

Teo Babun

After attending ILS from 1963 to 1965, Teo Babun graduated from Michigan Tech University with a major in Electrical Engineering, and an MBA. He then began his career as an inventor and businessman and in 1981, Dr. Babun received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Michigan Tech University for his innovative business efforts as inventor of the TO-5, then the world's smallest solenoid. He was later inducted into the Electrical and Computer Engineering Academy and in 2006, he received a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Vision International University.

Dr. Babun is the author of various books and more than 100 manuscripts and reports on Cuban businesses, infrastructure, and economic issues. His works include, *The Business Guide to Cuba*, a special report dealing with current and post-transition business opportunities in the island (more than 10,000 copies sold). He has also authored reports on the Aggregates & Cement Industry in Cuba, and Cuba's Ports and Airports. His most recent book titled, *"The Cuban Revolution-Years of Promise"* is a historical account of the Cuban revolution from 1953 to 1963.

After a successful career as an inventor and business owner, Dr. Babun began a Christian mission outreach working with vulnerable at-risk teenagers. His work soon grew into serving victimized children and many less fortunate people in the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. His work was through Outreach Aid to the Americas (OAA), an organization that responds to the needs of vulnerable people and advances entrepreneurship, organizational skills, education, religious freedoms, and social services.

Upon reflecting back on his ILS days, Dr. Babun recalls his classmates; Alberto "Al" Cardenas and "the terrible 7 (Reinaldo Gonzalez, Carlos "Ziggy" Ziegenhirt, Joaquin Leon, Fernando Espinosa, Jorge "Yoyi" Lizaraga, Ernesto Erdmann and Carlos "Charlie" Erdmann). Al Cardenas (who is now a nationally recognized lawyer, politician, conservative activist, and one of Washington D.C.'s top lobbyists) and Dr. Babun would rush after football practice to dress in their finest clothes and catch a bus to go over to a studio and be part of "Saturday Hop" a local Saturday bandstand program. The show was a huge part of growing up in South Florida in the 60's. The show had "go-go" dancers, guest rock artists, and dance contests, which they often won. The goal was always to get interviewed by Rick Shaw, then Miami's Disc Jockey king of rock 'n roll, so that the girls at Immaculata would be impressed and want to date them.

In 1999, he received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Miami International Seminary for his philanthropic endeavors. Dr. Babun's charitable and community endeavors are many and include; Director of The



Atlantic Council of the United States, Director of Intercontinental Bank of Miami, The Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner of the City of Miami's International Trade Board, Commissioner of the Florida Commission on a Free Cuba, Director of the Environmental Economics Council of the National Audubon Society, Director of the National Advisory Board-School of Business & Economics of Michigan Technological University, Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army of Greater Miami, Vice-Chairman and Commissioner of the Miami River Commission, and Board Member of Barry University and of the University of Connecticut's School of Business Administration.

Dr. Babun's message to today's ILS students is to acknowledge that being a high school student can be both stressful and fun. High school is where one starts to really learn what their passions are, and is a place where meaningful lifelong friendships develop. It's where kids begin to mature and to learn who they are. High school is a time when one can make plenty of mistakes and learn from them. There's certainly no handbook that tells kids how to do it perfectly, but one can learn from those who have been there before. He advises today's students to reach out to their parents, to work hard to meet professionals in their areas of interest, to not be shy and to ask questions and probe for answers, but most importantly, to pray to God for direction and wisdom. Dr. Babun also has a message to his old classmates and asks them to do what they can to help place Immaculata-La Salle at the top of the list of the private schools in Miami-Dade County.