Adventist teachers. The new team of qualified Adventist faculty and staff are ready to advise and guide you in making the right decision for your school and your students. ☞



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