



# The Alumni Newsletter

Post-Convention Issue

Plano, Texas

December 2001

## Cleveland A Success, Honolulu Next

### 13th Reunion Salutes '76, '71, '66, and '61 Jubilarians



*Silver Jubilarians, A Treasure for 25 Years*

**U**ERMMMC medical alumni turned out in good numbers for the 13th annual convention and reunion in America at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel last August 2-4. Some 400 graduates with their families and guests coming from as far away as the Philippines and Taiwan, representing classes 1961 to 1999 attended the three-day gathering that featured sports activities, talent competition, CME lectures, business meetings and social events. UERMMMC President Felipe Sese, Dean Esperanza Lansang, and Philippine Alumni President Henry Yanez were again on hand for the occasion.

The first day began with golf and tennis tournaments and ended with a raucous standing room only talent contest. Day 2 turned to the more serious but well-received 8-hour category 1 CME program that showcased distinguished alumni **continued on page 2**

### Gaw Expounds on Cultural Psychiatry



Dr. Albert Gaw, '64, clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, Speaker-Elect of the American

Psychiatric Association and well-published author on cultural psychiatry, delivered the Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture at the 13th Alumni Convention in Cleveland on August 3.

He spoke on the "Cultural Context of Psychotherapy," the final chapter of his latest book *Concise Guide to Cross-Cultural Psychiatry* published earlier this year by American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

In his talk, Gaw emphasized that psychotherapy is in itself a "cultural phenomenon" and that for it to be acceptable, applicable, and effective, "it must consider and respect local or ethnic culture" especially when the therapist is from a culture different from the patient's.

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### Castro Re-elected Foundation Chairman

After an impassioned report delivered earlier at the annual convention's general assembly on August 4th, Dr. El Castro, '63, was re-elected to an unprecedented third 3-year term as chairman of the board of trustees of the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. at the body's annual meeting later in the day.

Also re-elected for the same term were: Drs. Conrad Miranda, IV, President; Nely S. Recano, Treasurer; and Samuel Dona, member.

Two new trustees were easily voted in for the same term: Drs. Elmer Gilo, '73, Assistant Treasurer replacing Victoria Camacho who had served out her term; and DeKiam Ong, '67, member.

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*Ruby Jubilarians, The Pioneer Class After 40 Years*



# 13th Reunion . . .



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and the luncheon Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture by Dr. Albert Gaw, capped by the traditional batch parties starring the class '76 silver jubilarians who took to the dance floor at the Renaissance all night, and the venerable '61 ruby, '66 jade, and '71 pearl jubilarians at their own separate venues. Other classes held get togethers at various locations around town as well.

The final day was devoted to business meetings kicked off by Dean Lansang's "State of the College of Medicine" report, Dr. Sese's "State of the UERMMMC," and Dr. Castro's inspiring "Crisis, Compassion, and Commitment" about the alumni foundation. An enthusiastic general assembly responded with generous pledges of monetary and in-kind support for the needs of the medical school and the foundation programs that support them.

Later that day, the association's executive council met and approved an \$82,000 budget proposal for fiscal year 2001-02 which allocated \$27,500 for alumni foundation projects. It also selected Honolulu as the site of next year's convention, alternate Orlando, and New York as 2003's. Before the marathon meeting ended, Hawaii alumni headed by Dr. Fortunato Elizaga, '67, had agreed to host next year's meeting. As of presstime, the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel has been chosen for the August 1-3 affair.

The alumni foundation annual board meeting chaired by Dr. El Castro and the fledgling auxiliary led by Fely Bangayan rounded out the busy day.

Jubilarians were honored that evening at a sold-out gala at the Renaissance's Grand Ballroom. In a solemn candlelight ceremony, 35 '76 silver jubilarians including one who flew in from Manila were given commemorative medallions by Drs. Rene Querubin, president, and Rolando Mendoza, executive director. Nineteen of the 25 U.S.-based and one Philippine based pioneer ruby jubilarians were awarded special certificates of recognition to the loud applause of the audience. Fifteen '66 jade jubilarians were earlier honored by association officials at a pre-gala testimonial held in the same hotel. Seven '71 pearl celebrants were on hand to take a vow for their milestone as well.

In his address, Dr. Rene Querubin, '67, UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. President, thanked the founders of the association for bringing about a way for alumni to come together and help their *Alma Mater*. He also took pride in his hometown's hosting of the convention and thanked everyone for making it a success. He wished attendees to "keep your good memories of the reunion." "I will continue to serve our association with enthusiasm and optimism," he pledged and urged alumni to be "involved and generous." Querubin has one more year left in his term.

For his part, Dr. Joseph Rastrollo, '73, President-Elect, praised the high quality of the CME, competitiveness of the sports events, impressive entertainment of the talent show, and the productivity of the business meetings as what he called "signs of unity and maturity!" He enjoined all alumni to be a part of "a larger process of growing, learning, and doing" within the association.

The gala also featured special numbers from the silver jubilarians who sang "Climb Every Mountain" and Ohio alumni who wowed the crowd with ballroom, Philippine folk dances, classical vocal renditions, after dinner *merienda* and lots of jokes by emcee Dr. Nelin Retizos, authentic cowboy and comedian *par excellence*.

The top golfers were from Classes '72 and '73 and '76. They received their prizes from Dr. Andy Yap, sports committee chairman during the fellowship night. Tennis honors went exclusively to the families of Drs. Pasatiempo and Alilin..

The singing plum went to the charter class' Singing Medics who sang an emotional "Class '61 Our Way" to the tune of Frank Sinatra's "My Way." This brought all alumni to their feet! Fred Fernandez, of the silver jubilarian class '76 won 2nd.

Winners of the equally cheered dance contests were: Jun and Ping San Juan, '73, Alex and Debbie Bobila, '73 (Argentine Tango), and the graceful pair from the ruby jubilarian class of '61.

\* NEWS BRIEFS \* NEWS BRIEFS \*

## Dateline Manila

**'62 Grads Give Visiting Lectures -** Two 1962 alumni from the U.S. gave separate lectures at the College of Medicine earlier this year. Dr. Constante S. AVECILLA talked on "Updates in the Management of Colorectal Cancer" on February 21st while Dr. Ernesto Chua lectured on "Non-Invasive Management of Coronary Artery Disease" on March 15th.

**'95 Alumna Tops OB-GYN Exams** Dr. Bernadette Pascual, '95, and a 2000 graduate of the UERMMMC OB-GYN residency program bested all candidates in the recent exams given by the Philippines' certifying board. Pascual is currently a fellow in OB-GYN ultrasound at UERM.

**Center Improvements on Track -** In a bid to compete effectively, UERMMMC has implemented some of the capital improvement plans outlined by then President Felipe Sese at last year's alumni convention in Las Vegas. Aside from the fresh paint on frontage buildings and classrooms, the Center installed an improved communication and flood control systems and took delivery of new passenger elevators, mammogram, versatile x-ray, PUVA, and fluorescein angiogram machines for the hospital. Pay hospital renovations are on target and expected to be finished next year with the completion of intensive care units for surgery, internal medicine and pediatrics, "megasuite rooms," and OR and DR enhancements. Since last year, the campus has become smoke-free in compliance with government ordinances.

**UERMMMC Offers New Degree -** The degree of Master of Science in Internal Medicine Major in Diabetes is now offered at UERMMMC through its affiliation with the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. headed by Dr. Ricardo Fernando on April 24, 2001. UERM will provide curriculum support while ISDF will do research and provide diabetic clinical services.

## CME Stresses Prevention and Early Treatment

The CME program on August 3 entitled "Update in Medicine for the New Millenium" covered a variety of topics presented by a faculty made up mostly of UERMMMC alumni. The 8-hour accredited course was divided into medical, ethical, and financial segments.

Aggressive prevention and early treatment were emphasized in the medical topics. In bioethics, Dr. Benjamin Rigor, '62, reiterated the time-honored values of privacy protection, respect for religious beliefs and patient advocacy in this age of the internet and managed care. Patricia Brennan, a guest financial planner, kept everyone thinking of dollars and cents as she advised her listeners to "keep investing for the long term regardless of where the short-term market goes." While acknowledging that "there is pessimism out there," she expressed optimism that "the market will come back up" with the economic recovery expected from President Bush's tax cut enacted in the summer. So "stay the course" and "hang in there!" She concluded.

Dr. Sethu Reddy, a Cleveland Clinic endocrinologist, kicked off the program with his "Treatment Options in Obesity," namely; diet (reduction of 500-1000 cal./day equals 1-2 lbs./week weight loss), medications (Meridia, Orlistat), and surgery "if all others fail." Dr. Ben Ortega, '63, neurosurgeon, stressed the need for on-going assessment so pain especially chronic can be properly treated even with opioids. Dr. Renato Querubin, '67, reviewed rhinosinusitis and reassured primary physicians that most cases still respond to antibiotics. For Dr. Emmanuel Bravo, '61, nephrologist at Cleveland Clinic, pre-emptive treatment of B.P.s of 129-139 systolic, 85-90 diastolic, especially with angiotensin II antagonist would prevent many coronary heart disease and end-stage kidney disease down the road.

Drs. Rolando Puno, '77, a Louisville orthopedic surgeon, and Elena Bandong Realubit, '61, Chief of Anesthesia at MCU in the Philippines, rounded out the presentation by alumni speakers. Puno, making good use of the power point, lectured on the surgical options for spinal fractures, especially spinal canal decompression procedures. Realubit reported that the standards and delivery of anesthesia in the Philippines' rural areas are at a higher level now than before as training program and facility accreditation are now being done. She added that subspecialty training programs are now also in place as surgical services in the Philippines have modernized.

The messages from two other guest lecturers, Drs. James Myers, a diabetologist, and Andrew Carlton Reynor, an osteoporosis specialist, were also similar: treat early and aggressively.

The program was attended by about 100 participants and was moderated by Dr. Bert Bangayan, '63, a non-invasive cardiopulmonologist, also from Ohio.

## Gaw

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He cited the examples of language and customs as barriers to a successful psychotherapeutic encounter but advised that the application of such factors "can maximize the therapeutic process."

He detailed the application of cultural knowledge in the structure of psychotherapeutic relationship offering different models for various situations.

As he acknowledged culture as part of the "spiritual context of treatment," Gaw paid tribute to Dr. Jaime Zaguirre, the late professor and chairman of psychiatry who taught UERMMMC students a long time ago about the spirit-psyche-soma of the "individual human person." "He (Zaguirre) was 30 years ahead of his time," he added.

He concluded his talk with a call for a "universal paradigm for an integrated biopsychocultural healing."

After his lecture, Dr. Gaw autographed 37 sold copies of his book, proceeds of which he donated to the alumni foundation.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of Dr. Gaw's book, please call 800-368-5777 or log on to <http://www.appi.org>.

## State of the UERMMMC . . .

charge for the settlement of the labor dispute that almost closed down the Center in 1995.

The improved financial status has enabled the Center to embark on infrastructure projects involving new equipment, building and hospital renovations, facilities improvement and faculty or staff development, Sese elaborated.

He also reported that the College of Nursing achieved a high level of accreditation and has seen a surge in enrollment, the College of P.T. was on track in its own application, and the College of Medicine well on its preparation for accreditation survey. He ended his talk with a prediction that the Center will evolve into a "complete university for the health sciences."

Lansang, for her part, reported continuing improvement in the PBL implementation shown by the 88-100% module passing rates by regular and irregular students. As a result, student selection has tightened as only 318 out of 1,294 (25%) were admitted to this year's freshman class, the fourth PBL batch. She ended by thanking alumni for their support.

## State of the UERMMMC: Sound

With the last two classes maintaining third place ranking in the Philippine Board Exams and the Medical Center posting a 238% increase in net operating income over last year's, Drs. Felipe Sese and Ezperanza Lansang, President and Dean of the College of Medicine, respectively, pronounced the UERMMMC and College of Medicine to be on the upswing. Their reports were given at the 13th Alumni Convention in Cleveland on August 4, 2001.

Sese noted that inspite of three adverse conditions buffeting the Center in the last fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, namely, the monsoon floods, Asian financial crisis, and unstable socioeconomic and political climate in the Philippines, UERMMMC grossed P270.24 M, 51% (P131.6 M) of which came from fees paid by students from the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Physical Therapy, and health service fees from UE Main; the remainder, P126.7 M or 49%, was generated by the Pay and Teaching Hospitals, which reported losses of \$7 M and \$18.2 M, respectively. Total expenses were P261.4 M, with salaries using up 41%, the rest for supplies and utilities. The Center also took a P10 M plus



## ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Convention Notes ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ by Dr. Senen Siasoco

## After 25 Years

Have you seen the opening sequence from the *Drew Carey Show* where he prances around this park with some stately-looking buildings in the background? That is **Tower City Center**, the epicenter for the **13th Annual Reunion** of our alumni society. Erstwhile known as "Terminal Tower," for three days in August, she certainly was full of life as our motley crew of UERM grads ruled. Major venue was the **Renaissance Hotel** and its Ballroom, where most of the meetings and functions were staged. A dowager of an edifice the joint underwent a significant facelift (in time for us, I like to believe) while retaining the trappings of comparable Hotels of Distinction. The sparkling chandeliers, the opera boxes, silver metal pitchers of *eau* (on the rocks, *opkors*) decanted into crystal goblets, notepaper imprinted with their regal logo. A fitting complement to our magnificent roster of Lecturers and Chieftains and Indians . . . Golf at the Sleepy Hollow Course in nearby Breckville was well-attended. For **Abner Pasatiempo** and **Roger Alilin**, tennis in a penthouse surrounded by skyscrapers reflecting the midsummer sun, and a mild breeze wafting in from the stones-throw-away Lake Erie was very memorable, *hind ba?* You'll have to look elsewhere for tales of Fellowship night as yours truly missed. Thursdays festivities. The Western outfits and song-and-dance competition made for an interesting evening, I'm sure.

Serious CME was on the agenda for Friday. **Albert Gaw**, '64, delivered a sterling dissertation on the "Cultural Context of Psychotherapy," a field he is thoroughly familiar with as a psychiatrist at the U of C in SF, and for many years before that in Massachusetts. The rest of the lectures were an eclectic blur of topics ranging from Obesity, to Pain Management, Spine Surgery, and Diabetes. A couple of stand-outs for me was **Elena Realubit's** discourse on Anesthesia in the Rural Areas (she journeyed all the way from Manila) and **Benjie Rigor** expounding on his passion, Bioethics.

I came upon long-time-no-see buddies. **Ed Banez** was all recovered from the Northridge earthquake that rocked his California clinic. **Cesar Ang** told me about the TEE machine he

is donating to the old school. I still owe **Dave Austria** the sixpack from his Sixer victory over my Bucks. **Elmer Gilo** and **Elena Gragasin** were just as feisty as they were twenty five years ago.

The silent auction of various and sundry items was entertaining. How much do I bid for an original painting of a *bahay kubo*? The Financial Planning lecture appealed to me . . . how about the Post-It note collection I amassed from the pharmaceutical exhibits?

But enough of the meeting, Cleveland beckons. The metropolis has blossomed from the last time we were here (the 80's and residency-in-Toledo days felt like ancient history). The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame just down the street from the Renaissance is an I.M. Pei masterpiece. What a fun place to recreate the soundtracks of our life, all th while wandering round Pei's prototypical glass pyramid surrounded by odd-shaped concrete block buildings. Also down the street, we dropped in on the Great Lakes Science Center, a gem of a natural science museum. BJ whiled away the afternoon pressing buttons, cranking on levers, blowing giant bubbles. Thank you, **Dr. Querubin** and your Ohio mafia for sharing your secret place with us.

Saturday glorious morning, are all summer mornings in the Midwest this sunny? the Gold Room is as golden as the outdoors. **Dean Lansang** delivers the State of the School address. All is rosy on the Aurora Boulevard Front. A Collective Bargaining Agreement was signed with the *Manongs* and the *Manangs* of the wards. Revenue exceeded expenses, new equipment was purchased (mammography, elevators, much more). Problem-based Learning is no longer cutting edge, is more mainstream. The President of the Center, **Dr. Sese** seconded the report. **El Castro** detailed the activities of the Foundation then the business sessions followed. The afternoon was again free to discover the City. There is a section of the old harbor that has been yuppiefied and is **continued on page 11**

Thirty-five Class '76 jubilarians came to their reunion. On the road to Cleveland, they established an e-mail group ([www.uermclass76@yahoogroups.com](mailto:www.uermclass76@yahoogroups.com)), address book/directory, and are on the way to completing their commemorative yearbook. Most of all, they linked up with each other, all 131 of them, 68 from the U.S., 62 from the Philippines, and one from Australia. At the convention, they were an excited bunch - Amy Malihan fired an under par score at the green and won first place in women's golf with the skillful composure of a New York plastic surgeon; Fred Fernandez poured his soul out in a 2nd place song; Susan de Padua-Snodgrass exuded so much energy at the dance floor and still looked gorgeous though a bit shy for a ballet number; Minnie Domingo-Dancel was as dainty as she was at UERM; Cesar Yu was selfless in his generosity to our *Alma Mater*, especially on behalf of his classmates; the guys looked as young and dashing after all these years; Henry Nichamin was so happy he burned much calories at the jam session; Mandy Aliga still stood tall not from playing basketball but from helping others stay healthy so they could perfect their golf swing; they proudly received their medallions flanked by their families, got misty-eyed during the candlelight proceedings, sang "Climb Every Mountain," then danced the night away at the gala. They upheld tradition and became part of the alumni family as they let other classes join them at the batch night. All these and more because there are always in every class members like Bee Ramos-De Asis, Dave Austria, Ed Banez, Boy Abraham, who gave of themselves to lead for old times' sake and the kinship it has spawned.

So will Class '77 from the zeal they displayed in Cleveland. The nine who attended, Susan Perez-Suntay, Sonia Rico-Todd, Laurel de Padua, Randy Puno, Cristy Mendoza-Alonzo, Stuart Goodman, Fely Bohol-Santos, and Joey and Vicky Dimayuga, went to work right away and began the arduous task of organizing for their silver jubilee in Hawaii. Named coordinators were Ruby Cecilio-Claraval, West, Randy Puno, East, Sonia Rico-Todd, as treasurer, and Susan Perez-Suntay, Midwest, Rene Punsalan and Lily Pine-Taneco, Manila); [UERMMMMC1977@yahoogroups.com](mailto:UERMMMMC1977@yahoogroups.com) an e-mail group and chat roon run by Ruby Cecilio Claraval is now in place; CME speakers from within their ranks are being sought to join Randy Puno who gave a talk on spinal injuries in Cleveland; yearbook jobs had been given to Merle Asuncion and Connie Lazarraga-Del Mundo; and they launched an ambitious fund-raiser for UERMMMMC scholarships.



# Class '61 Our Way

by Roberto A. Bacani, M.D.

*(Following is the winning entry in the talent show sung with much emotion by the Singing Medics of the Pioneer Class '61 to the tune of Frank Sinatra's "My Way." - Ed.)*

And now, the end is near,  
Class '61 must face this gath'ring.  
Alas, our numbers few, our prime, we fear,  
will soon be fading.  
the good times we recall, all seem to grow  
with each re-telling;  
and so, we'd like to show  
we did it OUR WAY -

The Dario river flood drove us  
to swim for our salvation;  
in surging waters black,  
filled with bacterial infestation.  
Cadavers floated by, poor victims of  
unskilled dissection.  
But one had gone astray,  
and got AWAY -

Though we were the first to reach our goal,  
with seven gone we're less than whole.  
The comrades we esteem today  
were once the rogues of yesterday.  
We learned to thrive, and still survived.  
We did it OUR WAY.

The dress code was all WHITE,  
Our shoes and socks, in brown-gray shadings  
We sang our college hymn,  
and raised the flag to our (national) anthem.  
Our voices mingled in  
discordant notes and tired old verses.  
We did all PEPE asked . . . but did it OUR WAY.

For as the years have come and gone,  
Our joints all stiff, less hair to comb  
Class '61 began it all,  
We stood the test, we paid the toll  
We're not alone, we all belong  
to . . . UERM . . .

## Class Notes

**Hawaiian Interisland Cruise Mulled** - Next year's jubilarians are trying to organize a post-convention Hawaiian Interisland Cruise. Coordinators of '62 (ruby), '72 (pearl), and '77 (silver) to join in. Interested parties please call your class coordinators.

**Pride of '75** - Dr. Angelina (Linette) De Vera-Herman, a practicing OB-GYN in Los Angeles was crowned Mrs. Philippines USA at a pageant held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles last July, 2001. Linette came away with 7 of 8 awards in addition to the title.

Proceeds of the contest will go to the *Bantay Bata* Orphanage in the Philippines. A busy schedule including a popular Manila TV show appearance awaits her entourage on its visit to the Philippines on January 21, 2002. Congrats Linette!

**Welcome to '91 Couple** - Dr. Romergryko Geocadin, neurologist/neuro-intensivist at John Hopkins, Maryland, and his wife Efigenia Geocadin, a psychiatrist at York Hospital, Pennsylvania signed on with the association last August. The alumni warmly welcome you! Bring all your classmates on board!

**1970 Grad Inducted NTAPP Head** - Dr. Asuncion Agustines-Acosta, '70, an internist and retirement home entrepreneur from Plano, was inducted November 10th in Dallas, Texas as the 22nd President of the 162-strong DFW-based North Texas Association of Philippine Physicians. Sworn in also was Dr. Epifania Miranda-Caturay, '73, an area pediatrician as member of the Board of Governors. Acosta is the 2nd UERMMM alum to lead the organization which currently sponsors 4 medical students in the Philippines including one from UERM.

**Class '78 Gears Up for 25th Year** - Spurred on by Dr. Franklin De Guzman, psychiatrist, who had a grand time at the Cleveland meeting, Batch '78 began organizing for their silver jubilee scheduled for summer 2003 in New York starting with e-mail [UERMMM78@yahoo.com](mailto:UERMMM78@yahoo.com) and assignment of contact persons. Ruby Reyes is in charge of the album. Check your e-mails for details.

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# Officers' Corner

## After the Dust Has Settled

by Dr. Renato D. Querubin



Gratitude is defined as the acknowledgement of obligation and indebtedness to someone or a group of individuals who have done us good directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally.

It is in this spirit that I extend my heartfelt thanks and profound gratitude to the CME Director, Moderator, Coordinator, Convention Chairperson, Chairpersons of various committees, all alumni, colleagues, and friends who assisted me, stood by me, and trusted me in the planning and successful

conclusion of the 13th UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. Reunion and Convention. Last but not least, I will be remiss of myself if I do not mention my foremost supporter, my wife Esther, whose strength, patience, perseverance, and hard work in carrying out the planned activities brought my vision into reality.

I am proud to report to you that the Convention in Cleveland last August 2-4, 2001 was a qualified success. All the scheduled activities were well attended. The Fellowship Night featuring the dance and singing competition was standing room only. We expected 150 but about 250 attended. Luckily, the hotel promptly met this unexpected increase with more food. The performers were well applauded, especially class 1961, our first ruby jubilarians. In the business meeting, alumni fulfilled most of the items in the Medical Center's "wish list." We added 30 more seats to the 400 we reserved for the gala. The heavy turnout was way beyond my expectations!

The number of dues-paying members also doubled. Even skeptics who thought there was nothing to do in Cleveland came. What was the reason for this influx of attendees? Could it be the collective eagerness of alumni to bond together and see each other again? Or was it the tireless, uncompensated work of alumni in Ohio who, out of love for the Association, burned midnight candles, braved sleet, rain and snow to see this event through? Whatever the reasons, I am so glad alumni came, prepared and enthusiastic, and left emotionally fulfilled with fond memories of the meeting.

The Association is financially healthy. We are in the black and we will be donating \$27,500 to the alumni foundation this year. Perhaps more after the final accounting of convention figures are done. In line with this, I strongly encourage all alumni to support the laudable projects of the Alumni Foundation which is the charity arm of our Association. I invite all of you to join us in helping our *Alma Mater* and enhancing our alumni community.

I have received e-mails from several alumni about next year's convention venue. Why Hawaii? During the meeting of the executive council, these places were mentioned as future sites: New York, Chicago, Florida and Hawaii. New York wanted to host in 2003, Chicago in 2004, Florida was a standby. Before the meeting, alumni in Hawaii in communication with our officers had already said that, if chosen, they were willing and ready to host the 2002 convention. There is tremendous work in planning this affair and if alumni in a chosen place are not able to do the job, then the decision is negated. I hope that the general membership will abide by the decision of the Executive Committee.

Lastly, I thank you for the privilege of serving you as President of the Alumni Association. I hope to see most of you in Hawaii in 2002 for the 14th Reunion and Convention. With your help and support, I am confident that this will be another successful event.

## Executive Director's Report

by Dr. Rolando A. Mendoza



The 13th Annual Convention and Reunion in Cleveland was a resounding success. Thanks to the vision and hard work of the Cleveland group especially Rene and Esther Querubin, Fely and Bert Bangayan, the

"Dancingest Couple" Ben and Thelma Ortega, and of course, their committee members too numerous to name individually. Thanks to Cristy Magpantay and Irene Manlapaz for helping man the registration desk. The UERMMMCMAAA Auxiliary is now reactivated so more fund-raising activities can be expected in addition to the silent auction started by Letty and Benjie Rigor 3 years ago during Dr. Rigor's presidency.

The week following the convention, I was inundated by e-mails from classes 1977, '78, '72, '62, and some of my '67 classmates about our choice of Hawaii as next year's venue. The US-based class '62 have offered to pay for the roundtrip fares of their Philippine-based classmates! Class '67 is planning to have a post-convention interisland Hawaiian cruise. Class '77 jubilarians are making plans for their December 2002 reunion in the Philippines.

There is so much enthusiasm this early! Thanks to better communication via fax and the internet I urge all classes to set up their e-mail/chat room websites with [yahogroups.com](http://yahogroups.com). It is free and very efficient!

The Hawaii Group is delighted, eager, and willing to host the 14th convention there. My classmate Dr. Fortunato Elizaga has been promptly appointed by our President Rene Querubin as the overall chairman for this. We have been assured of a very memorable and enjoyable affair! So make plans to attend now. Date is August 1-3, 2002.

I encourage all of you to become paid members. Help us update and expand the alumni directory and mailing list. I welcome your ideas and I am always at your service.

See you in Honolulu then!

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## Treasury Notes

by Dr. Cristy B. Magpantay

As of November 24, 2001

### INCOME

(Cleveland Convention) \$108,276.37

### EXPENSES

(Cleveland Convention) 73,746.37

NET INCOME \$ 34,530.00

### ASSETS

1. Pre-convention \$102,376.43

2. Post-Convention 136,906.43

LIABILITIES (Budget) 81,700.00

NET ASSET (Pre-Tax) \$ 55,206.43

## UERMMMCMAAA, Inc.

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#### Southern California

Edgar C. Banez, M.D.

#### Midwest

Manuel Blas, M.D.

#### Florida

Rolando A. Mendoza, M.D.

#### MarVaDC

Rolando Sabundayo, M.D.

#### Northeast

Alex Bobila, M.D.

## Secretary's Report

by Dr. Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz



Following is an excerpt of the minutes of the Executive Council's meeting on August 4, 2001 at the Renaissance Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio.

After establishing a quorum with 19 members present, Dr. Rene Querubin, president, called the meeting to order at 1:15 P.M. Guests were welcomed including 4 members of Class '77. Minutes of the February meeting held in New York were approved without corrections.

Dr. Cristy B. Magpantay, treasurer, reported an income of about \$107,400 as of August 1, 2001 mainly from last year's convention and this year's dues and convention pre-registration minus expenses of about \$3,400. Hiring a Maryland accountant and filing of IRS return there were then decided.

Executive Director Dr. Rolando Mendoza reported slow progress in updating the mailing list and opening Mastercard/Visa account for dues and fee payment convenience. More practical collaboration between the association and foundation in holding future conventions to avail of the latter's tax exempt status was passed.

All chapters except Northern California were represented. Northeast and Southern California pledged support for foundation projects, Florida agreed to be the back-up site for next year's convention, and Midwest promised to get more active.

Standing committees were busy as well. Budget pronounced the 2000 budget to be on target, membership was still updating the directory, audit would coordinate with the treasurer in tax filing, newsletter put up 3 issues for the year with circulation of 1,500 and aiming for a web presence, constitution and by-laws was gathering input for future amendments, and CME would continue to be accredited through APPA.

The council voted for Honolulu as next year's host city and immediately got the OK of Hawaii alumni to organize it, back-up was Florida. New York City was also approved for 2003 per President-Elect Dr. Jeff Rastrollo's assurance of the Northeast Chapter's prior offer to host.

A budget of \$81,700 broken down into 5 items was passed, namely, 2002 convention (\$20,000), newsletter (\$7,500), administration (\$24,700), president's fund (\$2,000), and alumni foundation donation (\$27,500).

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M. Next meeting will be in spring 2002.

## Auxiliary News

The auxiliary formally adopted a constitution and articles of incorporation in its meeting on Saturday afternoon, August 4, 2001 at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel. Calling itself UERMMMCMAAA Alliance and Friends, Inc., the reactivated body elected its first set of officers and approved its major fund-raising project for the alumni foundation.

Chosen to serve for two years were: Fely Bangayan, President; Dr. Penny Miranda, President-Elect; Elmie Litam, Vice-President; Esther Querubin, Secretary; Lellie Quirino, Treasurer; Thelma Ortega, PRO; Shirley Ong, Auditor; Ernie Suguitan, Editor-In-Chief; Tess Tapnio, Odette Blas, Violeta Rigor, Dr. Gemma Mendoza, and Dr. Susan Raymundo, members of the board of trustees. They were sworn in at the gala that night by Dr. Conrado Miranda, IV after being serenaded by Dr. Querubin.

Basking in the Cleveland meeting's fund-raising success in which the silent auction, T-shirt sales, and fellowship night raffle brought in \$2,105, the group launched the search for Miss UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. 2002 to be crowned at the Hawaii convention. Chapters or alumni groups are invited to put up their candidates. Watch out for details in the 'Letter. Flyers will be mailed in January.



CONVENTIONS 2001 SUNDAYS



'76 Silver Jubilarians at the Gala



at their Batch Night



... and at the Dance Floor. Mambo!



Indomitable Class '61, they showed us their way, a tough act to follow! Viva!



Class '71 Keeping Faith at 30: Vincent, Vickie, Shirley, Heidi, Evelyn, Neda and Ernie. Magnificent 7 Indeed!



Twin Class '73 with Dr. Lansang, Always One, Always Fun!



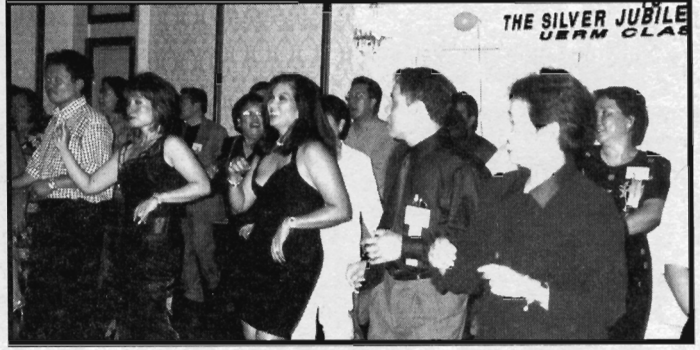
Class '74: Butch, Babes, Caloy, Nena, Dinia, and Dolly



Class '75, Irene and Senen's, Flanked by '73er and '74er



*Class '69, Juliet Hindi Ka Nagisa!*



*'76 Silver Jubilarians and Gate Crashers on Batch Night*



*Class '77, A Bevy of Beauty and Brains: Laurel and Sonia and Susan and Saling Pusa!*



*Dr. Albert Gaw autographs copies of his book after his lecture.*



*Class '78, Only Franklin Came But Everyone Was Welcome!*



*Jun and Ping, First Place*



*Tango by Alex & Debbie*



*Assorted Classes, '82 to '99, Our Youth, Our Future, Our Hope!*



*Pistol Packin' Emcee, Nelin!*



*Tango the '61 Way*



**THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND THE VISITING ALUMNI OFFICERS, SPRING 2001**

**Front Row, Left to Right - Drs. Oscar Resurreccion, Chief of Clinics, Amor Castro, Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, College Secretary, Dean Lansang, El Castro, Georgina Tungol-Paredes, ComMed, Roly Mendoza. Standing, All Heads of Basic and Clinical Departments.**

## Sese Quits, Divinagracia Resumes Post

Dr Felipe B. Sese stunned the medical center in early October when he resigned abruptly as president effective October 16 shortly after completing his third year in office. Dr. Romeo A. Divinagracia, '63, Sese's predecessor, was promptly appointed by Chairman P. O. Domingo to replace him.

No explanation was given by the administration as to why Sese resigned. There was no such hint from him at all during the alumni convention in Ohio last August even as he delivered an upbeat report on the state of the UERMMMCC.

Sese was honored at a testimonial dinner attended by the Board of Trustees on Sunday, October 7. Divinagracia assumed the post he previously held in 1994-1998 when the medical school was almost closed due to a debilitating labor dispute.

During his tenure, Dr. Sese together with Dean Esperanza C. Lansang, oversaw the remarkable rebuilding of the College of Medicine shown by the full implementation of the innovative learning curriculum (PBL), improvement in student and faculty morale, increase in alumni giving and support, consistent board exam rating of graduates among the country's top 3 medical schools, successful conclusion of the collective bargaining agreement with the employees' union, and the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance rating of the UERMMMCC's standard of instruction as equivalent to that of a California medical school in early 2000.

Divinagracia brings back to the Center's academic leadership a wealth of experiences in the classroom, clinics, research laboratory, and administration spanning almost 35 years.

At UERMMMCC, the president is the highest academic authority as well as the chief operating officer and executive director.

### Valdellon To Replace Lansang

In a related development, news swirled on campus in mid-November that Dr. Erlinda V. Valdellon, '63, professor of medicine, Chief of the Gastroenterology, Chairwoman of the Committee on Scholarships and Academic Honors, and former College Secretary, would be the next Dean of the College of Medicine when Dr. Esperanza C. Lansang's term ends on April 30, 2002.

Dean Lansang confirmed the report in a cyberinterview with the *Newsletter* on November 27. Although no official announcement has been received at presstime, Lansang said that Chairman Domingo, at a recent meeting, had informed the new officers of the Medical Faculty Club about the choice.

Dr. Lansang said that "if that is so, I welcome the change, it will give me time for myself and my family." When she leaves office in the spring, she will have served five years as dean and 42 years as anatomy professor. She resigned her faculty duties early this year to concentrate on administration as she prepares the college for accreditation in February, 2002.

She expressed satisfaction with her work as the twin goals she set at the start of her tenure, curriculum development and research development, have been achieved. She took pride in the strides already made in PBL as well as in the approval by the CHED (Commission on Higher Education) of the graduate school that will serve as the future research institute's nucleus.

Dr. Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, '73, also ends her term as College Secretary in April. Both she and Dr. Lansang plan to be active in international PBL activities.



## Convention Whispers

We went around the 3-day convention and did impromptu ("ambush" they call it in the business) interviews with participants and found that everyone had something to say about anything and *meant* it.

Obviously bothered by the noise at the back during the CME, Dr. Glo Antiporda. '72 scribbled this note "I think CME Code of Ethics should be discussed in the Newsletter!"

We asked the jeweler-exhibitors. "What is the hottest item?" "Southsea pearls!" She smiled, saying that in the first 3 hours, she already sold 4 pieces. "How do we UERM alums compare with the APPA delegates who came to the Renaissance a week earlier?" I asked another. "No comparison," said she, "UERMM grad seems to love each other more!" She revealed that our people had already scooped up 10 pieces by day's end. Attention Auxiliary!

Asked for comments on their first convention, a troop of '76 jubilarian doctoras replied "Yung mga nasa registration mga suplada!" No, they were just acting like our *Ates*, I said.

Henry Nichamin, '76, had much to say: "The CME is very informative. They are the best!" About the financial topic, "That's really good stuff. Very useful."

Attending her first reunion ever, Dr. Juliet So, '69, was very gleeful, "It's so happy here! I'm going to attend alumni reunions and conventions from now on."

## Convention Notes

continued from page 4

now all chichi restaurants and boutiques. Christened "The Flats." the riverfront offered bistros, cafes, enough to while the afternoon away, and the vending too, except we had to retreat back to the Renaissance for the Main Event.

The *Manila USA* band was already bebopping away as the alumni shuffled to their assigned tables. **Nelin Retizos** was the jolly emcee. A merry mix-up was just the ticket to get things rolling. We got to sit with Class '77 as **Tita Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz** and I were the sole representatives of 1975. The two **Susans, De Padua** and **Perez**, were lovely (literally and figuratively) dinner companions. Of course the highlight of the *noir* had to be the presentation of the Jubilarian Class '76 and the subsequent candle ceremony. I spent a year with these guys, as I interned and they clerked at the UERM hospital so a flood of memories came flashing back to me. **Mandy Aliga, Minnie Domingo, Bee Ramos, Randy Cabrera**. I couldn't recall everyone present (senior moments?).

The band rocked on well into the night, with the fellowship outstanding, and the bliss never-ending. We even got **Dr. Sese** doing a mean Frank Sinatra! Oops, that's all the *tsismis* I can squeeze into this space. *Para masali kayo sa kuwento*, you all should show up in Honolulu next year. Till then, it's aloha!

She promised. She has been practicing OB-GYN in Taiwan for sometime now after her stints with Fabella and Chinese General Hospitals in Manila.

## Class Notes

continued from page 5

**Class '73 Takes Stock** - After a 12-course lauriat hosted by **Greg** and **Lellie Quirino** and graced by **Drs. Lansang** on August 3, '73ers reviewed the progress of their efforts toward the \$100,000 pledged to the College in 1998 and designated **Roy Baldomero, Eric Pua**, and **Eli de Leon** to advise the group on next projects to support. Anatomic and clinical skill models and OB-GYN supplies have already been sent by the class to UERM.

**CyberClass '68** - If you crave humor, politics, philosophy, religion, academics or philanthropy, in short the frontiers of human thought, join **Kuya Totoy's** class '68 loop at [uermmmcmaaa@yahoo.com](mailto:uermmmcmaaa@yahoo.com). You can follow their e-mail traffic or put in your two cents worth. Do you know that this class never rests? **Ida Tiongco** continues her lectures, consults, and active support of the dermatology program at UERM. The second week of December, she and **Tony Ligot** undertake a medical mission in Banaue, Ifugao with some classmates. They'll be doing dermatology, general medicine, distribution of used books, clothes, etc. through Dr. Ligot's Good News Hospital there. It's never too late to help '68's humanitarian projects. Send your contribution (s) to Dr. Ida Tiongco, 20 Waterside Plaza Apt. 21-K New York, N.Y. 10010 or Dr. Antonio Ligot, 84 9th Ave. Cubao, Q.C., Philippines.

## Je Me Sobiaen (Lest We Forget)

**Pay Your Dues Please** - Our treasurer, **Cristy Magpantay** is reminding all of us to mail our membership dues for 2002 beginning January 1st and to make sure we send them no later than July 10th for proper crediting before the next annual meeting when the executive council draws up the budget for the following year. You can pay \$50 a year or \$500 lifetime which can be paid in one or two installments payable to UERMMMCMAAA, Inc., c/o Dr. Cristy B. Magpantay, 8921 Harvest Square Court, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

### The UERMMMC College of Medicine

is now accepting applications for the first year class of the 2003-2004 academic year. For further information, please call the Registrar's Office at 011-632-713-3315, visit our website at [www.uermmmc.edu](http://www.uermmmc.edu) or [www.uermmmc.org](http://www.uermmmc.org) or contact the newsletter.

In addition to academic and documentary requirements, applicants must take the NMAT (National Medical Admission Test) administered in Manila, New York or Los Angeles and arrange for interviews with any of the following: **Drs. Chester Kokseng** (Florida, 813-963-2494), **Rolando Mendoza** (Florida, 305-569-1259), **Ida Tiongco** (New York, 212-988-2634), **Benjamin Rigor** (Kentucky, 502-228-2798), **David Robles** (Illinois, 708-584-9495), **Samuel Piga** (Texas, 972-596-8911), and **Neda Ballon-Reyes** (California, 818-772-7696).

# Appeal 2001

by Dr. El B. Castro

*THE POWER OF GIVING: "Never underestimate the power of giving. It shines like a beacon throughout humanity. It cuts through oceans that divide us and brightens the lives of all it touches."*

**Philanthropy: Defining the Foundation** - Philanthropy is defined as goodwill toward mankind or a conscious and active effort to benefit human welfare. It motivates individuals who have a strong desire to make a difference in the world and it is essential to the quality of life in a community. The UERMMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. is the philanthropic and charity arm of the UERMMMMC Medical Alumni Association in America, Inc. The Foundation is a recognized 501(C) 3 charitable organization that was created specifically to give alumni, individuals, and organizations a significant, meaningful, and organized way to support the UERMMMMC, the community it serves and our fellowmen.



**Why support the Foundation?** This year, with your generous contribution, the Foundation will be able to fund its Project Program in the amount of \$15,500 which includes: (1) scholarship awards (partial tuition, book, and academic excellence); (2) memorial lectures, basic science, dermatology, and ophthalmology conference; (3) faculty development (best teacher, educational and travel grants); (4) resident physician award; (5) research forum; (6) community service awards; and (7) library.

In addition to the generous donation of Class 1973 (\$16,500) and Dr. Cesar Yu, '76 (\$10,000), we funded the acquisition of anatomical models important in preparing for the accreditation process. Lastly, \$6,000 will be used to fund the priority needs of different basic and clinical science departments in the "Wish List."

Our donors can be confident that when they support the Foundation, they are supporting an array of educational, health, community and research programs at UERMMMMC. Gifts are used only for their intended purposes. All donations are handled with respect, confidentiality, and in compliance with "donor rights" and the law.

The Foundation appreciates your financial support. We hope that you will share this information with others who like yourselves, are interested in making a lasting contribution to help the UERMMMMC continue on as the premier institution of medical education and health care delivery in the Philippines.

**UERMMMMC ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC.**  
2001-2002

THANKS for your contribution!

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of: \$100 \$75 \$50 \$30 \$(Other)  
I pledge a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which will be paid on dates: #1 \_\_\_\_\_, #2 \_\_\_\_\_, #3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make your check payable to: **UERMMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.** All gifts are tax-deductible.

My gift will be used for:  
 Scholarship Award                       Conference Workshop  
 Faculty/Best Teacher Award             Basic Skills Laboratory  
 Residency Award                             Library  
 Publication/Research Award             Wish List  
 Community Service Award                Indigent Fund

The gift is in honor or in remembrance of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your check to El B. Castro, M.D., 9 Mimosa Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854 or Nely S. Recao, M.D., 605 Floyd St., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

## Castro

continued from page 1

Mrs. Amuerfina T. Castro continues on as secretary.

In his annual report entitled "Crisis, Compassion, and Commitment," Castro reviewed the evolution of the foundation into a credible, functioning, federally tax exempt charitable organization worthy of its mission now with net assets of about \$300,000.

He restated the goals of the foundation in helping UERMMMMC develop and maintain a high standard of medical education in the Philippines and described a program of grants and awards already in place to achieve them.

He also took pains in differentiating the alumni foundation from the alumni association but recognized their interdependence in doing charitable, educational, scientific, and research activities.

"Why do we have to do it together?" he asked. Because "we have a shared vision and mission," "no one of us is greater or stronger than all of us," and "only in unity will we survive and prosper!" he answered.

He again invited alumni to share their "time, talent, and treasure" for the above ideals "for such commitment transforms a promise into reality, a reflection of a giving character" he added.

He thanked and reassured donors that the foundation is in full compliance with the law. Of his ending second term, he said "I thoroughly enjoyed it inspite of headaches and heartaches . . . It's time for me to give way to others."

Alumni responded with a standing ovation and pledges of about \$45,000 in new donations.

Among Castro's initiatives were the first student/faculty survey detailed in the last *Newsletter* issue, cost-effective funding of projects, and the application of quality assurance concepts in management.



# Treasurer's Report

by Dr. Nely S. Recano

(The following is a summary of Dr. Recano's unaudited report dated November 30, 2001. As of presstime, the Association's budgeted contribution of \$27,500 to the Foundation has not yet been remitted. - Editor)

## I. STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

### A. INCOME

1. Contributions from individual alumni		\$ 36,458	(47%)
2. Group Contributions			
a. Class Funds			
1) 1966	- 5,000		
2) 1967	- 1,650		
3) 1973	- 20,000		
4) 1975	- 1,462.31	28,112.31	
b. Chapters			
Northeast	- 13,517	13,517	41,629.31 (53%)
TOTAL INCOME			78,087.31

### B. EXPENSES

1. Operational			
a. Administration	- 2,121.15		
b. Fund raising	- 9,017		
c. Taxes	- 210	11,348.15	(17%)
2. Support Projects ofr UERMMMCA			
a. Basic Skills Laboratory	- 20,000		
b. Community Service Award	- 0 -		
c. Conferences/Workshops	- 1,800		
d. Faculty/Best Teacher Award	- 6,800		
e. Indigent Fund	- 0 -		
f. Library	- 6,900		
g. Publication/Research Award	- 425		
h. Residency Award	- 400		
i. Scholarship Award	- 3,150		
j. Wish List	- 5,400		
k. Foreing Student Fund	- 10,000	54,875	(83%)
TOTAL EXPENSES		66,224.15	

### C. NET INCOME

11,864.16

## II. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

### A. CURRENT ASSETS

1. Cash	- 134,362.83	
2. Investments	- 154,676.24	289,039.07

### B. NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS

11,864.16

### C. TOTAL ASSETS

300,903.23

### D. LIABILITIES

- 0 -

### E. NET ASSETS

300,903.23

### Class 2000 Keeps 3rd Place In Board Passing

One hundred thirty three out of 163 UERM graduates or 82% passed the physician licensure exams given in Manila, Cebu, and Davao in August, 2001 the Dean's office reported.

Overall, 1502 candidates out of 2,336 or 65% made it, with U.P. topping all medical schools with a passing rate of 97% followed by U.S.T. (94%) and UE. The highest grade obtained was 87.92% with the 10th placer scoring 85.5%. No UERM bet was among the top 10 finishers. The new doctors were sworn in by the 5-member Board of Medical Examiners at the PICC on September 9.

## UERMMMCA FUSA, INC.

(Founded in 1981, a 501 C3 Corporation)

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FOUNDATION



# Editorials

## Thank You, Cleveland!



It was a joy to see classmates once again, reconnect with fellow graduates a few years ahead and behind, establish ties with recent ones, meet former mentors and those we mentored, and celebrate the achievements of the jubilarians and everyone.

We clapped and cheered for the participants of golf, tennis, dancing, and singing contests, admired them for the range of their talents and the infectious fun they radiated.

From our alumni speakers at the CME, we learned valuable lessons not only on the scientific medical issues of today but also the difficult ethical ones as well.

Individual class meetings continued the tradition of not only forging closer ties among classmates but, more so, searching for ways to support our *Alma Mater's* mission. We saw that in the generous pledges of many classes to the alumni foundation's projects in response to the College of Medicine's wish list.

Alumni continued to commit to serve in various offices as new and returning officers were elected to different positions in the association and foundation councils.

The hard work and hospitality of the host committee made us all feel at home and gave us much laughter and enjoyment. Our officers were gracious in their openness which made us all feel that we belonged.

We witnessed the forbearance of everyone for certain shortcomings at the registration, gala, and lectures. We acknowledged the enthusiasm and loyalty of next year's silver jubilarians as we welcomed the inviting readiness of next year's convention hosts. Through it all, our unity was palpable!

Thank you Cleveland, you brought out the best in all of us!

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**Class Correspondents Wanted**  
 Be your class correspondent and share news about your batch with the alumni family. Reports will be compiled in the "Class Notes" section. To sign up, please e-mail the Editor-in-Chief.

**Help support our newsletter!**  
 Advertisement space available!  
 Full page ads \$250; Half-page \$125; Quarter page \$75. Please make checks payable to UERMMM MAAA, Inc. Payment and your ads may be mailed to the Editor-in-Chief.

REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES OF L-O-O-T-O-Y



## Then and Now, Here and There

by Dr. Roberto S. Castrence

33 years. A long time, a lifetime for some. Jesus Christ, Jose Rizal and yup, you guessed it, Bruce Lee. Infinitesimal and insignificant in the total scheme of things. Between 1968 and 2001, so many things have happened at accelerating and ever increasing and dizzying speed: the sexual revolution, civil rights movement, rise and fall of dictatorships, the information revolution, scourge of the deadly virus, the Toyotization of medicine, the death of the profession, the fall of communism, globalization, the rise and fall of fundamentalism and terrorism that one wishes at times to be transformed back to the past when the pace of life was manageable. When terror meant only Ambo, Dureza or Dr. Guevara. Little did we know that we would look back nostalgically at those times. Then, the only religious persons who brought fear in our hearts were Father San Juan and Monsignor Sisenando Pineda. We weren't scared as they were not bearded nor did they wear turbans. Then, we did not have to plan for encounters with the fairer sex, nor did we need any pharmacological assistance like Dr. Jaime Cebedo. We were like good old Boy Scouts, always ready, not unlike the strike-anywhere match. Frank Malillin was this and more, he had the motto, plug any hole. He really hated open holes.

33 years. A lot has happened. Courships. Marriages. Births. Divorces. Second, third and even fourth marriages. Weddings. Deaths. Grandparent hoods. It seems our past has become more meaningful than our future. Strange isn't it? Well, maybe not so much allowing for chronology and natural biology.

33 years in the Philippines, however, is quite different. Over there we see a truly vicious circle of continuous *deja vu*. We toppled a dictator only to have Aquino and

# Letters to the Editor

## From Davao

Thank you for the *Alumni Newsletter*. I would like to correct a few things in your July 2001 issue.

The Ruby Jubilarians of which I am one would be very proud to have Benjie Rigor as one of us but it would be unfair to his distinguished class of 1962! I wish some of the Pioneer Class of '61 who attended the Cleveland Reunion noticed the oversight.

Thanks once again for the newsletter. See you in the Philippines.

Dr. Roberto T. Alabado, Jr., '61

*(Editor's Reply: Thank you for your correction. We missed you at the reunion but expect you in Honolulu next year. Please come and give us also a talk.*

## From Hawaii

It's nice to hear from you. There is so much excitement among our alumni here about next year's reunion! I'll send you the list of our alumni here and their mailing addresses, e-mails, and group picture. I need your mailing address for future use. Best regards.

Dr. Fortunato Elizaga, '67

## From North Carolina

I am a '71 graduate and I'm interested in knowing more about the Manila Homecoming schedule. Is it possible to send me a copy or information about it? You may e-mail it back to me or mail it. Thank you.

Dr. Ben Siy-Hian, '71

## From Louisiana

We just came back from a short Manila visit last week. I talked with Stephanie (class '76), wife of my classmate Tony (a.k.a. Bimbo) Sibulo, and she told me that before 9/11 about 30 of her classmates were planning on going home this December (for the silver jubilee homecoming). But recently, several have become ambivalent because of the terrorist/anthrax scare.

Will you write that flying is very safe especially in Asia because of the very strict security checks. From Manila, I counted about 8 security checkpoints. Even before you check in at the ticketing counter they already check all your luggages and ask questions about your bags before they let you fall in line to get your boarding passes. There are at least 2 hand/body searches before you board the plane and very thorough exam of purses and carry-ons. Then in Tokyo, in addition to x-ray checks on carry-on baggages, another thorough check on bags and body check with the wand are conducted. More body search is done if something in your person or clothing beeps.

In Manila for economy class, one would need about 3 hours just to go through the long line to the check-in counter. For business class, the line is shorter but one still needs at least one to two hours for all those security checks . . .

Dr. Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, '75

## A Thank You and a Welcome

On the one hand, we are surprised by the resignation of Dr. Sese as President of the UERMMM and a bit saddened by the impending departure of Dr. Lansang as Dean of the College of Medicine and Dr. Tan-Reyes as College Secretary in April. On the other hand, we are very grateful for their leadership and tutelage even as we welcome Drs. Divinagracia and Valdellon as they assume the mantle of academic stewardship at our *Alma Mater*.

What endeared us alumni in America to the outgoing leaders have been their accessibility and responsiveness. Dr. Sese was one of us. Dr. Lansang's openness has made us part of the UERMMM community even years after our graduation. Their prompt responses to alumni concerns have made us feel needed and involved not just in the school's survival but its progress as well.

As we thank them for a job well done, we extend our congratulations, best wishes, and support to the new, first home-grown UERMMM administration.

## Lolo Totoy

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her own elite plunder the country. Ramos came and brought his own elite who did the same and opened up the economy to the world (which naturally but temporarily caused an increase in GDP with all the foreign investment money coming in). Then Erap came bringing in old Marcos cronies back and savaging the economy and the dignity of the Filipino people. Macapagal then brought her own version of corruption and so we are back to square one with elite screwing the masses and the masses screwing each other producing more Filipinos going to the Middle East and who seem bent on self-destructing.

Is it a call for surrender then? Is this a doomsday scenario, the apocalypse starting in the Philippines? Looking at the problem objectively, it seems to be the case. But these times are no worse than any other. And if you go back home, you will be surprised how people take all these things in stride. Certainly better than white middle class Americans panicking about anthrax. I have heard that Filipinos are not scared of bioterrorism because they are constantly exposed to it with all the garbage (with its *Salmonella*, *Amoebiasis*, *Leptospirosis*, and all the other parasites that I have now forgotten) that is all around them.

So I am still hopeful despite all the B.S. I have just said. It is all in the spirit of how we take life and I don't mean the spirits that make us all forget. I have the feeling that somehow it will all come out all right. This does not mean that people should stop struggling. It only means that we (our generation) do not have to because we know that others will. They have no choice.

## Meet the Hawaii Alumni

Fortunato V. Elizaga, Overall Convention Chairman ([FElizaga@aol.com](mailto:FElizaga@aol.com), 808-595-2120 home, 808-524-1144 office, 808-531-0718 fax), Manuel Ang, Rhodora Borlaza Atienza, Godofredo Baclig, Marina Badua, Erlinda Magsalin Cachola, Peter Dee, Amelia Reyes Jacang, Jose de Leon, Benilda Luz, Aurora Cunanan Mariani, Ernesto Orinion, Romeo Pineda, and Antonio Ramos.



## Calling All Classes 1977, 1972, 1967, and 1962!

*Aloha!* This is your first invitation to the 14th reunion and convention in the beautiful island of Oahu on August 1-3, 2002. You are the principal honorees as we celebrate your 25th (silver), 30th (pearl), 35th (jade), and 40th (ruby) years of graduation. Come and enjoy Waikiki Beach, renew ties with classmates, meet new friends, and toast the good old days at the popular Hilton Hawaii Village! Make your plans now!

Jubilarians, please contact your class coordinators for details: 1977 (Susan Perez-Suntay [spsuntay@yahoo.com](mailto:spsuntay@yahoo.com), Ruby Cecilio-Calraval [RLCECILIOMD@yahoo.com](mailto:RLCECILIOMD@yahoo.com), Sonia Rico-Todd, and Randy Puno. Or [UERMMMMC1977@yahoo.com](mailto:UERMMMMC1977@yahoo.com)); 1972 (Marile Narciso-Hoffman [MHoffman@concentric.net](mailto:MHoffman@concentric.net), Renato Alcalde, and Gloriosa Antiporda); 1967 (Roly Mendoza [GRGMendoza@aol.com](mailto:GRGMendoza@aol.com), Rene Querubin [reque@aol.com](mailto:reque@aol.com), Ado Miranda [cmira4@aol.com](mailto:cmira4@aol.com), and Toton Elizaga [felizaga@aol.com](mailto:felizaga@aol.com) or [UERMMMMC1967@yahoo.com](mailto:UERMMMMC1967@yahoo.com)); and 1962 (Benjie Rigor [bmrigo01@louisville.edu](mailto:bmrigo01@louisville.edu)).

## 2001 Homecoming Schedule

### Wednesday, December 19, 2001

4:00 P.M. Tour of the College of Medicine  
5:00 PM. Alumni Welcome Party, UERM Quadrangle

### Thursday, December 20, 2001

9:00 A.M. Mass Celebrated by Rev. Fr. Dr. Jerry Bongcaoil  
10:00 A.M. Convocation in Honor of the Silver Jubilarian Class of 1976, Dr. Joven Cuanang, Speaker  
12:00 N Lunch  
1:00 P.M. Dr. Potenciano Baccay Memorial Lecture, Dr. Claver Ramos, Speaker  
2:00 P.M. Scientific Meeting  
3:00 P.M. UERMMMMC Medical Alumni Business Meeting  
6:00 P.M. '76 Class Night (Members Only)

### Friday, December 21, 2001

7:00 P.M. UERMMMMC Medical Alumni Ball, Luzon-Visayas Ballroom, Westin Plaza Hotel, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Speaker

### Saturday-Sunday, December 22-23, 2001

Overnight family excursion for Class '76, Tagaytay Highlands, Tagaytay City.



## The Alumni Newsletter

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