



# The Alumni Newsletter

Pre-Convention Issue

Plano, Texas

June, 2004

## Making a difference in Chicago!



The Midwest Chapter hosts led by Dr. Manny Blas and Susan Perez-Suntay.

Al but the arrival of attendees are in place for a successful 16th convention and reunion in Chicago on August 4-7, 2004. This year's hosts, the Midwest Chapter, reported that the pace of hotel reservation has picked up since May and that the rooms for days 1 and 2 are sold out but are still available for days 3 and 4. Dr. Manny Blas, Chapter President, said that "if they fill up before the deadline of July 15, we can raise the allotment till we get to the cut-off date (**July 15, 2004**).

At least 300 delegates are expected at this annual alumni event which will feature an 8-hour category 1 CME on day 3, golf tournament on day 2, gala reception celebrating the silver, ruby, jade, and pearl jubilarian classes on day 4. There will also be lots of opportunities for alumni to participate in the business meetings of their twin organizations beginning with the alumni foundation's annual meeting and orientation program on day 1 and the alumni association's annual general assembly, executive council session and biennial elections on day 4. In between are committee meetings, individual **Continued on page 2**

## Homecoming toasts Class '78

As many as 103 members of the Silver Jubilarian Class '78 attended the 32nd homecoming activities on December 13-19, 2003. The week began with the Grand Alumni Reception at the gym where the P T and nursing alums joined the medical graduates for an evening of food, entertainment and camaraderie. It ended with the traditional silver jubilarian class family outing at Canyon Woods near Taal Lake.

The convocation on Wednesday, December 17 at the college auditorium featured the jubilarians in their academic gowns and hoods sans the caps receiving their commemorative medallions from President Divinagracia with Drs. Habalo, Cuanang, and Valdellon in attendance. After a mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Jerry Bongcawil, M.D., '70, the assembly listened to the inspirational talk of Dra. Valdellon and greetings from Dr. Fernando Sanchez, Jr. who was the acting dean at the time. Dr. Dan Teano of the celebrating class delivered the Baccay Memorial Lecture attended by the late professor's widow, Dr. Marietta Baccay who gave the family's response. **Continued on page 15**

## Paredes to give Cuyegkeng lecture

This year's Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture speaker is none other than the new Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Georgina Tungol Paredes. Six months into her job, she has grabbed the bull by the horn so to speak as she faced up to the tasks left behind by her predecessor. She immediately stepped into the void with a flurry of actions, naming first her academic management team composed of the new College Secretary, Dr. Milagros Rabe of the Department of Physiology, and all department heads, then seeing to the graduation of the third PBL batch of 2004 and initiation of the new junior intern class last April, completing the promotions board deliberations, conducting teaching seminars in preparation for the newly opened school year, finalizing the admission of freshmen, and poring over the results of last February's board exams and starting a review course for those taking next August's.

Amidst all these, Paredes acceded to the invitation as the upcoming convention's Cuyegkeng lecturer to talk about the subject that is closest to her heart, community medicine. **Continued on page 3**



## Class 2002 hangs on to 69% in boards

Sixty-seven (67) of the 97 examinees from UERM passed the physician licensure exams given by the Board of Medicine of the Professional Regulation Commission last February, the Dean's Office announced. Nationwide, only 948 out of 1,825 or 51% passed the tests.

UERM's 69% passing this time is a slight improvement from the 64% scored by the PBL curriculum's charter class in last August's examinations. Dean Paredes reported that the school is still ranked third among medical schools with 50 to 100 examinees but pales in comparison with the others in the overall raw test data (see tables). There was no top ten placer from UERM.

The new doctors took **Continued on page 16**

# Making a difference . . . from page 1

class caucuses and corridor consultations, discussions, and lobbying. There will be ample time to reconnect with classmates, other batches, teachers, and above all, the medical school whose tutelage we all share. Come meet the new dean, Dr. Georgina Tungol Paredes, and the hospital director, Dr. Vicente Tanseco.

For socials? You have to come to experience it! Every night starting from day 2, how's that? It can also be literally non-stop depending on how the spirit moves your group or class. For the third year in a row, we have consolidated the traditional batch night into one big party, starring the silver jubilarian Class '79 on day 3. Of course, the happy mood will be ushered in by the usually noisy welcome reception on day 2. And the icing on the cake? The fabulous gala on day 4 honoring our jubilarian classes '79, '64, '69, and '74. We will also inaugurate our new president, Dr. Manel Blas and applaud our outgoing president, Dr. Joseph Rastrollo, for a job well done.

We invite you also to consider the many areas where you can help our medical school particularly our students and teachers. In the succeeding pages of this issue, we share with you several stories which can give you a fair picture of what our school is like today. Please extend your generosity to her in whatever way you can. Our alumni elders and leaders have made it possible for all of us to give support to our school in an organized, legitimate, and effective way. That is why our theme for this year is "Making a Difference." You can make a difference in the advancement of our school, the progress of our alumni organizations, and the strengthening of our unity!

The convention organizers have tried to reach you by mail, phone, email, website, and the newsletters (both association and foundation). So please complete your hotel registration and convention registration now. By the time this issue reaches you, the deadline for the \$50 discount for early registration will have passed. But not to worry please register anyway. On pages 24-27, you will find complete information on registration, hotel, transportation and activities.

HAPPY REUNION!

## Manlapaz throws hat into the ring

Dr. Renato Querubin, past association president and chairman of the Committee on Nomination & Elections reported that only one so far has filed for an elective position, that of president-elect but expected the positions to be vied for as we get closer to the convention. *The Newsletter* confirmed in late May that outgoing Executive Director Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, '75 has filed her curriculum vitae for president-elect. She is an anatomic and clinical pathologist from Alexandria, Louisiana and is currently studying online for a master's degree in medical business management. As executive director, Manlapaz has worked with outgoing President Joseph Rastrollo, '73 to streamline the operations and management of the alumni association and focused its fundraising toward indigent patient support. If elected, she would be the first UERMMMCM alumna to lead the 16-year old association. The next president-elect would assume the office of president in 2006.

Susan Perez-Suntay, '77 current vice-president, also revealed to *The Newsletter* that she has accepted the position of executive director in the incoming administration of Manuel Blas, '67. She added that Blas' slate would include Edgar Banez, '76 as vice-president, Lorna Lumicao, '79 secretary, and Sonia Rico-Todd, '77 as returning treasurer.

As mentioned in the previous issue, the constitution prescribes the election procedure thus: "Nomination for any elective position may be offered from the floor of the convention at the time of election. Such nominees must be duly qualified to hold office in accordance with the provisions of this by-laws. Only paid members in good standing are eligible for nomination" (Article VII, Section 3). Fifty members of the association in attendance at the regular membership meeting (general assembly) constitute a quorum authorized to elect said officers (Article VIII, Section 4). Article VII, Section 8 prescribes that the "installation of officers shall follow after the election."

Candidates are urged to turn in their c.v.'s and letters of intent to [REQUE@aol.com](mailto:REQUE@aol.com).

### Dateline Philippines

#### Medical school wins accreditation

PAASCU (Philippine Association for Accreditation of Schools, Colleges and Universities), a member of the private, internationally recognized accrediting group Federation of Accrediting Associations in the Philippines (FAAP), on May 18, 2004 granted the UERMMMCM College of Medicine a Level II accreditation for three years (until 2007). Dean Paredes informed *The Newsletter*. The school is the only other PAASCU-accredited medical school in the country than U.P. The certification makes UERMMMCM the first and only private medical school in the country to earn it, she said. What might have put the school over to the level II category could have been the efforts made by Dr. Valdellon's brief administration to address the deficiencies discovered during the survey in February, 2003. The accreditation process began during the term of former dean Dr. Lansang. Paredes said that she looked forward to maintaining or improving the quality of medical education at UERMMMCM in the run up to the next survey in three years. Such seal of approval now qualifies the school to receive student loan funding for US-based foreign students. The other major benefits are the quality recognition the school gets in comparison with other medical schools and, more importantly, it will become a priority recipient of Philippine government research and educational grants. In effect, Dean Paredes elaborated, UERMMMCM becomes a certified training institution for other medical schools wanting to upgrade their programs to a similarly recognized level.

In the same PAASCU decision, the UERMMMCM College of Nursing received the top rating of Level III.

#### Local alumni news

The UERMMMCMMAA, Inc. (Philippines) sends its greetings to everyone here in America. Under the leadership of Dr. Jesus "Butch" Tamesis, Jr., the organization has embarked on a schedule celebrating the silver jubilee of Class '79: (1) a 2-day seminar on evidence-based medicine held at the College Auditorium on April 15-16 featuring Dr. Norbert Lingling; (2) an invitational golf tournament last May

NEWS BRIEFS



26th at the Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club put together by Dr. Efrén Garcia, also of Class '79, in which P100,000 was raised (*Attention golfers in America, how about an invitational challenge meet with Philippine-based alumni for a fundraiser?* Editor); (3) a Class '79 dinner, dance & concert featuring the "Rockin' Revival Band" on October 9; (4) 7th Alumni Cup at the Capitol Golf & Country Club also in October; and, of course, (5) the 33rd alumni homecoming in December celebrating Class '79's silver anniversary (see back cover for details).

Butch also would like to clarify the amount of life membership in the Philippines for those of us who haven't paid yet: it's \$100.

Finally, Ida Tabuzo, our alumni office secretary is in need of a copier and another computer for her work. If you have any used or new ones that you can spare, please send them to her. She and her new assistant are doing a very good job for all of us. Next time you visit UERM, drop by the Alumni Office. You can contact her through the addresses at the back cover's homecoming announcement box. She has been a very big help in our work!

**School fees rise 36%**

Medical students enrolling at UERMMM this schoolyear are faced with as much as 36% increase in total school fees, official announcement from the registrar's office shows. A freshman now must pay a total about P70,000 per semester, up from the previous year's P60,000. A junior intern (4th year) pays P60,000 per semester, a second year P67,000, and a third year P61,600. The bulk of the total is for laboratory fees (61%) while tuition accounts for 29%. The remaining 10% of the total semestral fees is for library, x-ray & health services, infotech, recreational facilities, literature and others. The tuition alone for freshman is P20,000, for sophomore P30,000, third year P26,800, and junior interns P23,300. Foreign students will continue to pay the one-time foreign student fee of \$10,000 in the first semester of the freshman year in addition to the above.

**Countdown to opening day**

As of press time, the Registrar's Office said that the College of Medicine has already matriculated 189 freshmen. The Dean's Office disclosed that 530 applicants received acceptance including 14 from abroad but received only 160 reservations. In comparison, the College of Nursing filled its slots of 300 freshmen early while the College of P T 's dropped to 56. 2004-05 year opens on Monday, June 14th.

\* NEWS BRIEFS \* NEWS BRIEFS \*

# Paredes to give . . . continued from page 1

Her talk is expected to compliment a brief *tete a tete* session with the College of Medicine's community health program director, Dr. Edith Regalado '65, on the convention's second day on Thursday, August 5th.

In a wide ranging interview with the editor, Paredes emphasized scholarship and faculty development as the centerpieces of her administration. This is foremost in her quest for scholarship support for a number of freshmen and sophomores. Working with Dr. Valdellon who chairs the scholarship committee of the college, she expressed the wish for alumni to fund full scholarships to many would-be matriculating applicants. On faculty matters, she appointed new and younger heads of departments.

She definitely wants to put UERM into a competitive posture. "Our applicants for first year reached 915 530 plus qualified for admission," she said. "I hope that we can admit about 200 freshmen this year," she wished. She admitted that competition from other area medical schools as well as nursing schools make it difficult for the college to fill its CHED quota. Her solution: active recruitment of top pre-med graduates. She has targeted students with "GWA of 1.8 or higher," wrote them special invitations that offer scholarship and did a hard sell for the school during their interviews. She had asked the alumni foundation in February for "ten full tuition fee grants," a goal she considers doable. But to be more successful, she feels that this pool of grants must be augmented "so we can bring in bright students, future board passers." She looks forward to asking her own Class '73 and others for such support when she comes calling at the next alumni convention.

## Rabe named new College Secretary

In her first major appointment since taking office, Dean Paredes named Dr. Milagros Rabe, associate professor in physiology and two-time Esperanza Lansang Best Teacher awardee, as College Secretary. She replaces Dr. Florina Estrada who resumed her full-time position as physiology professor after the resignation of former Dean Valdellon.

Since graduating from UERMMM in 1986, Dr. Rabe has dedicated her career to academic medicine, nearly all of it at UERM, earning along the way a master's degree in physiology as a Full-bright scholar at Southern Illinois University in 1992 and a Ph. D in physiology at the same school 5 years later. She was a biology major from U.P.

She is a member of various professional societies in the Philippines and the U.S.A. she has published articles and the U.S. most notably about gluing disabilities in children. Rabe lum from its inception and has faculty and student research pro-



grams of the medical school. In addition to her post-doctoral graduate thesis, presented papers in many scientific meetings in cose metabolic disturbance in relation to learn-

Responding to the editor's congratulatory message, she said "Thank you for your vote of confidence! We do need all the help as there is a lot to do. I appreciate the alumni's projects in the past and at the present that all try to uplift the quality of medical education in our school."

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The new department heads appointed effective May 1, 2004 are: Drs. Rita Catly, anatomy; Ronaldo Macaraeg, pharmacology; Arcangel Diamante, OB-GYN; Andres Borromeo, surgery; Virgilio de Gracia, otorhinolaryngology; and Josefina Carlos, pediatrics Reappointed to the same positions are: Drs. Juliet Ver Bareng, physiology; Floro Madarcos, biochemistry; Joseph Antonio Molina, preventive & community med., Natividad Salazar, medical humanities; Tomasino Padla, pathology; Alex Varilla, medicine; Sonia Rodriguez, psychiatry; Jesus Tamesis, ophthalmology; Arnel Malaya, rehabilitation medicine; Eric Nagtalon, anesthesia.

Level coordinators in charge of overseeing the proper implementation of the curriculum are: Year Level I Year 1, Juliet Bareng; Year Level II Year 2, Arcangel Diamante; Year Level II Year 3, Rosalina Anastacio; Year Level III (JI) Year 4, Elizabeth de los Santos. Patient Doctor (PD) coordinators: Gabriel Martinez, overall; PD Level I Year 1, Disraeli Europa; PD Level II Year 2, Alex Varilla; PD Level II Year 3, Benalexander Pedro. PD assistant coordinators: PD Level I Year 1, Benilda Fontanilla; PD Level II Year 2, Salvador Eustaquio; PD Level II Year 3, Arnold Angeles.

Medical Education Unit (MEU), the dean's advisory and support staff, is headed by Dr. Rabe and includes a secretariat led by Professor Margarita Eduardo and five committees that plan and monitor activities that enrich/enhance the curriculum (curriculum chaired by Rabe; faculty development, Garceiux Fernando; medical education research, Rene Punzalan; teaching/learning resource, Florina Estrada; testing, Romeo Encanto). Dr. Alfaretta Tan Reyes acts as MEU adviser.

# Come to Chicago!

## by Manny Blas, M.D.

### Midwest Chapter President National President-Elect

The Midwest Chapter based in Chicago early on had locked in the place, room rates, schedule of events and their venues, and the prices of foods for these events. Before, we only had to worry about meals for the

Cuyekeng Luncheon and the Gala Night. Times have changed. As an organization we have grown by leaps and bounds. Not only are we more in number but we have younger and more sophisticated members. As one of the Old Guards let me say that I am truly happy to see that our National Organization is getting the attention of graduates from all over the country, more so from recent grads asking to become members. I see in them the future leaders of our organization.

The most important stage in our preparation is finding the money to bring all our plans into fruition. I do not want to sound like some parish priests I know whose appeal for diocesan support is hard to ignore. But there is a certain similarity between me and the parish priest. I am going to ask alumni hoping that my words would somehow spur them to help our school. The Philippines is now crowded with new medical schools willing to outspend each other to compete for the best available talents, offering them sweet deals in the process. Now, I ask myself what is the probability that UERM can ever successfully compete in this kind of playing field. In my opinion the answer is none. As my priest would put it, the roof is leaking and if we do not fix it now we may not have a church. My fellow alumni, if we don't fix our Alma Mater now we may not have an Alma Mater!

There is an inbred pride in being a UERMMMCM product. Foremost is the kind of basic and clinical education that had been pounded into our heads. You know, those sickening repetitions such as the IHP (Individual Human Person), surprise quizzes that we used to hate, endless rounds that made you sick especially when you were caught inventing a H&P that drew a special duty or an extension. These have made the UERMMMCM graduate tough and able to face challenges and make a difference. We did not make it on our own. We had excellent teachers, a level playing field with the other schools and most of all ample clinical materials. The lack of clinical materials is now the most

critical problem facing the school today. Look back to made your medical and and try to re-empty beds seemed like were too full for my comfort. I wished then that there were more empty beds so that I could have a more peaceful night. Our patients then were truly charity ones. Now, the only charity patients are found in government-run hospitals and there is an intense competition for them from all existing medical schools (I have lost count).



If you make your rounds now in the wards you can count the patients in each floor in one hand and that is very alarming. The really needy patients will not set foot into the UERM Hospital knowing they will not be able to afford their medications and basic lab work. Our ultimate goal is to make our needy patients truly charity patients. The hospital and the medical school must provide them with food, medicines, clean linens, and students that care for them. The school must also bear the cost of the laboratory work up as well. In view of this, we must raise money for the Drug Assistance Program/Indigent Fund. I am pleased that the Northeast Chapter started the ball rolling for this project during last year's convention in New York City. The bottom line is with a minimum of \$50,000 per year, we could be successful. We must carry on with what the Northeast Chapter started. We cannot fail for the simple reason that a great deal is at stake now more than ever. I have not the slightest intention of becoming an alumnus of a mediocre medical school. It may depress me to wake up one morning to learn the truth. But then I would not be alone.

A lot of us may feel the same and rightly so.

### *Regalado to talk on community medicine*

China. O'Yek said that "Anyone interested can come and listen. I think this adds diversity to our Convention." He added that Regalado is "quite excited" about the opportunity.

The same paper was presented by Dr. Regalado at the 37th APMC convention in Ca-

We did not choose to enroll at UERM because we wanted these but because we wanted to be excellent doctors and somehow UERMMMCM chose us because they saw something in us. After

that we became committed to each other whether we like it or not. Time should not erode those commitments.

Simply, here is my plan. We want to be as successful as the Northeast Chapter in raising as much money as we can for the DAP/Indigent Fund for charity patients. When you receive a letter of solicitation from me asking for your sponsorship or advertisement in our souvenir album, think of the future of our Alma Mater, our future doctors, the rate of passing of our graduates in the board exams and the caliber of doctors they will become whether they will practice here or in the Philippines. Shouldn't we be proud to say we are from UERM too? If you believe that these are good reasons you can forget the rest.

My fellow alumni, let us open our hearts to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Whatever we do for them we do it also for God.

Once more I say that we in Chicago joyfully and anxiously anticipate your coming to the convention and reunion on August 4-7 2004. The City of Chicago is most beautiful at this time of year. This is the time when Michigan Avenue better known as the Magnificent Mile will be teeming with blooming flowers along its sidewalks. You will be rubbing elbows with tourists from all over the USA and the world. It has no equal at this time of the year. Savor the splendor of the sights that are endless, the skyline from a boat on Lake Michigan at night is something to behold. The Navy Pier is a MUST for all tourists. Discover the history of Chicago through the Architectural tour of the Chicago River. Board the boats just a few steps from the front doors of the hotel. If you want adventure in the culinary arts you come to the right place. This is where the Italian Beef Sandwich, the thick crust pizza and the Chicago Style hot dogs were born. Best of all, the natives are helpful and friendly. If these are not enough reasons to come to Chicago, I rest my case. Thank you so much and I will be looking forward to seeing all of you!

Dr. Edith Regalado, '65, director of the UERMMMCM Community Medicine Program in Antipolo, Rizal, will give an informal talk on "The UERM *Bagong Nayon* CBHP - a Partnership for the Upliftment of the People's Health" at 5:00 PM on day 2 August 5 of the Chicago convention. A personal invitation for the informal talk has been extended by Dr. Victor O'Yek, '71, a proponent of community health in the Philippines and

gayan de Oro City's Xavier University Dr. Jose Rizal College of Medicine last January. The topic appears to be in line with the World Federation of Medical Education's emphasis on bringing about global competitiveness of graduates from third world countries. Its relevance shadows the success of UP Health Sciences School of Medicine in Leyte in inspiring a large majority of its graduates to stay as rural doctors in their own towns.

# UERM medical mission, a good start by Edgardo Banez, M.D.

Many people celebrate the holiday season with their families and loved ones but a group of UERM alumni here and in the Philippines including residents and interns plus about two dozen other nurses and caregivers sacrificed their time to help our indigent and less fortunate country men.

It started at the Out-Patient Department on Aurora Blvd. where not much has changed. Older faces of medical personnel you have known years ago are still there. They brought back a lot of memories. The waiting room is the same, the residents and interns are new, so are the patients.

On December 18th, we saw about a hundred patients. Free random blood sugar testing was done since it was a Thursday, Diabetes Day. Free medicines were provided. A few patients requested glucose strips but we could only give a few. The Department needs glucometers and strips. It does not have any at this time.

No surgeries were performed, not that we did not have any patients but we had to pay an operating room fee to the hospital for every surgery we had to do!

We then proceeded to Angeles, Pampanga where we held a medical-surgical mission from December 21st to the 23rd. We went there a day ahead with all the supplies, eleven boxes of them. Seven were sent ahead by ship. I brought in four with me free of charge courtesy of Mr. P.O. Domingo and Mr. Jimmy Bautista of the PAL management. Otherwise, it would have cost us \$150 per extra luggage.

Surgical supplies were sterilized ahead of time at UERM. They were solicited from Los Angeles area operating room nurses one of whom was Ms. Flor Torralba who gave us four boxes. Anesthesia medicines and supplies were brought in by Drs. Jeff Rastrollo and Debbie Bobila. We had more than enough for all the surgeries we performed.

The mission team included from the U.S.: Alex and Debbie Bobila, Jeff Rastrollo, Rosita San Diego, Paul Pagsisihan and myself. We were joined by the UERM group made up of Henry Yanez, Bing Martinez, Bong Aquino, Joan Tagorda, Darwin Arellano, Michael Rosario, Richard Hizon, Pia

Joan Tagorda, Darwin Arellano, Michael Rosario, Richard Hizon, Pia Camara, Minette Ocampo, Larry Ng, Cari Mele Meona, Jerome Nepomuceno, Riechie Reyes, Mari Anne Quijano, Rhea Quilala, Tristan Ramirez, Reggie Revilla, Tracy Rex Ramos, and Rodney Ramos. UERM alumni doctors from Angeles City including Joven Esguerra, the City Health Officer, his wife Teresita Esguerra, and Froilan Canlas were also on hand to help. Nurses and some twenty caregivers from Carelink Asia Training Center completed the list of members.

The mission was held at the Hospital Ning Angeles where the Medical Director is Dr. Felipe Buencamino, UERM Class of '76. Preparations locally were almost single-handedly taken care of by Dr. Yanez.

More than six hundred patients were seen in two and a half days. Twenty-nine surgeries were done, from simple sebaceous cyst to breast mass excisions, tenorrhaphy to herniorrhaphies and one hemorrhoidectomy. Two hundred reading glasses were given free to deserving patients and two to four-week medications and vitamins were distributed as well. Hypertension, diabetes, arthritides, asthma and respiratory tract-related problems comprised the majority of medical cases we treated.

Total expenses did not exceed \$3000 from the original budget of \$5000. We got a lot of support from local sources, one of them was Rite Med, a local drug company which provided for our accommodations. They also donated medicines.

After the first day of the mission, the team was treated to a sumptuous dinner and a live band at a local club opened just that Sunday for the occasion. The newly appointed Dean, Dr. Georgina Paredes, came all the way from Manila to join the event and to thank the volunteers.

The whole mission was hectic and tiring but it was gratifying. To be able to bring some Christmas cheer to the patients we had seen was the best gift ever from the city named Angeles, and as the residents and interns echoed, "On our next mission, we will come again!"



*UERM MMC-OPD Left, Waiting Room, Center Screening, Above, Staff Nurses*



*Twenty nine surgeries like the herniorrhaphy case above were done during the 3-day medical mission at Ospital Ning Angeles.*



*Hallway was full.*



*Dr. Rastrollo & Dean Paredes thank all.*

*Angeles Mission. OR team at work*



## Our Association is strong

by Joseph S. Rastrollo, M.D., President

For the past two years, I have had the distinct privilege and pleasure to serve as your president and an honor to work with our outstanding past presidents. It is my belief that this position is not a one-man job but a collaborative one. I would not have survived these two years without the help and support of the Executive Council, Past Presidents Advisory Board, Standing Committees, Alliance & Friends, 6 chapter presidents, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Foundation.

During this period, I have traveled across the nation to meet the chapters and visited the Philippines as well. In every instance, you received me warmly. Thank you for your hospitality!

I have spoken with alumni and heard things that make me proud and things that make me sad. I have found members who are dedicated in supporting the organization, others who are concerned about the future of our *alma mater* and also some who are frustrated and disappointed about the political climate in the Medical Center.

With all of the feedback, I am pleased to report that today our Association is strong. It is strong because it continues to gain members annually while other organizations face a decline in membership each year. It is strong because of the active participation and involvement of younger alumni who care deeply about the needs of our *alma mater* because its members are willing to give unselfishly of their time and energy to do the work the association is committed to; because of the strong ties we have forged with the Alliance & Friends and our chapters; because of its continued support of our *alma mater* through our charity arm, the alumni foundation. It is strong because of the excellent work of the Executive Officers who have performed beyond my expectations. Yes, all of you are the strength of the Association and I salute you!

It is fitting then to mark each forward step we make with the convention and reunion that we hold each summer. The upcoming one in Chicago on August 4-7 2004 prepared by the Midwest Chapter led by Drs. Manuel Blas (Chapter President) and Susan Perez-Suntay (Overall Convention Chairman) will be an outstanding one. It will provide an opportunity for educational refreshment, enjoyment and participation in the policy direction of our twin organizations.

The CME Program jointly sponsored by the PMA of Chicago meets the criteria for 8 hours of Category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician Recognition Award. Dr. Benjamin G. Lumicao of the Midwest Chapter has put together a broad range of lectures on Medical and Surgical Advances by different alumni faculty speakers. Dr. Benjamin Rigor continues to be the CME Chairman of the national association. New Dean Dr. Georgina Tungol-Paredes will deliver the Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture entitled "The Social and Educational Impact of UERMMMCM's Community-Based Health Programs." She is an enlightening and enthusiastic speaker and will be an inspiration to us all.

One of the important functions of the Annual Convention & Reunion is its social program which provides alumni an opportunity to interact with friends, classmates and teachers, rekindle old friendships, reminisce the years gone by, and catch up on events and news. The centerpiece of this social function will be the elegant Dinner Dance on the last day of the convention when we recognize and honor the Silver Jubilarian Class of 1979 for reaching their career milestone. Others to be honored will be the Pearl Jubilarian Class '74, Jade Jubilarian Class '69, and Ruby Jubilarian Class '64.

On the business side, we will hear reports from the Dean of the College of Medicine, UERMMMCM President, Chairman of the alumni foundation's board of trustees, and yours truly. Attendees will have the opportunity of an interactive discussion with them especially Dean Paredes and President Divinagracia. In the business meetings, you will see and hear your leaders and representatives discuss and resolve issues relevant to the operation of a viable professional association that strives to serve its members and our *alma mater*. So we hear not only from executive officers but also from chapter presidents and standing committee chairs whose hard work make the Association a big success. Our association greatly benefits from the inclusion of alumni members interested in serving in these committees. So at this time, we are looking for members who are willing to serve in them. If you are or someone you know is such, please contact incoming President Manuel Blas at 1812 N. Broadway, Suite I, Melrose Park, IL 60160, tel. # (708) 865-0200, fax (708) 865-0111, or email [mblascap@aol.com](mailto:mblascap@aol.com).

The other highlight of the business part of the convention is the election of a new set of officers. Those interested in leadership positions of the alumni association are encouraged to submit their Letter of Intent of Candidacy as well as *curriculum vitae* to the Chairman of **Continued on page 8**

## Alliance & Friends notes by Esther N. Querubin

There is an air of great excitement and eager anticipation among the members of the Alliance for the UERMMMCMAAA Convention and Reunion in Chicago on August 4-7 2004. From a handful of spouses who got together and started the Alliance during the 2001 Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, our number has swelled to 28 men and women. There is also a good reason for rejoicing since at the beginning, we were not financially viable, but after 3 years only, we now have in our bank account the amount of \$3,042.00.

This is an open invitation to the attendees of the convention to drop by and visit our table during the registration on Thursday, August 5, 2004. We will be very visible to everybody with our new Alliance and Friends banner on display. There will be items for sale, registration forms to fill out for the spouses who would like to join the organization, and most of all, we will be very grateful if you buy Raffle Tickets. This will be our biggest fundraising project for the year, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Alumni Association. The price of the tickets are as follows: 1 ticket for \$5.00 and 5 tickets for \$20.00. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners: First Prize: \$300.00, Second Prize \$200.00, Third Prize \$100.00. The winning numbers will be drawn during the Gala Night on Saturday, August 7 2004 (Banner and Raffle Tickets are compliments of Ernie Suguitan).

On Friday, August 6, during the CME, we will set up tables at the back of the auditorium for the Silent Auction. We need your help and donations for this event—goods, art work, jewelry, collectibles, time share vacation place, gift certificates for travel, shopping, restaurants, etc. Please bring them in so we can raise more funds for the Alumni Association and the Alliance.

There will be a Lunch Meeting at a designated Board Room from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M. for the old and new members on August 6. Election of new officers for 2004-2006 will be on our agenda.

Odette Blas, Incoming President for 2004-2006 and First Lady of the Alumni Association Chicago Chapter is available to anyone who wants further information regarding the Alliance and the Convention. Her telephone no. is 630-986-8283. Our officers for 2000-2004 are: President, Penny Miranda, M.D., Vice President, Gemma Mendoza, M.D., President-Elect, Odette Blas; Secretary, Esther Querubin; Treasurer, Violeta Rigor; Executive Director, Fely Bangayan (Immediate Past President); Members of the Board of Trustees are: Amor Castro, Catherine Dona, Nieva Elizaga, Naomi Rastrollo, Roger Saplan, Ernie Suguitan.

Once again, I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Chicago. Till then, keep well!

**UERMMMCMAAA, Inc.**

(Incorporated on September 3, 1991, registered as a 501C6 charitable organization on April 30, 1993, Tax I.D. No. 52-1745846)

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Website: [www.uermalumni.org](http://www.uermalumni.org), [uermmmc.us](http://uermmmc.us), or [uermmmcmaaa.org](http://uermmmcmaaa.org). Webmaster: David Roble, M.D.

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+ Deceased

**Please send membership dues**

(annual=\$50, lifetime=\$500) payable to

**UERMMMCMAAA, Inc.**

Treasurer: Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D.

400 N. Front St., Syracuse, IN 46567

# Our new direction

by Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D., Executive Director



*Res ipsa loquitur* (the thing speaks for itself)! My short tour of the UERMMMC Charity wards the afternoon of April 29 was a shocker, not so much of the empty beds or almost empty wards, but because I did not see any junior interns, residents and consultants making their rounds in all the different wards that my classmates and I visited. My classmate is one of the consultants at UERM Hospital and he tried to get hold of one of the residents to accompany us during the rest of our tour. Our young colleague was proud to inform us that for that week the Departments of Medicine and Surgery had 50% occupancy rates.

In the last several issues of the *Alumni Newsletter* the sad state of the very low admission rate at our charity wards has been emphasized. The officers of the UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association in America, Inc. under the leadership of our current President, Dr. Joseph Rastrollo and President-Elect Dr. Manuel Blas have allocated most of the funds that will be raised during the annual convention and reunion for the years 2003-2006 for the benefit of the Drug Assistance Program (DAP)/Indigent Fund. We are happy to report that the Southern California, Northeast and MARVADC Chapters will also donate most of their fundraising money to the Indigent Fund. Our goal is to raise at least \$300,000 by year 2006.

On the domestic end, the Executive Committee Officers had a meeting prior to the induction of officers gala ball of the Southern California Chapter on March 20, 2004. The most important issue discussed and approved was the creation of the Convention Policy. In this policy, the Convention Commission composed of the past and current convention chairpersons, the President-Elect, Executive Director and Treasurer will handle the negotiations of the convention hotel room and food rates of all the different activities. It will have the oversight responsibility on the progress of the convention preparation and scheduled events. The Convention Policy lists in detail all the convention activities and functions as well as the responsibilities of the convention hosts.

The officers also discussed the recommendations of the participants at the last Strategic Planning Meeting on August 30, 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland. The officers decided that the most important activities that the Alumni Association should pursue are: (1) full effort to raise funds for the DAP/Indigent Fund (2) support the annual medical/surgical mission at our alma mater and other indigent areas in the Philippines; coordinate with the Alumni Foundation how to encourage more alumni to support the projects of both the Association and Foundation. The Alumni Association Convention Commission will also form a UERM Speakers Bureau which will invite, list, schedule, and coordinate all CME speakers at the annual convention as well as visiting alumni willing to give lectures, grand rounds, etc. at our *alma mater*

## Treasury Notes

by Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D., Treasurer



(The following report does not include the New York Convention as final accounting has not yet been submitted by the host chapter to the Treasurer at presstime. Editor)

INCOME VS. EXPENSES		I. Strategic planning meeting	
Income		TOTAL	338.60
A. Check Balance (5/25/04)	\$25,352.87		\$18,162.13
B. NYC reimbursement	14,097.70		
TOTAL	\$39,450.00		
Expenses		<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	
A. Accountant	175.00	Assets	
B. Ads	200.00	A. Cash	
C. Budget of president		1. CD	\$ 5,268.46
donated to the DAP Fund	2,000.00	2. Checking	20,580.74
D. Dean's airfare	1,000.00	3. Savings	33,262.48
E. Defibrillator for UERMH	5,000.00	Total Cash	\$59,111.68
F. Medical mission to RP	1,948.53	B. Others	
G. Newsletter	2,500.00	1. Computer/digital camera	1,969.95
H. Seed money for Chicago	5,000.00	2. LCD projector	3,100.00
		Total Others	5,069.95
		Total Assets	\$64,181.63
		Net Worth (No Liabilities)	\$64,181.63



## Secretary's Corner

by Merfyn Asuncion, M.D.

*(From minutes of annual meeting, the following are the amendments to the constitution and bylaws adopted by the executive council at the New York convention in 2003 that must be ratified by the general assembly in August. Editor)*

1. Article VI, Section 5: Organization Structure, Standing Committees g. **(new)** Audit Committee To review the income statement, balance sheet, and income tax return prepared by the Treasurer for the previous year and to present its report to the President and Executive Director at least 6 months prior to the Association's regular meeting that coincides with annual convention and reunion.

2. Article VI, Section 5h. **(new)** Fundraising Committee To work in tandem with the corresponding committee of the Alumni Foundation in developing and formulating plans to raise funds for the projects of the Foundation.

3. Article VI, Section 8: Duties of the Elected Officers. (4) Treasurer He shall render a financial report at each regular meeting of the Executive Committee and annual convention of the membership. **(New)** The financial report shall consist of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Income Tax Return of the previous year. The Treasurer shall also prepare the annual budget of the Association based on the previous 2 years financial reports with the approval of the President. This will be presented at the regular meeting that coincides with annual convention and reunion.

Submitted by Bayani B. Elma, M.D., Chairman, CBL

## Our association is strong from page 6

the Committee on Nominations & Elections, Dr. Renato Querubin at 80 Fallen Oaks Lane, Amherst, OH 44001, office tel. # (440) 282-7600, home tel. # (440) 988-2265, fax (440) 282-7711, voice mail # (440) 759-2211, or email [REQUE@aol.com](mailto:REQUE@aol.com).

Last year, I shared with you the game plan to achieve our goals and objectives. The priority is the Drug Assistance Program (DAP). The association is committed to funding this major project. We are determined to raise \$300,000 by 2005. We want the DAP/Indigent Fund to be sustainable and in perpetuity. This big program will support the indigent patients of the charity ward of the UERM Hospital. During this hard economic times, we find it disturbing that the number of patients there has declined as patients go to less expensive hospitals. We now have 36 + medical schools to compete with. Patients choose government hospitals over UERMMH because they cannot afford the charity hospital's expensive medications, lab tests or diagnostic work-up even though the beds and doctors' fees are free. Thus, the charity hospital is losing many quality clinical teaching cases and is in danger of losing its accreditation. These must be made affordable to surrounding communities to avail of the services at UERM. It is for these reasons that the DAP/Indigent Fund was conceived. With your financial support and contribution, it is our hope to provide more assistance to the patients of the UERM Charity Ward.

Although there are many other worthwhile projects that the association supports, I firmly believe that the DAP/Indigent Fund campaign should be given utmost priority to also help the *alma mater* survive. So right now let us concentrate on making this project a success.

Finally, I would like to thank the alumni members for their wholehearted support and confidence. Let us stand together with pride, united within this organization, working to promote the UERMMMC tradition of excellence, leadership and service in medicine.

## Lifetime Members

Lamberto Abeleda, Amable Aguiluz, Nestor Alabarca, Manuel Alafriz, Ramon Alcala, Jr., Agnes Alikpala, Roger Alilin, John Alipit, Eugenio Antonio, Galicano Andal, Wilfredo Apostol, Rommel Aquino, Peter Aragones, Emelinda Rausa Arriola, Concepcion Santos Aspili, Edgardo Balde, Anita Calud Baldomero, Roy Baldomero, Neda Ballon Reyes, Manuel Blas, Alexis Bobila, Deborah Ames Bobila, Nelson, Bocar Leo Bonagna, Rene Buenvenida, Orsuville Cabatu, Victoria Camacho, Elmo Canillas, Delia Caro Sykes, Isabelita Barnachea Casibang, Vincent Casibang, El Castro, Florencio Ching, Zenaida Alderete Chugtai, Leticia Claridad, Manuel Claudio, Evelyn Co, Erlinda Crispin Krishnan, Emmanuel de la Cruz, Marjorie Chichay Desai, Antonio Diaz, Samuel Dona, Fortunato Elizaga, Bayani Elma, Simplicio Evangelista, Ronaldo Fernandez, Myrna Ortega Flores, Renato Flores, Remo Gaudiel, Albert Gaw, Belen Friga Gilo, Stuart Goodman, Carlos Gotardo, Cynthia Eleccion Gregorio, Dini Hartono Rada, Marile Narciso Hoffman, Angeline Ituriaga, Lilia Kane, Andres Lara, Rizalina Lavarro, Rolando Lavarro, Antonio Layug, Rosemary Libre, Apolonio Lirio, Jr., Patrick Litam, Roger Lucas, Nelly Mac, Cristeta Bustamante Magpantay, Napoleon Magpantay, Jr., Wilma Botuyan Maniago, Danilo Mangunay, Arsenio Manlangit, Irene Ibanez Manlapaz, Bienvenido Manzanero, Rolando Mendoza, Primo Milan, Conrad Miranda IV Isabel Tolentino Mirasol, Raul Moran, Vicente Narciso, Benjamin Narrajos, Mariano Nasser Miguel Ollada, De Kiam Ong, Victor O'Yek, Irineo Pantangco, Jr., Ruena Zarate Paraso, Linda Galang Pascual, Rafael Pascual, Rene Pecson, Nena Flor Cambare Piga, Samuel Piga, Roger Pine, Jose Prudencio, Jr., Ligaya Prystowsky, Quirino Pua, Rolando Puno, Renato Querubin, Joseph Rastrollo, Renato Raymundo, Susan Raymundo, Benjamin Rigor David Roble, Araceli Sanchez Alcid, Jon Santiago, Norma Maala Sarao, Aloma Penaranda Sevilla, Pedro Simon, Charito Dancel Sion, Roger Sion, Carlos Soriano, Eden Agustin Suguitan, Susan Perez Suntay, Virgilio Taturan, Evangelina Tan, Sonia Rico Todd, Emelinda Gorostiza Tolod, Jesus Valdez, Ned Valen, Rogelio Valencia, Zenaida Vasquez Pua, Sonia Castaneda Velasco, Cesar Yu. **PARTIALLY PAID LIFETIME MEMBERS:** Paraluman Banaga, Rogelio Banaga, Marthie Sulit Casuga, Jose de Leon, Eleazar Feliciano, Alicia Bering Layug, Salvacio Garin Lazatin, Aurora Cunanan Macapinlac Mariani, Nora Natividad, Ben Ortega, Lourdes Quiray, Lamberto Tan, Rogelio Tapnio, James Uy, Dina Villaluz, Hedy Jimenez Windsor Vicky Ybanez.

*Lifetime members, please pick up your membership pins from the registration desk. Let us also know of any omissions in the list so we can include them in our official roster. We encourage all alumni to become lifetime members and help the alumni association become financially stronger and able to fund its programs at UERM. Send your one-time lifetime membership fee of \$500 payable to UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. to Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D., Treasurer, 400 N. Front St., Syracuse, IN 46567*



## Chapters experience productive fundraising

The spring season of induction and fundraising balls this year is just about over and the three other active chapters of the alumni association have reported very favorable results.

The Southern California Chapter kicked off the successful campaign with its biennial inaugural gala at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles on March 20, 2004. Dr. Ananias "Andy" Ebilane, '73 was sworn in as president replacing Dr. Edgardo Banez, '76 who had completed a very active 2 years at the helm. The main beneficiary of the event is the Drug Assistance Program/Indigent Fund of the national association which was launched in New York last summer.

On April 3, 2004, the Northeast Chapter followed with its Recognition Day dinner/dance at the Hilton Woodcliff Lake in New Jersey which likewise would benefit the same program of the national alumni association to increase the number of charity patients at UERM's teaching hospital. The affair was also well attended and had a CME component in which Dr. Larry Bird, "not the basketball player" corrected Irene Manlapaz, gave a talk on the management of hypertension.

The last one to hold VADC Chapter on Marriott Hotel. This marked its proceeds the chapter library Fund. Dr. Ric Flores, that they have been members from their mem- the library "Even appreciated by the students. We enjoin other members of the alumni to do the same thing. There is a MarVaDC plaque now in the library acknowledging this." Flores proudly stated.



a fundraiser was the MAR-May 29, 2004 at the BWI dinner/dance also ear- for two major projects of and the DAP/Indigent chapter president, reported collecting books and jour- ners and sending them to throw away journals are

Meanwhile, Dr. Roly Mendoza, Florida Chapter President, reported that he and representatives from Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia have begun updating their Southeast Alumni Directory and agreed to meet at the Chicago Convention to formally organize a Southeast Chapter as a 501C3 non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization.

Same is true with a budding group of alumni east of Chicago. They plan to form a Michigan and MetroDetroit chapter prior to the August convention. Incoming president Dr. Manny Blas said that "we shall start with an organizing committee and will form a leadership from that."

The Northern California Chapter has not been heard from since last year after the move of then president Dr. Ernesto Chua from Modesto, California to Las Vegas, Nevada.

## The Class of '79

by Renato Flores, M.D.

The Medicine Class of 1979 will be the silver jubilarians this year in Chicago. We have been planning for the affair since last year. Our chairperson is Lorna Lumicao. The secretary is Pearl Castillo-Caraos, treasurer is Jeanie Pobre-So, auditor is Edna Solitario and Conrado Caraos is the information specialist. Members of the class who want to get information on the preparations be sure you log on to our class website [medicine79uerm@yahoo.com](mailto:medicine79uerm@yahoo.com).

About 40 members of the class from USA are attending and about 9 from the Philippines. Our counterparts in the Philippines are also busy with fundraising activities for our homecoming in December. They have organized a golf outing (please see page 3). The coordinator for the Philippine classmates is Chuchi Pilapil-Lazaga. Dress code for the class nite will be 70's and for the gala nite will be long black gown for the ladies and black tuxedo for the men. Silver bowties for the gentlemen and silver corsage for the ladies.

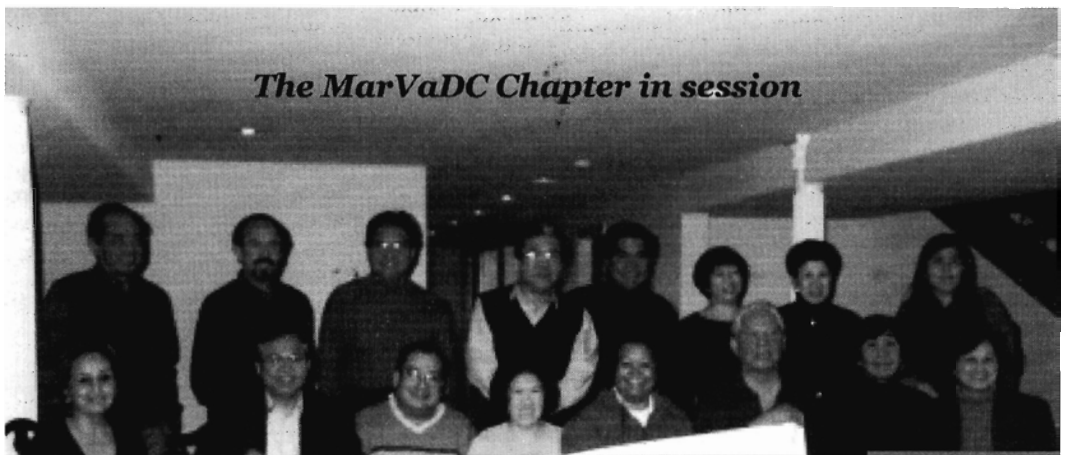
Two members of our class will be featured speakers in the CME program. One is Michael Manyak, Chairman of Urology at George Washington University in DC and the other is Myra Chang-Soo, Chair of Pediatrics at University of West Virginia in Charleston.

We started out with 280, 226 graduated. We are the last class with 100% passing in the Philippine board exams. We are the first class to hold the graduation ceremony outside of UERM, at the Meralco Theatre in Ortigas Ave. which was air conditioned and had ample parking space, conveniences that the UERM quadrangle lacked.

About half of us who are in the U.S. are in psychiatry. As mentioned, two in the U.S. are department chairpersons and one in the Philippines, Alfred Tan, Head of Neurosurgery at UERM Hospital.

Randy Hernando will choreograph our dance for the gala night. Our class will be having a reunion yearbook and urge all of them to send their pictures to Jeannie Pobre-So ASAP. We need more contributions from our classmates to defray the costs of the yearbook and our class projects. We are looking forward to having a great reunion in Chicago and seeing classmates we have not seen in 25 years.

### The MarVaDC Chapter in session



# The Class of 2004



*The Junior Interns on their last day at UERMMMCC, March 31, 2004*

Christine Abanilla, Vanessa Acosta, Abigail Agbayani, Gerard Agbulos, Dennis Aguilar, Iangel Aguillon, Karen Alcantara, Azenith Alegar, Jay Alejandro, Alma Alinsunurin, Israel Almerol, Cristina Almonte, Arnold Altiveros, Ana Maria Ancheta (*Pres. Dalupan Entrance Scholar 2000-2001*), Blythe Ancheta, Lourdes Ang, Laarni Anorico, Felicity Aoigan, Maritess Aquino, Hilda Aragoncillo, Erika Arboleda, Ferdinand Arcilla, Jonathan Arquiza, Leslie Asuncion, Mary Fe Asuncion, Mark Avendaño, Rafael Azares.

Allen Babaran, Arthur Bagadiong, Mariel Bago, Johan Baguilat, Cherylyn Bajo, Rodelie Banico (*Dean's List 2002-2004*), Heidi Barola (*Dean's List 2002-2003*), Rommel Bataclan, Aina Bautista, Arthur Bayani II, Maria Benedicto, Jonathan Beringuela, Elham Bocalbos, George Bodegon, Mildred Bolisay, Edgar Bongat, Andrea Bonifacio, Pia Bosita (*Partial College Scholar 2000-2001, Dean's List 2000-2001*), Adrian Buan, Juan Buencamino.

Rina Cabagnot, Z. Raymond Cablitas, Michelle Cacayorin, Rhona Calingo, Elva Cam, Elugevina, Karlo Capellan, Joanne Capulong, Cheryl Cariño, Antonio Carlos Jr., Empress Carlos, Czarina Castillo, Heidi Castillo, Catherine Catibog, Albert Chang (*Dean's List 2000-2001*), Chia-Yu Chang, Yung-Chieh Chang, Rico Chavez, Jennifer Chen, Ernan Cheng, Mary Chionglo, Elaine Chua, Nanette Chua (*Dean's List 2000-2004, Partial College Scholar 2000-2001*), Michelle Chungtuycy (*Dean's List 2000-2004, Partial College Scholarship 2000-2001*), Consuelo Clavecillas, Aristotle Cochon, Marie Cordova, Joan Cruz, Maria Cruz, Minnie Cruz, Cristina

Custodio.

Rose David, Niño Dayanghirang, Dave De Castro, Donato De Guzman, Cheryl De Jesus, Jennie De Jesus, Lourdes De Jesus, Michelle De Jesus, Christopher De Leon, Julie De Los Santos, Krisanne De Peralta, Jemmy De La Trinidad, Maureen Dimamay, Ardie Dizon, Franklin Dizon III, Elizabeth Domingo, Leonardo Dulu, Alrene Duque, Theresa Egasani-Elises, John Egbuji (*Pres. Dalupan Entrance Scholar 2000-2001*), Joel Elises, Candice Enriquez, Michael Escalante, Jenina Esguerra-Karin Estepa Zola Pagasa Jerome Maria Mark Cristina Figueroa, Formoso.



Jonalyn Gapultos, Arlene Garay, Christina Gesmundo, Joanne Gloria, Arthur Go (*Dean's List 2002-2004*), Geneveive Go, Enrico Gonong, Jianying Gu (*Dean's List 2000-2001*), Mari Guerzon, Caryl Guillermo, Sharon Gulle.

Abigail Hernandez, Eric Von Herrera, Ming-Hsien Huang, Ted Huliganga, Jeanne Igoy, Maria Imperial, Philipp Ines, Mary Jacob, Xanthe Javier, Carolyn Jerez, Jasmin Jo (*Dean's List 2000-2004, Partial College Scholar 2000-2001*), Tzy-Shiuan Kuo (*Cum Laude 2003-2004, Valedictorian 2003-2004, Dean's List 2000-2004, Partial College Scholar 2000-2001*), Felix Labanda Jr., Vanessa La-

cuesta (*Cum Laude 2003-2004, Dean's List 2000-2004, Partial College Scholar 2000-2001 Pres. Dalupan Entrance Scholar 2000-2001*), John Lagunzad, Yu-Hsien Lai, Rhona Lansangan, Jeromel Lapitan, Kurt Lara, Vincelli Leal, Louie Lee, Lizza Legaspi, Maria Lim, Rachel Lim, Patrick Limos, Philip Liu, Wen-Lin Lo (*Dean's List 2002-2003*), Maria Lombos, Tricia Lopez, Eleanne Lubi, Daniel Luchangco, Phebe Luis.

Chia-Liang Ma (*Dean's List 2001-2002*), Allen Maglalang, Jodelyn Magtalas, May Malesido, Myra Malisci, Kristine Manansala, Imelda Manzano, Marishiel Mejia-Samonte, Jose Mendiola, Eden Mendoza, Marie Antoinette Mendoza, Paola Mendoza, Maricar Meollo, Allan Mercado, Ana Mintalar, Mary Margaret Mislang, Diosdado Mondelo, Roy Montecillo, Veronique Morales-Yamo, Michael Naguit, Irene Naig, Philip Nakpil, Farah Nanalig, Francis Natividad, Maria Natividad, Cherrie Nazareth, June Ngo, Eugene Nicdao, Janice Nigos, Maria Orig, Rachel Orteza.

Michelle Pablo, Thea Pabuayon, Josefina Padres, Alvin Pagunuran, Charmaine Palafox, Francis Palencia, Eduardo Palma, Andy Paningbatan, Earl Pascual, Michael Pias, Eutiquiano Pineda III, Cleofe Plasabas, Rhea Pobre, Sarah Ponce, Sherman Poquiz, John Porquez, Arabella Pua, Mari Quijano, Amor Quilala, Teresa Quiocho-Loquias.

Maria Rabena-Pineda (*Dean's List 2003-2004, Dean's List 2002-2003, Dean's List 2001-2002, Partial College Scholar 2000-2001 Dean's List 2000-2001*), Cheryl Ramirez, Tricia Ramirez, Tristan Ramirez, Rodney Ramos, Tracy Ramos, Esther Recano, Todd Reiter (*Cum Laude 2003-2004, Salutatorian 2003-2004, Dean's List*

# 45th commencement graduates 264

The UERMMMC College of Medicine held its 45th commencement exercises on April 22, 2004 at the hospital quadrangle. Two hundred sixty four (264) successful candidates donned their togas that hot *cuaresma* afternoon, got their parents to hood and cap them, and received their diplomas from President Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, Dean Georgina Tungol Paredes and the senior faculty. The newest batch included 10 international students from the United States, Taiwan and Surinam.

This year produced the most number of Latin honors in one graduation to date, three, all *cum laudes*, led by Valedictorian Tzy-Shiuan "Bruce" Kuo, a UC Berkeley grad and son of the Taiwanese Ambassador. Todd Michael Reiter, a chiropractic from Minnesota, salutatorian, and Vanessa Christine Lacuesta, a biology major from U.P. Visayas were the other ones.

Dr. Esperanza Lansang, former dean, delivered the commencement address (see next page for full text) in which she admonished the new doctors to serve unselfishly, "stand for what is

right," and always be "loyal to your *alma mater*."

The alumni foundation-funded Community Medicine Awards went to Consuelo Maria A. Clavecilla, Most Outstanding Graduate in Community Medicine, Catherine Segarra, Outstanding Community Service, and the 24-member July group led by Arthur Bagadiang Community Service Group Award.

Dr. Jesus "Butch" Tamesis, President of the UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association (Philippines) administered the oath of membership to the alumni body. Dr. Raul Quillamor was the emcee.

In his valedictory, Dr. Kuo summed up his four years at UERMMMC thus:

*During the first three years, there was this endless cycle of lectures, tutorials, patient-doctor reports, and exams, the combination of which I like to call Virchow's Quartet. Year one grounded us in the basic disciplines of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology. Year two was exciting because we got to apply our new-*

*found knowledge towards diseases and their mechanisms. Year three continued to expand our horizons with modules from a wide variety of departments. And so after stumbling through thousands of multiple choice questions for the first three years, when it seemed as if we almost could not bear the academic drudgery any longer along came Junior Internship. I remember being so relieved that I could finally stop those endless nights of cramming and actually start doing something. Little did I realize then how steep a price I had to pay, a full year of manual labor where sleep became a luxury and not a necessity of life anymore. But I also learned a lot during internship despite less studying, but more importantly, all of us have made new friendships or simply rekindled old ones that will survive our time here.*

The new graduates began their one year of senior internship on May 1, 2004.

2000-2004, Partial College Scholar 2000-2001), Rubirose Remo, Reggie Revilla, Idelberto Reyes, Riechie Reyes, Lord Jim Ricardo, Maria Rondina, Claire Rufin.

Mercedes Salao, Sharon Salazar, Mary Salilig, Arnold San Antonio, Jason Santiago, Rosary Santiago, Adrian Santos, Joseph Sayo, Catherine Segarra, Peter Señar, Abigail Sevilla, Juan Sevilla, Ser Si, Annalyn Sidamon, Cecile Solomon, Sheryll Mae Soriano, Brian Sumayo, Michael Sunga, Luz Suntay, Marie Antoinette Suplido.

Mariannebelle Tablante, Karen Tagle, Richmond Tan, Eileen Tancinco, Angelita Tardecilla (Pres. *Dalupan Entrance Scholar 2000-2001*), Leslie Tatel, Anthony Tayao, Ronald Tejada, Yrelle Teodosio, Paul Tio, Frederick Tiongson, John Tiopianco, John Tiu, Arturo Tolentino, Odessa Tolentino, John Torres, Chau Tran, Patrick Tuliao (Dean's List 2003-2004, Dean's List 2001-2002).

Grace Ulnagan, Gelen Umali, Alvin Vasquez, Pia Velasco, Adrian Velasquez (Dean's List 2001-2002), Patrick Vergel De Dios, Dwight Villacorte, Neil Villamucho, Mylene Villar, Christine Villaroman, Michael Villena, Francis Vitales, Keith Vitan, Rhodora Vivar, Don Yee, Karla Zialcita.



## Goodbye UERM!

by Caryl P. Guillermo, M.D.

It's so hard to believe that it's been four long years since I first set foot at UERM. It was a steaming hot afternoon that first day of Freshman Orientation as I walked into the Lobby of the Medicine Building with so much anxiety and anticipation and an uncertain smile on my face. That day was the start of my medical career that culminated in my graduation from UERM with a degree of Doctor of Medicine last April.

What can I say about Medicine Batch 2004 that would set it apart from the previous ones? Batch 2004 started with 350 hopeful students, 20 of whom were Filipino Americans and/or international students, a far larger class than the succeeding batches to date. As the third batch under the innovative curriculum called PBL (Problem Based Learning), I believe that Batch 2004 contributed to many of the improvements in the PBL system. Although we lost many of our classmates in the process, these improvements were essential in fine tuning the system that I foresee would become a standard in medical school curriculum not only for UERM but also for other schools in the Philippines. We were an active and diverse class involved in all aspects of UERM life from Student Government, Aesculapius, Fraternities/Sororities, Sports, and other service and socially motivated organizations, not just as members, but most often as leaders. Even during junior internship, we continued our involvement in activities both in the medical school and the hospital.

I think I speak for the batch when I say that our four years have truly been a journey. We have learned that patience truly is a virtue, most things don't turn out the way you expect, kindness is often found in the most unexpected places, not every individual is blessed with the knack for hard work, and last but not least, as doctors, we never stop learning the lessons of our chosen craft.

Batch 2004's 275 candidates for graduation had their commencement exercises at the UERM Quadrangle on April 22, 2004 at 5 P.M. Many of my classmates will have their senior internships at local hospitals such as East Avenue, Lourdes, AFP Makati Med, PGH, UERM, and others. Many of my Fil-Am classmates will be going back to their home states to start the long process of reviewing for the USMLE. Other classmates will be getting married and starting their families. Although we have different plans for the future, we will always be bound by our commitment and loyalty to our *alma mater*. As I walked down the hall of the hospital lobby for the final time and made my last march into the Quadrangle in that especially hot April afternoon, I had mixed emotions about leaving this place that has given me so much and has been such a big part of my life these past 4 years. I can only hope that someday I could give back to UERM a portion of what it has given me.



# Commencement Address by Former Dean Esperanza Lansang

Greetings of peace, love, and joy to all of you! My special greetings go to members of the graduating Class of 2004, the new members of the country's health providers, who have given me the honor to address you on this important milestone of your professional lives. I wish to congratulate their proud parents, the school administrators led by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. P.O. Domingo and the President, Dr. Divinagracia, the faculty, the employees, the alumni and friends of UERM. All of you deserve the loudest of applause in making this event an affair to remember.

The new millennium heralds the arrival of the Knowledge Age, an age of communication, knowledge and learning made possible by advances in Information Technology. Educators, professionals and I would say, many are increasingly recognizing that Information Technology is revolutionizing our field. It is altering the structure of medical education by disregarding institutional walls and developing new ways to access information, solve problems and collaborate. These new developments are particularly advantageous to us and makes it possible to contact experts located at a distance. Surfing the World Wide Web (WWW) is becoming the way we perpetually update ourselves. Even now, patients have access to information regarding medical conditions and are asking intelligent questions. We should be able to give them the latest information on matters related to their health. This shows you that the profession you chose is a continuing learning process. There are of course other ways to keep one's self updated, e.g. attending seminars and postgraduate courses offered here and abroad.

Our field in Medicine requires a lifelong process of creating ways whereby one can better serve humanity. We have a vow to fulfill medical access which is made available and affordable and must be extended to many if not all. World health becomes a problem if we do not work together. I challenge all of you to make the Knowledge Society meaningful by considering the welfare of those requiring our service without reservation.

CHANGE is the constant in the future we face. The management guru, Peter Drucker, calls this emerging social organization the Knowledge Society. Capital, land, and labor were the classical means of production of the 19th and 20th century economics. Today, the basic economic resource is knowledge. Today, value is created—not by capital, not by natural resources, not by muscle power. Today, value is created by productivity and creativity. Winston Churchill said, the empires of the future are the empires of the mind. Creativity is a resource give to rich and poor alike

by God. Creativity comes out of knowledge, whereby the network learning metaphor will predominate. All current programs and structures will require rethinking. Only world-class services will thrive. While technology will be a new driving force in most organizations, medical leaders must remember that the existence of an organization lies in the hearts and minds of people.

In a world that is undergoing rapid, sometimes unimagined changes, our graduates have been prepared to serve the common good. They are prepared for the opportunities and challenges that medical practice will pose, now and in future years. The faculty is committed to remaining at the forefront of these changes to ensure that our goals of academic excellence, scientific rigor, humanism and professionalism are met.

*Share what you have with  
those who do not have.  
Treat every man  
like your brother  
Do not be afraid to stand up  
for what is right.  
Lastly, be loyal to your  
Alma Mater*

The innovative curriculum of UERM which you have gone through uses Problem Based Learning (PBL) as one of the teaching strategies and retained the good features of the traditional medical curriculum. PBL is a learner-centered educational method. You are expected to be able to continue to learn on your own, in life and in your chosen career. The problems in PBL are designed to challenge learners to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Learners acquire collaborative and team learning skills which are important in the practice of your profession as you will be invariably working as members of teams. PBL produces learners who will engage in life and career with initiative and enthusiasm. It employs effective self directed learning skills to continue learning as a lifetime habit. The old educational truism states that half of what the students learn in medical school will be wrong or outdated by the time they are in practice and no one knows which half that is.

The quotation by Stephen Covey aptly summarizes what UERM did for you, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

UERM is one of the two medical schools in the country, UP being the other one, that have been accredited by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU). The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation of the US Department of Education reviews the standards that a foreign country uses to accredit medical schools and determines that a foreign country's accreditation standards are comparable to US Standards. In their latest meeting on March 8-9, 2004 in Washington, D.C. the committee determined that the accreditation standards used by PAASCU have met the standards used to accredit US medical schools. Since UERM is accredited, our US medical students are now allowed to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, to help them in their educational expenses. I was privileged to have been part of the accreditation process of UERM during my tenure as dean of the medical school. I congratulate and thank the faculty who worked hard to attain this goal. There are 37 medical schools in the country today. I understand that eight (8) schools are preparing for accreditation and PAASCU requested our own Dr. Alfaretta Tan-Reyes to brief the representatives of these schools. Our VPAA, Dr. Fernando Sanchez Jr. is the principal author of the instrument used by PAASCU for accreditation.

Our faculty, students and graduates are leaders, who are imagining and creating a future that only a few could have thought possible. Our sphere is so wide, in fact, that our alumni are found in positions of impact not only in the country, but also internationally. Prepared to excel in almost any organizational setting, they appreciate the complexities and rich diversity of modern life. Most importantly, our graduates are committed to solving long-term problems by making a difference in the lives of children, families, schools, communities, business, and government. Our goal is to maximize human potential on a global scale. The Latin word "educare," the root word for education means to draw out potential, to bring forth that which is possible. I am reminded by a recent article published in the Philippine Star about one of our graduates, Dr. Romeo Contemplacion, a TOFIL (The Outstanding Filipinos) Awardee in 1994, who after graduating from UERM opted to become a MARIA (Medical Aid to Rural Indigent Areas) doctor, the equivalent of the current DOH Doctor to the Barrios Program. For 13 years, he stayed in Talim Island as a full-time

(Continued from page 12 )

MARIA doctor, where he applied his medical expertise in not only treating medical conditions but also addressed the other needs of the community such as education, medical facilities, potable water and electricity. Dr. Contemplacion now talks with pride at what the island has become. When volunteers and visitors go to the island, they are struck not by its isolation, but by its beauty, vibrancy, and even some modernity.

Instilling civic spirit must be and should be in our profession as medical doctors not only as an academic requirement before licensure but for us to spend part of our time in NGOs offering free services to the poor. It is what we are about—SERVICE—giving ourselves, fostering a sense of civic responsibility, a sense of community, developing social capital.

What I want to emphasize is that today we live in a world of change. We stand watching the dawn of a new tomorrow. We need to pool all our resources if we are going to meet the needs of our time. This is not a time for competition, for winners or losers, but rather a time for collaboration and reconciliation. This is not a time for the faint hearted but for the courageous. This is a time to be thankful for the triumph of the human spirit and the many great people we have in our university, the faculty, the administrators, and the alumni; the opportunities given to you by the administration and the inspiration given to us by the students to pursue the truth and the advancement of knowledge and renew our faith over and over again in the capacity of the human mind.

I remember a story which President Kennedy used to tell about Marshall Lyautey, who assumed control of France's territories in North Africa. After surveying the barren countryside, Marshall Lyautey remarked to his aide, "We must plant trees." "But sir," the aide responded, "in this environment, it takes one hundred years for a tree to grow to its full height." "In that case," Marshall Lyautey replied, "We have no time to lose. We must begin this afternoon."

By this anecdote, I also mean that no matter how old we may become, there is always something new for us to learn, for us to experience and for us to attain. Dear graduates, you are the future of our country, begin now to serve and make our countrymen healthy and happy.

Graduation is a celebration of life and human joy. Most importantly, a celebration of holiness. Graduation should be a moment of grace. Share what you have with those who do not have. Treat every man like your brother, every woman like your sister. Do not be afraid to stand up for what is right.

Lastly, be loyal to your Alma Mater, honor Her and continue to love UERM.

Congratulations! Good day and God bless you all.

## UERM values in the American healthcare system: a resident's view

by Brian M. Bruel, M.D., '01

Three years have passed since my graduation from UERM medical school. I am now near the end of my second year of residency here and in the Philippines. At this midpoint in my training, I have developed an understanding of medical practice in an American healthcare system without the restrictions of lawsuits with every decision on the history and physical exam times unnecessary diagnostic

medicine in an American healthcare system. Unlike my U.S.-trained counterparts, I learned that there are major differences and I am not a patient. I learned that there are major differences and I am not a patient. I learned that there are major differences and I am not a patient. I learned that there are major differences and I am not a patient.



and not simply a consequence of defensive practice or institutional protocols. As I review my experience in the charity wards, I firmly believe that we practiced holistic, evidence-based medicine limited by patient resources and/or psychosocial situation.

I graduated from UERM with an idealistic view of medicine but I also felt that medical care there was far from perfect. Physicians could not do so much without adequate resources. It was often disheartening seeing patients in the terminal stage of a preventable disease day in and day out. I vividly remember the measles ward during my government hospital rotation at National Children's Hospital. Children presented regularly with pneumonia and respiratory failure as a complication of measles, which could have been prevented with a simple vaccine. The progression of respiratory failure to death could have been prevented with mechanical ventilation. However, there was one respirator available and was used for the baby whose parents could afford it. This was obviously not an ideal way to practice medicine.

I am certain that my U.S.-trained colleagues share the same idealistic view of how medicine should be practiced. After two years of experience in U.S. hospitals, community-based, university-based, Veterans, county and private settings. I have learned to appreciate the wealth of resources and the cutting edge technology available to the American public. One would assume that the idealistic approach to patient care would be possible in a system where medical care is more readily available. However, this has not been the case. Over-utilization of these resources in the past has led to strict regulations for their use as defined by Medicare and managed care restrictions and/or criteria. Protocols and clinical practice guidelines are now widely referred to for treatment plans, replacing the art of medicine with a systematic management protocol according to the diagnosis or DRG (diagnostic related group). This is also not an ideal way to practice medicine.

As clinicians, we all strive to provide the best possible care to our patients and this is what we all consider ideal medicine, whether one trained in the Philippines, the US or both. We update our knowledge base by reading journals and attending conferences in the hope of applying these new concepts to improve patient care. In essence, we all practice some form of evidence-based medicine. Since the start of my residency, evidence-based practice has been stressed as the model system of health care delivery. Clinical practice guidelines are developed using evidence from clinical research and are subsequently translated into the standard of care. These guidelines are therefore a reflection of the current evidence that would provide the best care to our patients. Ultimately, these guidelines and protocols define ideal medical practice. But what about the art of medicine being practiced at UERM where decisions were based on the holistic view of the patient, rather than a defined management recipe? I agree that clinical practice guidelines will provide our patients standard, evidence-based care and we should all strive to incorporate these guidelines into our current practice. However, as graduates of UERM medical school, we must not forget the art of medicine and challenge ourselves to integrate these principles into our practice as well.

and critically reviewing my training both this midpoint in my training, I have developed practice in the U.S.A. I have learned that will likely tailor my future practice of medicine to incorporate UERM values.

parts in my residency, I learned the art of managed care, Medicare and the constant decision made. I developed a clinical eye based without reliance on expensive and sometimes. I learned to use these tests for confirmation solely for documentation. At UERM, physicians in formulating treatment plans. They available resources. Treatments and further diagnostics were based on evidence from the history and physical and not simply a consequence of defensive practice or institutional protocols. As I review my experience in the charity wards, I firmly believe that we practiced holistic, evidence-based medicine limited by patient resources and/or psychosocial situation.

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Dear Classmates,

As I sit here tonight in front of my computer, I will try to put the whole experience in words. It will be extremely difficult but I will do my best, for the sake of the ones who missed the whole event.

The actual homecoming began as early as Saturday, December 13th. It was supposed to be a practice dance session for the ball presentation on the 18th. As people began arriving at the Nagtalon residence, we realized that more and more people from the US were coming in. And as they came in, you could hear the gasps and shrieks of classmates seeing one another for the first time in 25 years! We were hugging and kissing one another for the longest time, trying to put names to faces nearly forgotten because of time. The dance practice went on and at about one o'clock in the morning, I called it quits and drove Nem home to Corinthian gardens. However, the rest went out and partied until about 4 A.M.

Sunday (December 14th) was the welcome cocktails for our long lost classmates at Sylvia Munoz-Huang's residence in Wack Wack subdivision. This was the time more classmates from the US arrived. Again, we reminisced about the good old days. The party ended about 10 P.M. since we promised Sylvia we were going to end early. Again, our classmates went out and partied after the cocktails.

Monday (December 15th) was the alumni grand welcome party for the three colleges sponsored by the university. Everything started at 6 P.M. but the actual dinner and program started at 7:30 P.M. (late as usual). By the school's history, the function, held at the UE Gym, was well attended with 5 of the 10 tables occupied by our class alone as more and more of our classmates here and abroad showed up. It was also a fun filled affair with group presentations. We finished at 10:30 that night but again people went out and partied all night. I guess the US-based classmates wanted to make use of their jet lag problem.

Tuesday (December 16th) was the official party again at the Nagtalon residence. This time about 84-88 of our classmates showed up! We were all surprised to see our numbers growing. For some reason, a lot were beginning to take interest in the homecoming event. To make sure people knew each other we introduced ourselves. It was fun seeing faces we could no longer associate with names because they changed a lot. There were also classmates who never changed. Our dance instructors also taught the newcomers the dance steps of our presentation. The whole group enjoyed dancing and never wanted to leave. I guess the night's affair ended around 3 AM even though the next day would start at 8 A.M. with a mass, and we were going to spend the whole day on our feet.

Wednesday (December 17th) was the official mass and convocation proper for class '78. We all walked into the college auditorium in our toga minus the cap. Mass was officiated by Fr. Dr. Jerry Boncaouil (former internal medicine resident with the funny accent who had an anaphylactic reaction and almost died at the infirmary when we were clerks). Everybody was excited to see some of our old professors attending the mass (Dra. Habalo, Dr. Cuanang, Dr. Divinagarcia, Dra. Valdellon). After the mass, the convocation started with the awarding of the UE medallion to us by Dr. Divinagarcia. Funny thing was the solemnity was replaced with clapping and cat calls each time a classmate is called up on stage. Guess the exhilaration of seeing old classmates again was uncontrollable. People were describing us as a wild batch. After lunch, the formal scientific session began with speakers Dr. Dan Teano for the Baccay memorial lecture, and Dr. Rommel Rivera for the main scientific session of class '78. We finished at around 4 P.M. and our class mates went home to rest. The evening's event was now transferred to Bonaventure in Greenhills sponsored by Westmont and compliments of Nini Torralba-de Guzman, its medical director. This time, the practice was more serious than ever since the event was the next

## '78 homecoming diary

Thursday (December 18th) was the night of all nights! Most of the people were surprisingly early. Cocktails were served and by 7 P.M., the doors to the ballroom were opened. We had two live bands and one was to play for the first 2 hours, the next for the rest of the night. Dancing

began right away. The dance floor got filled up as soon as the band played, with Gary Cortez (who hated to dance) starting the first dance with one of the instructors. This went on until 8:30 when we started the program. A prayer song was sung by classmates Joel Abanilla as Josh Groban and Marilyn Anima as Charlotte Church in a duet. They received a standing ovation for doing such a wonderful job. Did you know that there were 103 members of class '78 who came? This is the biggest in the history of any UERM homecoming, the rowdiest, noisiest, the most bonded, the most anything you can think of...and the happiest. All the other alumni were congratulating us, telling us we were the most successful of all the batches in the history of UERM to hold a homecoming event. This was our night and our time. The pictorial decorations on stage and at the entrance to the ballroom, the camaraderie, the bonding of classmates, everything was so perfect that it brought tears to a lot of us, including me. The night ended at 1 A.M. for most and 4 A.M. for some. Elaine wanted some *crispy pata*.

Friday (December 19th) we went to Canyon Woods for our class outing. This time I could see the pep slowly going from everyone. They seemed to be relaxing after a week of hyped up activities. The stay at the resort was relaxing although, while patiently waiting for rooms promised to us, the group found things to do in the clubhouse to the irritation of the members. Orson brought down a water bottle that was used as a pointer in a rather inquisitive game of truth of "what happened to your love life thing?" As a classmate would tell his/her story, shrieks from the women could be heard all the way to Taal Lake. So we were asked to move to another location. Then when we got bored, we transferred back to the main lobby. Unfortunately, somebody discovered a grand piano and started playing with the whole group, singing at the top of their lungs to the consternation of the house staff. Good for them since they took a long time to give us our rooms. The night went peacefully with some singing and presentations by children of Joey Prudencio and Orson and Tina Battad. This was the time for all of us to unwind after a long, hectic, but enjoyable week. The next day was totally uneventful.

To see our classmates hugging and having fun together was something I can never forget for the rest of my life. We (the organizers) had our doubts as to how many would be present and if we were going to pull this one off. To everybody's surprise, more than expected came (we prepared for only 80 classmates).

For the people who didn't join us for whatever reason, what can I say? You just missed 25 years of your life. The pictures and videos the guys will be bringing home speak for themselves. No amount of words can ever describe the events that transpired here this week.

**MABUHAY ANG BATCH '78! MABUHAY ANG UERMMMM!** Happy Holidays to one and all!

**SIGNING OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS, AND A MUCH NEEDED REST!**

**Jesus "Butch" Tamesis, Jr.**

*Class '78 has many good diarists and so we'd like to share with you excerpts from two other ones to appreciate the depth of their reactions to their reunion and homecoming. Editor*

**Of their December 14th's welcome party:** The dinner was great, mostly exotic stuff and was served like peking duck, sushi, the best liquor, etc. Indeed, we had as much fun as the previous day. Again, there was so much to say and good feelings to exchange. We could not get enough of

each other. We all went home near midnight. Tired and aching from the trip, I guess we all slept well. Butch was really getting worn. But he was really happy and excited as we were all getting together as a very united group. All those very difficult times we had at the medical center were being changed to happy memories as we began to savor the company of our long lost classmates.

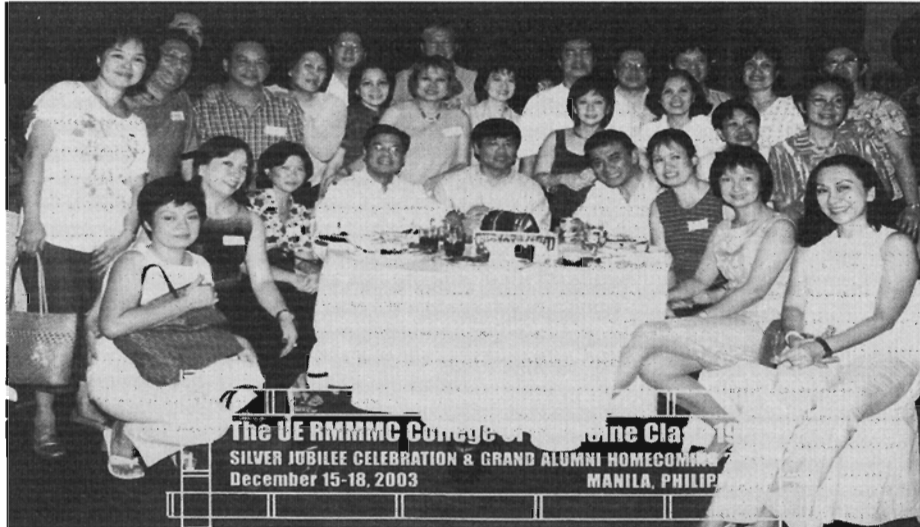
**On convocation day:** Had a great time at UERM. For the first time, there were no longer any negative feelings about the medical center and between classmates. We wore our togas during the convocation that lasted about 3 hours, medals were given to all present one by one with the secretary of the college calling out the names, specialty, and location of practice. Dr. Valdelon gave a speech which was very moving. She mentioned that as far as academic, economic, social and professional goals, we all seem to be comfortable. She asked us now to put all these together, add a sense of social and individual compassion for the benefit of our IHP patients. She wanted us to be excited every time we woke in the morning to go and do our best for our patients. Lilet Cid gave a response which was just as poignant. She recalled those difficult days and compared them to this day. How we have all changed and yet have stayed the same. Many of us received the call to heal and all of us have done it differently. I doubt if there was a dry eye in the room. There were no groups that day, no frats, no cliques, just old friends who came together after 25 years. Hugs and kisses dominate each meeting.

That evening we met at the 4th floor of the Bonaventure. We started learning the dance and song number in earnest. Before all went home, Joel and Marilyn Anima gave a bombastic rendition of "Prayer" by Bocelli. We were so moved by it and were so sure that they could add to Class '78 prestige if they sang it the next day. Thanks to the organizers of Class '78. You have done a mah-velous job!

'78. You have done a mah-velous job!

**Gala Night:** The Class '78 ladies were dressed to the max and all so beautiful. And our gentlemen with their dark suits and tuxedos were equally dashing. The ballroom was huge and the dance floor seemed small but things were just fine with us. We all hopped from one table to another, renewing friendships and bonding with one another. Things have really changed. Why could it not be like this 25 years ago? Perhaps there were just too many demands on us at that time. The toast was memorable as it signified the immortality of Class '78. From that day on, Class '78 would be a major player among UERMMMCM alumni. We were so hyped up that we could not contain ourselves from the dance floor. We danced and danced till the band gave up. We even had to request them to stay longer. Finally the last song was "The Last Dance" by Donna Summer. Even those who did not usually dance took to the floor. What a night! Till we meet again. Class '78 like no other.

Nem Abad Santos.



Epilogue. Our Alumni Week is over but the events that transpired can never be blotted out of my memory. To describe it as "successful" is an understatement. It was much more than that! One had to be there to really feel it! Everyone just bonded together. It was wonderful seeing you all again after 25 years. I will truly treasure these memories. I had so much fun during this entire celebration including the months we spent preparing for the final events. Thanks so much for giving me beautiful memories. I am hoping that we can remain in touch with one another. Let's not wait for the 30th year to be together again, OK?

Nini de Guzman

## Homecoming . . . from page 1

The convocation day's afternoon featured a scientific discussion on the evaluation and treatment of dementia led by silver celebrant Dr. Rommel Rivera's lecture followed by a panel discussion by Drs. Ruby Manalastas, '79 and Robert Buenaventura, '86. An hour-long business meeting of the local alumni association moderated by Drs. Benjamin Policarpio and Antonio Ligot rounded out the day. A new set of officers was elected to be sworn in at the alumni fellowship gala.

The silver jubilarians held two class parties, the first on the 16th at the residence of Drs. Eric and Susan Nagtalon and the second on the night of the 17th at Greenhills' Bonaventure.

At the gala on Thursday, December 18th, at EDSA's Shangri-La, the jubilarians went from

the solemn mood of the candlelight ceremony to the jovial elation of allnight dancing, visiting, reminiscing, picture taking, etc.

### Outstanding Alumni

The gala program gave recognition to the outstanding alumni for 2003: Drs. Mayvelyn Gose-De Dios, '79 in medical education; Eleazar Sarmiento, '64 in community service; and the top plumb of Most Outstanding Alumna to Ida Tiongco, '68. Sarmiento received his award earlier at the Grand Alumni Reception while Tiongco, a jade celebrant, was unable to attend the festivities. Chairman of the award committee was Dr. Ignacio Rivera.

### New Officers

Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, President of the Medical Center, administered the oath of office to the new officers for the year 2004: Drs. Jesus Tamesis, Jr., '78, president; Susan Pilapil

Lazaga, '79, vice-president; Kurt Glen Jacoba, '81, secretary; Antonio Anastacio, '80, treasurer; and Jesus Adelo Inciong, '87 Efrén Garcia, '79, and Ignacio Rivera, '83, board members.

Other celebrating classes that were toasted were: '63, '68, '73, '88, '93, '98, and '03. The gala witnessed special performances from the jubilarians particularly the silver celebrants as well as this year's silver jubilarian Class '79.

The gala used two live bands, the Ruby Rule and Route '70 and deployed able dance instructors who had helped the silver jubilarians with their dance presentations. Drs. Raul Quillamor, '80 and Feliza Francisco-Valdes, '87 were the emcees.

Accounts of the affair indicated the 2003 gala to be the best attended by the silver jubilarians to date.

The 33rd homecoming honoring the silver jubilarian Class '79 will be on December 15-19.

# Class 2002 . . . from page 1 **Class Notes**

their professional oath before the board on Monday, March 15, 2004 at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion. The school gave the successful bets a testimonial dinner at the Cabalen Restaurant, the dean said. Initial registration fee for new physicians in the Philippines is P400 and the annual registration fee is P300 good for 3 years. The Board of Medicine is composed of Drs. Jose Ramirez, chairman, Juanito Billota, Edgardo Fernando, and Ricardo Fulgencio II, members.

The newly licensed UERM graduates are: Ferdinand Abella, Aileen Adalla, Joel Aduan, Errol Aguilar, Mari-Angela Agustin, Maria Amin, Yancy Aquino, Michele Baldo, Zea Baldovino, Rochell Beltran, Claire Berbano, Napoleon Bernardo, Jr., Flynn Buendia, Maria Capali, Jennifer Comes, Emma Cruz, Norina de Leon, Daphny Gelima, Rafaela Fajardo, Shari Francisco, Dennis Gabriel, Arnette Gallevo, Karen Gironella, Denise Herrera, Jose Herrera, Jack Herrin, Nadia Khoo, Edward King, Jr., Gerardo Lantoria III, Carlota Lara, Ana Lava.

Gerald Maceda, Reynaldo Magailanes, Ivan Magnaye, John Mangubat, Nichel Marquez, Rowena Marquez, Lionel Montoya, Paul Nierva, Aruni Ochoa, Jhoy Pagulayan, Louwen Palomero, Carolyn Presnedi, Grace Purificacion, Christi Queyquep-Quilino, Gabriel Ramos, L. Ian Regalado, Charlotte Reyes, Teresa Ribano, Jubairah Riga, Ruby Roces, Bernard-Julius Rocha, Jonathan Salud, Angeline Salustiano, Edmundo Samaniego, Jr., Carlos Sandico IV Celeste Santos, Tinabelle Serrano, Arvin Sese, Jangail Songco, Dino Vargas, Maria Yap, Kristine Ynzon, Venus Yu.

Name of School	# Of Examinees	% Passing
St. Louis University	69	87%
University of Santo Tomas	76	84%
UERMMMC	97	69%
Southwestern University	86	40%
University of Perpetual Help-Las Pinas	98	28%
Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation	77	25%
Gullas College of Medicine	80	24%
University of Perpetual Help System—Laguna	98	20%

Name of School	# of Examinees	% Passing
FEU-NRMF	129	64%
De La Salle University—Dasmariñas	117	61%
Fatima Medical Science Foundation	261	55%
Manila Central University—Caloocan City	139	42%

Meanwhile, the College of Medicine began its board review classes last month for Class '03 graduates who are taking the examinations this August. The 2nd PBL batch just completed their post-graduate or senior internship on April 30th. The Board Review Committee headed by Dr. Jennifer Nailes, '89, assistant professor of preventive and community medicine administers the course along with a select panel of faculty.

Dean Paredes confirmed to *The Newsletter* what young alumni sources have said that the review course costs P5,500 each whereas it's offered free to "top ten graduates." She said that the school incurs expenses for "faculty fees, review materials and IT use." She defended the policy on the top ten candidates as a strategy for landing a board placer from the school, and wondered if "alumni can probably offer incentives for board passers landing on the top twenty or probably refund of fees for mere board passers."

## Jedi Class '68's continuing mission

After a much needed R & R at his jade reunion in New York last August, Tony Ligo wrote this appeal for help to his classmates: *I came home to Banaue and had a hospital full of patients. We are having a dengue fever epidemic. I am seeing 40 patients at the OPD. My reliever left for Manila to go to subspecialty training. This is not easy for me but God gives me strength. Can you help in our Life Saver's Fund? Dengue patients can't even buy the I.V fluids, much less pay for platelet count every 12 hours. We hope to have the epidemic controlled soon. You can send your support to D. M. Stearns Missionary Fund. Pls. write in check memo "For Good News Clinic and Hospital," and they will send it to us."*

His classmates did not disappoint. From Aida Benjamin Gauzon in Bacolod to Oca Saddul in the West Coast, they gave what they could give. From the heart! In his friend who is a faithful steward of the medical & surgical supplies and indigent funds from all over, Oca sees an advocate for his entrance to the pearly gates someday. May the Force be with you always!

## Activist '75

Nards Buena visited UERMMMC during homecoming week last December and was appalled by what he saw. There were "very few patients" in the hospital. That's why "very few medical graduates are applying for residency due to inadequate clinical exposure," he said. So when he got back, he promptly wrote a check for his alumni foundation class fund that supports the Drug Assistance Program/Indigent Endowment Fund. "I believe this program will help not only the patients at the UERM teaching hospital but also the medical students," he wrote classmate Irene Manlapaz. Now, that's action with conviction, the same spirit that drove this class to launch the first-ever strike on campus in 1972 against tuition fee hikes!

## Political Class '76

A bumper crop of leaders! From home, Ed Firmalo, 2002 President of the UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association in the Philippines, won his race for the congressional seat of Romblon in the just concluded national elections last May 10th. In his first foray into national politics as the opposition bet, Firmalo, an OBGYN, beat the incumbent with a strong campaign against government corruption and a positive one that promised improvement in the district's agricultural and fishing industries, healthcare, preventive health and nutrition. He begins his 3-year term of office this month. He is married to Leonie Que of Class '77 who likewise has helped him run a free clinic for indigent patients in their province which he plans to continue as a compliment to his public



# Class Notes

life. He asks his classmates and alumni to send him "some excess medical equipment, etc. to use for the poor people of Romblon." They have four very supportive children as well.

Over here, Alfred Fernandez of Chesapeake, Virginia was sworn in as president of the PMA of Southeastern Virginia at its annual fund raising & spring ball on March 27th at Norfolk's Marriott Waterside Hotel.

Congratulations guys!

## '66 stalwart loses senate bid

You win some, you lose some. Dr. Paruk Hussin, Governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, a rising star in President Gloria Arroyo's party, lost his senatorial race in the last national elections in the Philippines when he failed to land in the magic twelve.

A write-up in a February issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* showed that in the 70s, Hussin lived in exile and practiced medicine as a volunteer doctor in Libya during the Marcos years. There he met and married his Yugoslav wife Slavica who was a nurse at that time. They have four grown-up children, three sons and a daughter. They moved to Sweden afterwards where he practiced his profession for 11 years. There he cultivated international contacts who have helped him to be an effective governor. Be that as it may, his trajectory points upwards. Good luck, Guv'ner!

## Gaw of '64 vies for APA treasurer

Dr. Alber Gaw, former professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, currently a professor of psychiatry at University of California in San Francisco, 2001 Cuyegkeng Memorial lecturer contended for treasurer of the American Psychiatric Association. Gaw has been active in APA for many years, has written books and journal articles particularly on the cultural facets of psychiatric practice, and a strong supporter of the alumni association as a resource speaker and lecturer. As of press time, Dr. Gaw has not confirmed the result of the balloting which began in late January.

## In memoriam

We mourn the loss of two former presidents of UERMMMCM alumni associations: Dr. Lydia "Lily" Pine-Tansecoco, '77 immediate past president in the Philippines and Dr. Benjamin Narrajos, '63, the founding president here in the U.S.

Tansecoco was a longtime faculty member in both Departments of Biochemistry and Pediatrics. She was a guest at last year's reunion in New York where she celebrated her 50th birthday.

Ben who died last month led the alumni association during its infancy, became its 12th Cuyegkeng speaker, and was active in missions.

May they rest in peace!

# Estrada to attend IAMSE for UERMMMCM

Dr. Florina Estrada, '80, professor of physiology and former college secretary, has been invited by the International Association of Medical Science Educators as a member of the planning committee, speaker at its annual meeting in New Orleans on July 10-13, 2004 at the Jazz City's downtown Fairmont Hotel. on the "Keys to Successful Curriculum Innovation, the UERMMMCM Experience." This will be her first trip to the United States and is very excited about it, not only personally but more so because she will be proudly representing her *alma mater* in a high profile professional organization made up of some 30 medical schools from all over the world. She explained that as a result, "UERMMMCM is now part of the government of medical schools."



She told the editor that she has been very impressed by the promptness and helpfulness of the IAMSE's responses to her preparations. She has studied the demographic data of the participating schools and in the process got invited into the administrative group of the convention.

Her trip comes on the heels of a previous one she made to Singapore in December, 2003 for the Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference, together with current College Secretary Dr. Milagros Rabe, also her colleague in the Department of Physiology. There, they both read papers about the medical school's innovative curriculum (PBL) now in its 7th year of implementation. School officials said that the trend continues toward PBL across the Asia-Pacific region. In Singapore for example, it is now the only legal curriculum to be followed in medical education per edict of the island nation's legislature.

Nina, as Estrada is called at UERMMMCM, also expects to "meet big shots and dignitaries" who can assist her and the school in the publication of papers written by the faculty in a prestigious and peer-reviewed scientific journal. She will serve as a peer reviewer for IAMSE's publication of the upcoming meeting's deliberations, resolutions, policies and important papers.

It may be recalled that last year, Estrada completed her Ph. D in medical education from UST with assistance from the alumni foundation in her dissertation. This time she is again supported by the alumni foundation's faculty travel grant and the alumni association executive director's travel mileage with Continental Airlines. She received a \$500 travel grant from UERMMMCM, she said.

She disclosed that in the early 90's, she had a chance to go to the U.S. for a scholarship in a Chicago university but turned it down because of the constraints of a growing family of 7. Now that her children are grown, she looks forward to more time of writing along with her continued commitment to teaching at her *alma mater* to which she attributes many of her professional growth, achievement and satisfaction.

# Young grads speak

compiled by Lorelane Pagulayan, M.D. '03



Do you think UERM prepared you well to become good physicians?

**Leah:** Generally yes but I am of the opinion that being a good physician resides for the most part in the individual. A good institution like UERM can only enhance. I think the revolutionary PBL was a big step towards a better medical education. But it has its downsides. For one, the style of learning requires tremendous responsibility from the student and I believe stricter objective methods of evaluation should be implemented. **Acce:** I think the institution is doing its best to improve the curriculum. However I suggest that they put emphasis on BASICS and theoretical. In the clinics, we are more exposed to cases and are more confident in managing patients. **Amor:** UERM has helped us become good physicians because we are able to integrate our theoretical foundation. However the basics must be modified, short quizzes for lectures would help students to study.

**Gene:** As for planning, UERM has been on the forefront. They are abreast with more recent techniques in medical education. In spite of all these, each student must still develop personally to become a good doctor. Sometimes students end up as guinea pigs. Contingency plans must be in place in case of drawbacks in the administration's well laid out plans.

**Virginia:** When you serve as an intern outside UERM, you realize the UERM training is very good. I suggest though that we adopt an every 3 day 24-hour duty schedule during internship.

**Janis:** UERM has done a fairly good job in training us to become good physicians. Consultants and residents taught willingly and let interns do simple procedures but sometimes, interns forget basic concepts/principles. I think this has a lot to do with the way they were taught during the undergrad years. **Ja:** Honestly, the preparation is inadequate such that we **Continued on page 30**

# The thin red line by David Roble, M.D.



It may have been by design that our editor, who has my unabashed admiration for his newsletter work, juxtaposed pages with the open letter of our then Dean Dr. Valdellon and a couple of letters

(October 2003 post-convention Newsletter) addressing the subject I thought I would not have to read about again—namely claims, *ad nauseum*, of “victimization.”

I was hoping that this “victimization issue had been resolved in the minds of the “victims” after the deluge of e-mail exchanges among the alumni before, and leading up to, the 2003 reunion in New York, where some of the messages even deteriorated from the victimization theme into blatant personality based denigrations of persons, who were not perceived to be sympathetic, as arrogant and prostitutes of some sort. I guess I was hoping against hope that I would not have to kick this subject around for the next twenty years.

The juxtaposition defined the problem clearly but the solution is not so simple. Our then Dean’s letter nobly apologized for the demonized mentors and teachers even if she did not have to, while the other letter leading the “victim” pack with the vow that “nothing can bring closure to the history of the past,” seethe with resentment over something the writer claimed happened some thirty years ago. Between the simple apology and the preordained response, the gap seems truly wide. It is into this yawning gap that I find myself falling again; to look into the cracks and crevices for explanations why this is such an overwhelming divide.

After reading the noble apology of our ex-Dean to the “Many (who) have even labeled themselves to be ‘victims’ and have launched a constant crusade to institutionalize a subculture of martyrdom,” I find myself asking a couple of questions: did she unwittingly lend credibility

with her well-intentioned apology to the demonization of mentors and teachers by a few loud complainers? Is this really a case of unjust punishment or just plain and simple whining?

There are those who will say, and I agree, that there is a problem when there are complaints, or to use an overused cliché, “Where there is smoke, there is fire.” And indeed in the case of our alumni population, there is a problem because there is some smoke. But we need to get beyond the haze and with clear eyes and open minds determine what the problem really is. We need to ask if the problem is one of victimization (unjust punishment), or whining (over deserved measures appropriate for that time in our school’s history). We need to ask when it be-

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## *We need to ask if the problem is one of victimization or whining*

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came a given and undisputed fact that there was injustice, and by whose decree, and if a complainant’s complaints is all that is needed to establish as fact the existence of that injustice. We need to wonder if assigning extra duties and extensions in some cases were not the more filial responses to infractions that otherwise rightfully deserved failing grades. To offer an apology, or even preventive measures to preempt questionable or non-existent “victimization” first requires an answer to this basic question: victims or whiners? On which side of the thin dividing line do the complainants fall?

Offering an apology for what could be a non-existent injustice may be noble, but it is sort of

like doing PSA test on women just to be all encompassing and just in case a woman or two out there may be walking around with a prostate. We have to consider the other side of the equation, namely, the accused, particularly if some of them are not around anymore to defend themselves. I spoke to one of the recently dead accused a few years ago at the previous New York reunion and I got the impression that they or at least he had been quiet because he did not want to dignify the accusations by responding and adding real flames to a Saint Elmo’s type fire over a dead issue. It would not be just and right to impute on them a sin based on the whinings of a few whiners, if this be the case, and make them feel like lepers in the yearly reunion gatherings. It would be an injustice to constantly crucify them after forcing them to drag that cross of suspicion all these years because of some whiner’s whims.

If the alumni organization is unable to separate the “victims” from the “whiners” today, there is at least this hope that through Dr. Valdellon’s apology and the tincture of time we will be able to winnow the former from the latter, presuming this isn’t one homogeneous whining group. Time and an apology tend to pacify true victims, who are usually eager for “eventual closure to the history of the past,” but not whiners, who dread apologies as dampers on their urge to act out their complaining natures and desires to keep propagating their martyrdom. At that future winnowing moment, we can sympathize with the real victims and gently prod them to heal themselves of their decades old psychological wounds, or lacking success at self-healing, at least get psychotherapy—for this is what they would advise their own patients; but for the whiners, we can always keep them happy by patting them on their heads and encouraging them to keep us entertained with their colorful and innovative wails of “injustice.”

*While at UERM to care for my ailing father, I came across this student’s plea for help through former Dean Valdellon. Editor*

Dear UERM Medical Alumni,

I, Ma. Gelen M. Briones, an incoming 2nd year student at UERMMM College of Medicine, finished my first year proper with the help of Dalupan Entrance Scholarship due to my scholastic record in college. I graduated *cum laude* with the degree of B.S. Biology in U.P. Los Banos.

Ever since, my dream is to become a doctor but my parents cannot afford to support me financially. That’s why I’m seeking another scholarship.

My father is a mechanic in Nestle Philippines, Inc. It was January, 2002 when the workers of the company went on strike. Until now, the strike is

## *An angel for a wish*

not yet resolved. My father’s salary from the company was the main source of income for our family. His salary was a big loss to us in the past two years. As of now, our family’s needs are supported by my mother’s salary as a nurse in a government hospital. Honestly, my mother’s salary is not enough for us. I have two other siblings who are still in school and dependent on my parents. This adds up in the financial burden of the family. To suffice the financial problem, my parents borrow money from my relatives. My mother also gets salary loans and takes extra jobs as a clinical instructor

during the weekend.

I believe that in pursuing a medical career, one should have the intelligence, perseverance, and strong determination. I can say that I have those qualities. But they are not enough. In addition, one should also be financially well supported. And unfortunately, I lack this one. I know that this scholarship can help me a lot. I hope and pray that my aspiration will be granted. I promise to look back to what I will receive. I pray that you will receive a continuous blessing from Almighty God for helping students like me.

*Dr. Josie Garcia Sidia, '65 read this by chance while I was at the Alumni Office on June 4th and right then and there took Ms. Briones as her scholar for a least one semester Thank you Josie! Editor*



# Letters to the Editor



## Happy for a younger alum

Remember Marlon Mangahas (UERM Class 1999), the alumnus that I recommended for internship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH where I had trained? Well, the faculty at CWRU wanted him as a PGY 1 resident but he took the position at St. Louis University School of Medicine. I saw his picture today with the other residents at St. Louis in the February issue of the APA Psychiatric News.

This was really a nice story about a UERM graduate who showed us what perseverance could do. I am so happy for this young colleague! It reminded me of the difficulties that members of our class had to endure during our search for residency positions in the early 1980's. I remember when you published his letter in "The Alumni Newsletter" asking for help from US alumni so that he could at least interview for residency positions here in the States.

Franklin de Guzman, M.D. '78

*(We are all proud and happy too. This story inspired our Executive Director to explore the idea of arranging "fellowships" for our interns and/or residents at some hospitals here or increasing alumni funding for partial scholarship for say one or two students a year to attract better applicants to enroll or pursue residency training at UERM. Ed.)*

## Let's help fellow alumni

It is really sad to hear about Filipino physicians becoming nurses so they could improve the economic lives of their families. But I do understand their plight.

Since many of us are already established in our practices here in the U.S., how could we help our fellow alumni? Of course they have to fulfill their contracts and work as nurses but they could also prepare for the possibility of getting into medical practice in the future. Let us reach out to our classmates and fellow alumni, maybe help them enroll in refresher courses so they could pass the USMLE then help them find residency spots where they could apply in, or maybe just be good friends to them, willing to listen to their dreams of becoming practicing doctors again.

Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D. '75

## I am guilty

I have been accused by some alumni of two

things. First is my obsession with resolving the issues of abuse of students by higher-ups at UERM. Second is the issue of Lucio Tan. I plead guilty to both counts but with some qualifications. On the first issue, I would like to categorically state for the nth time that at this late stage, I bear no grudges nor do I seek vengeance. Having stated this though, I still firmly believe that closure is needed and that such closure needs fresh air to come in. I do not agree with Vicky Casibang that closure is not possible. It is, but it has to be well thought out and properly done. It cannot be just "As Christians we have to forgive and forget" kind of thing. That is only good for children. But maybe we are all like children. Note the way Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is using the very same words.

On the second count, I confess that I am raising the issue, hopefully, so that most of our beloved, idealistic but naïve (in my judgment) fellow alumni will not be disillusioned in the future when *realpolitik* again asserts its ugly head as it inevitably will. I believe too that the UERM problem cannot be taken in isolation and divorced from the context of who owns it, what his record is, etc. I hope I am mistaken and sincerely welcome any argument to convince me otherwise.

Roberto S. Castrence, M.D. '68

## Standing up for principles

Dr. Rosel has my respect and sympathy. She was twice a victim of coercion under a patronage system that favors clout over merit and became a victim many times over of bureaucratic pandering, damage control and misplaced loyalty. She stood for equity and justice but left alone and abandoned when her cause was under fire. In the end, only the honorable Dr. Valdellon stood up for her. She has become the quintessential fall guy in this bizarre story that brings into light the best and worst of UERM. She and Dr. Valdellon have the character that is needed in the rehabilitation of our ailing medical school.

Carlos F. Gotardo, M.D. '72

## Let us support the new dean

Our new dean will need all the luck she can get in addition to a lot of effort she will have to muster to turn our *Alma Mater's* image around. With the plunging board passing (64% for August 2003) the past couple of cycles and with it the public perception of the school solidified as mediocre, we get the murky pool of applicants whose only chance of improving its passing is by boot camping. She might be able to pull this off if she has the will to survive slingshots and arrows from alumni who are bound to castigate her for bringing back the days of Cuyegkeng, or entice the benevolence of others in the alumni organization who will open their pocketbooks for scholarship grants based on academic excellence to attract better applicants.

David Roble, M.D. '65

## Enthusiastic freshman

Thanks for your support. My whole family is really excited for me. I'm getting excited myself! Although I received a copy of the acceptance letter via email, my brother and I have yet to actually receive the documents. It was sent out on Jan. 26, 2004. I hope it didn't get lost in the mail. In the copy, UE asked me to get back to them with an "intention to enroll" by calling or faxing by February 15th. Instead, I wrote them an email with an attached document stating my intention to enroll. If everything works out, my brother and I are planning to go to the Philippines with our Mom.

Mark Roquiz, Pennsylvania

*(Congratulations Mark and welcome to the UERMMM community. Learn well and good luck! Ed.)*

## A grateful scholar

Hello Sir! It's already 2004 and our graduation is just around the corner. Many thanks to you and your foundation. Had you not helped me, I would have already quit schooling. Thanks so much again, Sir.

Michael Escalante, M.D. '04

*(You are welcome. We at NTAPP in Dallas wish you success and happiness. Always uphold the nobility of our profession, serve our people well and never forget our Alma Mater and your benefactors.)*

# Editorials



## The work ahead

As we gather for our 16th convention and reunion this summer, let us take stock. The past year saw leadership changes in the alumni foundation and the College of Medicine. Likewise, we have noticed a sharpening of the alumni association's operational focus. What is emerging is a picture of maturing alumni organizations responding to a struggling medical school that is trying to find its balance.

The structure established by the founding fathers of our twin organizations remains sound. It is right to have an association which functions as a trade group that promotes unity, loyalty and professional stature. It is equally proper to have a foundation that carries out the philanthropic mandate of alumni as expressed in their respective charters. Toward these goals, the leadership and active membership have been faithful. From the late Dr. Benjamin Narrajos to Dr. Joseph Rastrollo and Dr. Wilmer Heceta to Dr. Bayani Elma, our organizations have become stronger and influential. By this we mean that we have not only grown in number but also in generosity. Thus, the \$0.5 M funds raised by the alumni foundation for the betterment of our *alma mater*

As a result, here in the U.S., we are more cohesive and aware of our roles. The commitment of the association under Drs. Rastrollo and Manlapaz to build an endowment fund for drug assistance for indigent patients at UERM's Charity Hospital is a step in the right direction. Similarly, the alumni foundation's on-going campaign for an endowment fund to finance its existing programs is well advised. The latter's ability to increase its funding for its projects could only grow stronger as its war chest bulges. The difference, however, is that with the former, it's almost single minded towards drug assistance while the latter's *seems* out of focus. On the contrary however, these different approaches provide alumni donors with a wide variety of choices for their gift giving. The appeal or pledge form on page 25 specifies these areas.

On the other side of the ocean, we see a medical center that languishes in its diminishing competitiveness. For many reasons as a result of its ineffective corporate structure and governance, we are confronted with the dilemma of where to channel our still limited resources to bring about an outcome of quality medical education as measured by the success of our graduates in licensure examinations and gainful placement, and a happily fulfilled, fiercely loyal and intellectually productive faculty.

New Dean Paredes' focus on scholarship and faculty development in her young administration is a clear guidepost for us to follow. She has exerted a great deal of effort in snaring very desirable students for the new freshman class. To date, she has 14 top students that are needful of funding assistance. In her view, as we understand it, we must go ahead to head with competitor schools in getting the best students. If it means full scholarship support for this cadre of students, then full scholarship it is that we must commit to *now*. Furthermore, knowing again the facts on the ground, Paredes identifies faculty development as the other key to UERMMMCM's competitiveness. We must sit down with her and figure out how to help her in this area as well. A concrete example of the long term impact of faculty support is that of former College Secretary Dr. Florina Estrada. The alumni foundation's support of her post-doctoral studies has borne fruit in her increased writing, teaching and now her participation at IAMSE in the name of UERMMMCM. Let's do whatever it takes to help attract and keep teachers of her caliber at all levels.

In 2001, we posited the question "*Quo vadis, alumni?*" Today, we can answer that with a firm and unequivocal "toward a relevant alumni family and a competitive *alma mater!*" This must be our passion and our continuing work!

Four years ago when the editorship of *The Alumni Newsletter* was offered to me in Las Vegas by then new President Dr. Renato Querubin, I asked only two questions. What was my editorial license? How much was my budget? I got two straight answers. I was free to write responsibly and I would receive ample money to do it. That has been pretty much it!

What struck me most with my marching order was the complete trust and confidence that the leadership has given me in this project. As I observed our organization at close range, I learned

## Parting words

that there is a remarkable degree of professionalism and integrity that underpin such a trust, motivated only by the highest of purpose, that of unity among alumni and loyalty to our school and one another.

To that edict, I responded with commensurate zeal and vigor. All sources of news, both here and at home, and available leads have been pursued in search of truth to tell and share with you. Issues were brainstormed by our writers and contributors

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to reflect the diversity of our opinions.

I take pride in the jobs, big and small, that have been put into these pages by all who have lent their hands in their production. Your reading of our issues have been most gratifying. Your expressed responses, even more.

Finally, in doing this work, I have learned so much more about ourselves and our *alma mater* that we have much more good in common than bad and that we have much more to be proud of our school than to be ashamed of.

Thank you for this chance to serve. *Mabuhay!*

# Random Thoughts of Lolo Totoy

by Roberto S. Castrence, M.D.



## Ecclesiastes revisited

In our exuberant youth, the big question was "to be or not to be." Now in the autumn of our life and fading glory, it is "to retire now or to work till we die." Two views on the choices we will make. I hope I am forgiven for making light of a truly important issue. Whether we like to admit it or not, this is our dilemma (and a proof on the limits of human freedom). There is just not much else to do. Of course you can also retire and die but this is pushing the bad joke too far. Why am I raising this.

Essentially, this is a conversation with myself as I feel most writing is. What worries me and what I have often tragically observed is that people who opt to retire and enjoy what they richly deserve procrastinate and procrastinate and then drop you know what. They become more like the second group described above.

Now, there is really no right way about these things. For some the first option is right, for others, the second. Different strokes for different folks, *ika nga ni Boss*. I do feel sorry for those who make their decision but end up another way because of the bad habit of procrastination. Not only procrastination but indecisiveness, the miscalculation about our own mortality and what we need to be "comfortable in old age," succumbing to public opinion and other people's opinion and, occasionally, greed and ambition. These last two are quite rare, luckily.

So, does this mean that it is going to be downhill from here on? In one sense, yes, but in a more important sense, it is not. It is only so if we judge this part of our life using the criteria from another earlier part of our life. Viewed in this way, which is what I prefer, this becomes a new ballgame altogether, with new rules. There is a promise of more exciting times, not in the way we think maybe, but in ways we can only imagine or not be able to at present. Looked at it this way, even death loses its sting as it might be the opening of another door to ?

## Transience of life, etc.

All good things must come to an end! One truism that has stood the test of time, unfortunately. Unfortunate for the UERM alumni that this is the last issue of our Chief Editor Sam Piga. He has been a work horse doing a yeoman's job the last four years. I know that he worked more than I, and was able to put more information in our newsletter. I did work too, but I must admit that I had a lot of fun playing around with photos found at home since the alumni had not been sending me any. I'm sure Sam can say the same. I was also lucky for having my classmate and friend, former Chief Editor and now current chairman of the UERM Alumni Foundation, Bayani Elma, who wrote a profusely flattering (mostly undeserved) send-away column about my stint. Naturally, I did not correct it (*Bakit* am I not entitled to my fifteen minutes of fame?). I would like to do the same for

Sam, but I feel inadequate, as I do not know Sam as well as Bayani knew me. Anyway, the body should congratulate him for a thankless job well done. Kudos to you Sam!! He definitely deserves a plaque. No, not that kind of a plaque. He says he has enough of them.

To compensate for my inadequacy, and as a tribute, the best that I can do is make this article one that is uplifting, a sort of Good News, feel-good article. This is going to be a challenge, because fate has not particularly been good to us Filipino doctors, here or at home. I will use a broad brush to illustrate this and then go on to see if I can still argue that indeed the cup is half-full rather than half-empty.

For the bad news in the winter of my (our?) discontent:

Winter gets me down. I think I have SADD. My worst nightmares come in winter time. I believe that SADD has nothing to do with sunlight and melatonin and all that crap. In my case, I think it is the cold winter air freezing my balls, paralyzing it. But I am digressing. Now to the issue. Sometime in the late 80s and early 90s, there was euphoria in the air. In the Philippines, a hated dictator was thrown out of power. The Cold War broke. We were still just a profession. There was hope that peace and prosperity was just around the corner. Remember the peace dividend? The promise of peace in the Philippines? And HMO were only letters of the alphabet. But then came successive governments in the Philippines, all unable to solve her problems. In fact, each one trying to outdo the former by getting the country deeper and deeper into trouble. And then of course, the crazy Osama wiped out any hope for the peace dividend, probably not disliked by the Defense Department and the makers of weapons, giving them a *raison d'etre*. And need I repeat the offensive launched by the insurance companies and their HMOs destroying our profession, or at least our or my concept of what the profession should be. As an aside and to make matters worse, my favorite tango partners were moving out of DC and the clubs were closing one after another. Is this Apocalypse?

Good news:

How can one counter all these negative things and still find hope? I suggest that we all look at the *longue duree*, the long view to have a better perspective...that all this will pass. And corny as it may sound, there is a silver lining behind every cloud. Poe, GMA, even Iraq may actually be a good lesson, if one takes this view. Certainly, the resilience of our *kababayans*, their capacity to laugh in the face of disaster are a big help in boosting our confidence that somehow the Filipino shall overcome. Look what the Couples for Christ and *Gawad Kalinga* are doing. I never thought I would be praising such a religious group. But hey, look at reality. Of course there is also Cialis and whatever they will come up with next. And don't forget those 21 dark haired virgins. Oops, I better quit while I'm ahead. Boss says frozen balls and virgins don't mix. By the way, there are more clubs opening and for every dancer leaving, two or three replace her/him. See you all in Chicago!

P.S. How could I have forgotten about Palawan?

Erap: *Pare, bakit itong "Pork & Beans" na kinain ko walang pork?* FPJ *Pare, itong "Corned Beef" din walang mais!*

Question: If FPJ GMA, Bro. Eddie, & Ping Lacson all rode in an ill-fated ferry, who would have been saved? Answer: The Republic of the Philippines!

## Alumni Desktop

Where are you from? One hand on wheel, one hand in horn: Chicago. One hand on wheel, middle finger out window: New York. One hand on wheel, one hand on rifle Texas. IIM

Nipongo Pinoy Style

Is this your property (*Arimoto*)? Yes, this is my property (*Arikoto*)? You've grown so thin (*Kitanabutomo*)! Underarm odor (*Kirikiriobans*). Ouch (*Haraiku*)! Speechless (*Wasabe*)? You're crazy (*Sirauomo*)! The end (*Warana*). RSC

## Siasoco is new editor



Dr. Senen "Sonny" Villanueva Siasoco of Class '75, presently assistant editor, has been named by incoming president Dr Manny Blas, '67 as the next editor-in-chief of

*The Alumni Newsletter*. The Marshfield, Wisconsin anesthesiologist's 2-year term starts upon the swearing in of Dr. Blas at the August convention. He replaces Dallas internist Sammy Piga, '73 who has served for the past 4 years.

Siasoco is a veteran student journalist having served as managing editor of U.P. High School's *U.P. Highlights* in 1966, sports editor and later managing editor of the *Philippine Collegian*, managing editor of the *Philippinensian* both of the University of the Philippines during the tumultuous pre-med years of 1968-1971, and finally managing editor then editor-in-chief of UERMMMC's *Aesculapian* and his class yearbook *Aesculapius* during the early martial law years of 1974-1975.

He did his senior internship at UERMMH, served his rural internship in the NPA-infested town of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija before pursuing postgraduate training first in surgery at Mt. Sinai in Milwaukee and finishing in anesthesiology at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo in 1983.

He is currently a director at the multi-specialty Marshfield Clinic and a senior partner of its 20-man anesthesiology department.

He has been an active donor in the recycling for charity program of the alumni foundation and lectured on anesthesia at the College of Nursing's alumni homecoming. He is married to the former UERMMH ER nurse Menchu Ramos by whom he has one child, B.J., who is studying to be an industrial and environmental engineer.

He invites interested alumni to join his editorial staff. He can be reached at 1414 N Broadway, Marshfield, WI 54449, (715) 394-3739 or Marshfield Clinic (Anesthesiology), 1000 N Oak, Marshfield, WI 54440, (715) 397-7179 or fax (715) 387-5790 or email. [siasoco@charter.net](mailto:siasoco@charter.net) or [sonnysiasoco@hotmail.com](mailto:sonnysiasoco@hotmail.com).



## Alumni Foundation Newsletter Supplement

### All are invited to the annual meeting

*We received these communiques from the foundation leadership about the alumni foundation's activities on August 4, 2004, the first day of the upcoming convention. A third one outlines the procedures to follow in claiming donations to the foundation.*

#### From the Chairman of the Board

On behalf of the executive officers and members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, I would like to inform you about changes in the format of the August 4, 2004 foundation meeting in Chicago. After my two extensive visits to UERM, the first in November to December, 2003, the second in January to February, 2004, I feel that there is a **dire need** for the foundation to disseminate information to the general alumni about itself, its missions and visions, programs and projects. I am sure there are plenty of "Al Tanglows" among the alumni judging from the emails and personal conversations I have had with them in the U.S. and the Philippines, among the UERM faculty members, and medical students. There is so much confusion about the Association, Foundation and the local chapters. In view of all these, the August 4 meeting of the foundation will **not** be a leadership workshop intended for and to be attended by foundation officers and trustees. Instead, it will be an **orientation program** from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and **all alumni are welcome and invited!** I enjoin as many alumni as possible to attend. Details of the program will be disseminated by email and by the newsletter (*not available at press time*). So essentially, we will have a 4-day convention.

Bayani B. Elma, M.D., '68

#### From the President

This is a general call to all concerned who may be interested in a membership position in the Board of Trustees of the alumni foundation. Five members whose terms will expire at the time of our next annual meeting will open these five positions. Those who wish to be considered for renomination to the board must submit an updated c.v./resume and a letter of intent to run for the position to me or to the chairman, Dr. Bayani Elma, or the secretary, Dr. Rolando Mendoza.

Others who are not current board members may also submit the same. So far, only one person has done so. If you have any one in mind who will be a good board member, please encourage him/her to submit the required documents.

This is also a reminder that those who sit on the Board of Trustees, as is the custom in most foundations, should themselves be benefactors of the foundation and/or be active in helping raise funds for the foundation either personally or through their circle of family, friends, and corporate alliances.

Conrad J.R. Miranda, IV M.D., '67

*(Dr. Miranda clarified that the foundation has no nominating or election committee but any one, alumni or non-alumni, can apply or be nominated for membership in the board of trustees as long as the person(s) has a prior experience as an alumni organization officer or in similar organizations and that the intention to run is in writing with an accompanying resume. Dr. Mendoza added that the trustees whose terms are expiring include: Drs. Samuel Dona, Elmer Gilo, Conrad Miranda, IV Dekiam Ong, and Nely Recano. Editor)*

#### From the Former Treasurer

Guidelines for Claiming Donations from the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

1) Cash/check or material donations are received by the Dean's Office; 2) donations are endorsed by the Dean's Office to the UERM treasurer for cash or check or to the property section for materials/equipment; 3) the Dean's Office notifies the recipient department or individuals which in turn request the release of funds for the acquisition of the requested items in accordance with an approved wish list; 4) recipient liquidates the said amount addressed to the UERM treasurer through the dean with copies for UERMMMC Alumni Foundation chairman of the board; 5) receiving department accomplishes and submits the foundation's "Recipient's Acknowledgement of Funds" form to the dean's office; 6) recipient reports the properties bought through the donor's fund for indexing or inclusion as UERM property; 7) Dean's Office consolidates all liquidation reports at the end of each school year and acknowledges donors.

Nely S. Recano, M.D., '64

# Dean's wish list: ideas for gift-giving

Dean Georgina T Paredes has submitted this list to the twin alumni organizations for funding support. The requests of the various units here generally follow the prescribed format of the alumni foundation. Alumni who wish to adopt any item(s) here before the convention, can notify either the executive director or secretary of the alumni association, or the treasurer of the alumni foundation, then write a check payable to the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. and mail it to Dr Elmer Gilo (see p. 25). The rest will be put up for auction at the convention's General Assembly on Saturday, August 7 2004. Thank you for your support and generosity. Editor

## Department of Anatomy

1. 20 units YS50 microscope \$10,540 (527 per)
2. 2 skull & cervical column \$592 each (1,190)
3. 3 dissectible muscled arm- \$740 each (2,220)
4. 3 dissectible muscled leg \$1,075 each(3,225)
5. 3 giant heart of America \$1,520 each (4,560)
6. 3 basic kidney section \$150 each (450)
7. 1 female pelvis \$315
8. 1 male pelvis \$315
9. 1 microscope camera attachment \$3,575
10. 1 human anatomy collection \$1,995

## Department of Biochemistry

1. Basic Medical Biochemistry: A Clinical Approach, Marks & Marks, 1996, \$49.95
2. Immunohematology, Quinley, 2nd ed., 1998, \$54.95
3. Cardiovascular Physiology Concepts, Klubunde, 4th ed, 2004, \$32.95
4. Medical Physiology, Rhoades & Tanner, 2004, \$?
5. Respiratory Physiology: The Essentials, West, 7th ed., 2004, \$32.95
6. Skeletal Muscle Structure, Function & Plasticity: The Physiologic Basis of Rehabilitation, Lieber, 2nd ed., 2002, \$58

## Department of Microbiology & Parasitology

1. Direct Smear Atlas: A Monograph of Gram-Stained Preparations of Clinical Specimens, Marler et al, 2001, \$48.95
2. Direct Smear Atlas: A CD-ROM of Gram-Stained Smear Preparations of Clinical Specimens, Marler et al, \$495
3. LMW's Organism Central CD-ROM, Kone-man et al, \$259
4. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 5th ed., 1997 \$81.95
5. Microbiology for the Health Sciences, 7th ed., Burton & Engelkirk, 2003, \$72.95
6. Mechanisms of Microbial Disease, 3rd ed., Schaechter et al, 1998, \$47.95
7. Fundamental Virology, 4th ed., Knipe & Howley 2001, 99.95
8. Board Review Series Microbiology Flash Cards, Swanson & Kim, 2003, \$27.95

## Department of Clinical Neuroscience

- Digital CCD camera attachment with monitor, \$4,750

## Department of OB-GYN

1. Advanced childbirth simulator \$ 500
2. Palpation module (Leopold's maneuver) -\$195

3. Labor delivery module \$195
4. Zoe gynecologic simulator \$495
5. Deluxe OB-GYN pelvis \$350
6. Noelle maternal and neonatal birthing stimulator \$2,795
7. Female pelvis & fetal skull \$247
8. Composite pelvis & pelvic floor \$249
9. Soft skull with fontanelles \$55
10. With child life-size display \$79
11. Electronic field monitor
12. Cryotherapy unit P149,5888
13. Suction curettage machine
14. WA colposcope with monitor -P450,000
15. Eppendorfer biopsy forceps P14,300
16. Schubert biopsy forceps P3,500
17. Kevorkian curette P3,800
18. Keyes punch biopsy P1,800
19. Insulated vaginal speculum with smoke evacuator
20. Endocervical speculum
21. LEEP accessories

## Department of Ophthalmology

1. Volk G4 Goniolaser lens \$320
2. Volk 78 D indirect lens \$220
3. Volk 90 D indirect lens \$220
4. Retina, Ryan, 3rd ed. \$499
5. Glaucomas, Ritch, 4th ed. \$80
6. AO phoropter \$600
7. Topcon KR-8000 supra auto kerato-refractometer \$21,400
8. Automatic chart projector \$1,200
9. Microscope SP-2000P \$21,400

## Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery

1. Esophagoscopy, adult set E15,000
2. Bronchoscopy, pediatric set E23,400

## Department of Physiology

1. Basic Medical Biochemistry, Clinical Approach, Marks, 1996 \$49.95
2. Immunohematology, Quinley, 2nd ed., 1998 \$54.95
3. Cardiovascular Physiology Concepts, Klubunde, 2004 \$32.95
4. Medical Physiology, Tanner, 2nd ed., 2003 \$69.95
5. Respiratory Physiology, West, 7th ed., 2004 \$32.95
6. Skeletal Muscle Structure, Function, and Plasticity: Physiologic Basis of Rehabilitation, Lieber, 2nd ed., **continued next page**

# Scholarship Awards 2004-2005

Upon the recommendation of the College of Medicine's Committee on Scholarship & Academic Honors chaired by former dean Dr Erlinda Valdellon, the dean's office in May announced the following recipients of the alumni foundation scholarship grants for the new school year:

## I. Book Scholarship (\$250.00 per student) for 20 students

### A. Incoming Junior Interns

1. Balbuena, Jasmin Marie
2. Basilan, Christina Erika
3. Cabigon, Jhason John
4. Caparino, Ann Shine
5. Huang, Manuel P
6. Pahway, Christian Michael
7. Sergio, Michael Angelo Hassan

### B. Incoming Year 3, Level II

1. Abadilla, Janice
2. Capulong, Ma. Chelo
3. Domingo, Oliver Glenn
4. Fineza, Pierre Josef
5. Ibanez, Racquel
6. Licuanan, Angeline
7. Lustre, Ronald Alvin

### C. Incoming Year 2, Level II

1. Arzaga, Ma. Ligaya
2. Baula, Mary Jo
3. Bautista, Patricia
4. Moalerozo, Merlyn
5. Obmerga, Ma. Gemyda
6. Vivar, Jo Ann

Total fund for book scholarships is \$5000.00.

## II. Partial Tuition Fee (\$500.00 per student) for 10 students.

### A. Incoming Junior Interns

1. Fineza, Pierre
2. Domingo, Oliver Glenn
3. Dy, Cindy
4. Pascual, Marvi

### B. Incoming Year 3, Level II

1. Abadilla, Janice
2. Ibanez, Racquel
3. Lustre, Ronald Alvin

### C. Incoming Year 2, Level II

1. Guerra, Joanna Marie

Total fund for partial tuition scholarships is \$4000.00.

## Dean's wish . . . from page 23

2002 \$58

### Department of Pediatrics

- 1 Pediatrics. Journal of the American College of Pediatrics, 2000–current, 12 issues/12 months \$160
2. Pediatrics Clinics of North America, 2000-current, 6 issues/12 months \$150
3. Archives of Diseases of Children, 2000-current, 12 issues/12 months \$200
4. Pediatrics (“Blue Journal”), 2000-current
5. Any subspecialty journal (cardiology, pulmonology, nephrology hematology, oncology, immunology, endocrinology, neonatology, neurodevelopment, infectious diseases, pediatric surgery), 2000-current.
6. Pediatric Neurology, Principles and Practice, Swainman & Ashwal, 3rd ed., 2 volume set \$385
- 7 Kendig’s Disorders of the Respiratory Tract in Childhood, Chernick & Boat, 6th ed. \$230
8. Nathan & Oski’s Hematology in Infancy & Childhood, Nathan & Orkin, latest ed., 2 volume set \$350
9. Latest edition of the Red Book \$130
10. Instructional CDs in Pediatrics
- 11 Multimedia CDs in Pediatrics
12. Any pediatric book, 2000-current
13. Procedures in Infants & Children, latest ed. \$600
14. Pulmonary Physiology & Pathophysiology, 2001 \$700
15. Syringe infusion pump, at least 3 pieces (NICU, PICU & ward) \$2,640
16. Pulse oximeter, at least 3 pieces \$5,850
- 17 Bear cub mechanical ventilator, at least 2 pieces \$38,540
18. BCI advisor multiparameter monitor, at least 2 pieces \$6,000 estimated price each
19. Laptop for our LCD \$800 estimated price
20. One complete desktop computer set \$600 estimated price.

### Dean & Scholarship Committee

- 1 10 full scholarship for deserving freshmen a year P70,000 per semester

## SOS! Can you help these students?

*Our new dean has been actively recruiting top caliber freshmen and so far persuaded more than a dozen of them to come to UERMMM. She and Dra. Valdellon have mentioned two very bright students who are financially strapped. Here are their profiles for your consideration. If you want to help either or both please contact the Dean’s Office (gtpmd2003@yahoo.com) for details and then the UERMMM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. (bbelmadm@radicus.net or cmira4@aol.com) on the mechanics of donation. Thank you for opening your heart. Editor*

Milldeanna de Guzman, 20, single, from Dagupan City, Pangasinan, B.S. Biology from U.P. Manila, *cum laude*, with a general weighted average (GPA in the U.S.) of 1.64 and an NMAT score of 97 percentile. Her family is of modest means. Her father is unemployed and her mother is a retired government accountant.

Dean Paredes said that she qualifies for the President Dalupan Partial Scholarship (half of the total fees of P70,000) for the first semester. If she maintains 1.75 to 1.46 GWA, she continues her half-scholarship, if 1.45 or better, she will be given full scholarship for the following semester.

To date her parents have paid P15,000 to UERMMM, P10,000 of which is a non-refundable deposit that may therefore be forfeited if the student does not matriculate at the school.

Ms. De Guzman’s email address is [chummy\\_mill@yahoo.com](mailto:chummy_mill@yahoo.com).

Melanie Estolas, 22, single, from Pasay City, B.S. Biochemistry from U.P. Manila in April, 2003, *cum laude*, with a GWA of 1.72 and a NMAT score of 98 percentile. Her father, a retired bookkeeper, died of a heart attack last March. Her mother is a contract beautician at a resort and works mostly during holidays. Her family draws a survivor benefit from her late father’s pension. Ms. Estolas taught chemistry at Mapua Institute of Technology for the past schoolyear while awaiting medical school application. Dean Paredes said that she qualifies for the President Dalupan Partial Scholarship which gives her a 50% discount of her first semester total school fee of P70,000.

She said in a phone interview with the editor that UERMMM is the only medical school she applied in after being denied a chance at the UP College of Medicine. She is yet to pay at least her deposit fee within the week of June the 9th.

## Association donates \$58,835

The alumni association in early April fulfilled its pledge to fund the Drug Assistance Program/Indigent Fund of the alumni foundation with the end in view of raising an endowment of \$300,000 in 5 years. The alumni foundation treasurer Dr. Elmer Gilo in a communique and President Dr. Conrad Miranda IV last month acknowledged receipt of \$50,000 from alumni association treasurer Dr. Sonia Rico-Todd upon instructions from President Rastrollo and Executive Director Dr. Manlapaz.

The concerted effort of officers and organizers in New York last year brought sufficient receipts to enable the association to go ahead with its donation pending final financial report from the host Northeast Chapter. In addition, the association collected individual contributions amounting to \$8,835 from nearly a dozen alumni at the convention all of which have been remitted to the alumni foundation.

The Chicago convention is expected to raise the same if not more than New York’s, Midwest Chapter organizers predict. Incoming President Dr. Manny Blas has already adopted the DAP/Indigent Fund as the principal beneficiary of his administration’s fundraising efforts.

If current trends continue, the association estimates that disbursement of the restricted fund’s earnings could begin as early as the schoolyear 2007-2008, the first year of the new UERMMM charter which is expected to be renewed by UERMMM Chairman P.O. Domingo.

Meanwhile, sample interviews done on campus by the editor in early June revealed that there are two divergent views about the DAP/Indigent Fund program. The clinical departments seem to favor it while the basic faculty prefer to use such fund for scholarship and faculty development.



# Appeal for the 333 Fund

by El B. Castro, M.D. '63, Former Chairman

The UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. was incorporated in 1981. It is an independent entity organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The IRS has determined that it is an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)3. It is treated by the IRS as a public charity and not as a private foundation. Accordingly, contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

The UERMMMC Alumni Foundation was created specifically to give alumni, individuals and organizations a significant, meaningful and organized way to support the UERM Medical Center, the community it serves, and our fellowmen. The foundation has carried out this noble task since its inception.

The Board of Trustees of the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation believes that the present financial support of donors is not enough to sustain the survival of the organization and its program. In August, 2002, the Board resolved that the "333 Fund" initiated in 1995 shall function as an endowment fund. The development of this fund when fully funded will help the continuous work of the foundation.

As alumni and friends of the UERMMMC, please consider contributing to the foundation today. The special appeal form to your right identifies the various levels of support: contributor (\$25-\$99); friend (\$100-\$249); sponsor (\$250-\$499); patron (\$500-\$999); benefactor (\$1,000-\$2,499); champion (\$2,500-\$4,999); and angel (\$5,000 or more).

Individuals who cumulatively contribute \$1,000 or more from its original inception up to December 31, 2002 will be considered as members of the FOUNDERS CIRCLE and will be recognized as such. Individuals in the Founders Circle will also receive an elegant plaque for display in their office or home. Medicine classes, alumni groups, and organizations that have cumulatively contributed \$25,000 or more will also be considered as members of the Founders Circle.

Please complete the appeal form and mail it along with your donation

We hope that you will share this information with others, who like yourselves, are interested in making a lasting contribution to the UERMMMC and help it continue as one of the premier institutions of medical education and health care delivery in the Philippines.

## 333 Endowment Fund Building for the Future

Your contribution to the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc. helps fund carefully screened and selected programs that support critical needs of your *Alma Mater*.

### Levels of Support for Individual Contributors

( ) Angel	\$5,000 +	
( ) Champion	\$2,500	4,999
( ) Benefactor	\$1,000	2,499
( ) Patron	\$ 500	999
( ) Sponsor	\$ 250	499
( ) Friend	\$ 100	249
( ) Contributor	\$ 25	99

I pledge the gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which will be paid on the following dates: 1. \_\_\_\_\_, 2. \_\_\_\_\_, 3. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Founders Circle:** Individuals with cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more and Medicine Class, group of alumni, and organizations with cumulative contribution of \$25,000 or more will be members of the Founders Circle and will be permanently recognized.

**Tree (Wall) of Life, Tree (Wall) of Knowledge, Wall of Honor:** The Board of Trustees of the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation in collaboration with the Medical Center will create the above walls permanently in the Medical Center to recognize and thank donors for their contribution. The Tree (Wall) of Life will recognize those individuals, class, & organizations in the Founders Circle. The Tree (Wall) of Knowledge will recognize donors who contribute \$500 or more to the annual campaign. The Wall of Honor will recognize donors who contribute \$250 or more.

I/we have enclosed my/our contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send all contributions to the Treasurer, Dr. Elmer Gilo, 2 Deer Run, Sparta, NJ 07871 E-mail: EGILO@attglobal.net. If you have any questions, please contact the foundation chairman or president.

( ) Please check if you do not want to be publicly acknowledged.

### THANK YOU

UERMMMC Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc., a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization, founded on July 15, 1981 with Tax I.D. 13-3119113.

### UERMMMC ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC. APPEAL 2003

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: **UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.** All gifts are tax-deductible.

My gift will be used for:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Award          | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Library       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty/Best Teacher Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Workshop     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wish List     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residency Award            | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Skills Laboratory | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigent Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publication/Research Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other         |

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

Please mail this form and your check to Elmer Gilo, M.D., 2 Deer Run, Sparta, NJ 07871

**16th Annual Convention and Reunion**  
**UERMMMCMAAA, INC. & UERMMMC ALUMNI**  
**FOUNDATION, USA, INC.**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**August 4-7, 2004**

**Events Registration Form (Fee per person)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Yr of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME (for married female alumni) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (Home or Office?) \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

(O) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

(CP) \_\_\_\_\_ PAGER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (O) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION**

Reminder: On-site registration is welcome but will be charged a fee of \$50 in addition to the amounts listed below. Please pre-register before the June 15, 2004 deadline. This form is also available on line at [www.uermalumni.org](http://www.uermalumni.org).

**Professional Events**

1. CME Attendees

Registration (includes 8 hours of AMA Category 1 ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CME credit, Cuyekeng Memorial Luncheon, and  
 Welcome/Fellowship Night, and full registration) (\$300)

(Please specify entrée: meat\_\_\_\_, fish\_\_\_\_, or vegetarian\_\_\_\_)

2. Non-CME Alumni Attendees

One-day event registration \$50/day x ( ) days ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cuyekeng Memorial Lecture Luncheon (\$50) ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please specify entrée: meat\_\_\_\_, fish\_\_\_\_, or vegetarian\_\_\_\_)

3. Membership Dues

Required Annual Membership (\$50) ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Membership (highly encouraged) (\$500) ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Events**

1. Golf Tournament, Thursday, August 5, 2004, Harborside

International Golf Center \$150/person x ( ) persons ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Norman Aliga, M.D., (630) 510-0338

Email: [Baccarra@comcast.net](mailto:Baccarra@comcast.net)

2. Welcome/Fellowship Party \$60/person x ( ) persons ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please specify entrée: meat\_\_\_\_, fish\_\_\_\_, or vegetarian\_\_\_\_)

3. Guest luncheon tickets \$50/person x ( ) guests ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please specify entrée: meat\_\_\_\_, fish\_\_\_\_, or vegetarian\_\_\_\_)

4. The 70's Class Night, Friday, August 6, 2004

(Meat\_\_\_\_, fish\_\_\_\_, or veggie\_\_\_\_) \$60/person x ( ) persons ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. Gala Dinner Dance, Saturday, August 7, 2004

(Meat\_\_\_\_, fish\_\_\_\_, or veggie\_\_\_\_) \$150/person x ( ) persons ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

T O T A L \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) of guest (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form, make your check payable to **UERMMMCMAAA, Inc.** and send to: **Manuel P Blas, M.D.**, 1812 N. Broadway, Suite 1, Melrose Park, IL 60160. Phone (708) 865-0200, fax (708) 865-0111, email [mblasca@aol.com](mailto:mblasca@aol.com).

For more information, please contact **Susan Perez-Suntay, M.D.**, Overall Convention Chair, (402) 201-8083, email [spsuntay@yahoo.com](mailto:spsuntay@yahoo.com).

**(You may cut out or copy this form for your convenience.)**

**Hotel Reservation**  
**Chicago Marriott Downtown**  
**Hotel**

540 North Michigan Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60611

Code Name UERM

Reservation Tel No. (800) 228-9290 or (312) 836-0100 guest fax (312) 836-6139 or sales fax (312) 245-6929

Reservations are now being taken. When you call the hotel just mention the group code to get the \$149 per night rate. **Deadline is July 15, 2004**

We have blocked rooms for August 5-7 2004. The hotel will honor the same rate of \$149 per night for the preceding and/or succeeding 1-2 days of our blocked dates. Please make your reservations early (there's **no** penalty for reserving early) so if we have to block more rooms for our group, the Midwest convention committee would be able to negotiate for the same rate.

Located along the city's famous Magnificent Mile shopping and business districts, the hotel boasts of 1,192 guest rooms and 25 suites, full amenities including indoor pool, whirlpool, health club, steam room & sauna, large ballrooms, 49 meeting rooms, 38 small to medium-sized meeting rooms, dining places, etc. It is easily accessible to O'Hare and Midway airports and near the city's main attractions.

**DIRECTIONS** *From O'Hare Airport* Take I-90 East to Kennedy Expressway East to the Ohio Street exit. Take Ohio Street east 3/4 mile to Rush Street. Turn right on Rush. Hotel entrance is on the left. *From Midway Airport* Take Cicero Avenue north to I-55 North to I 90/94 West. Exit at Ohio Street east 3/4 mile to Rush Street. Turn right on Rush. Hotel entrance is on the left.

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

Marriott Chicago Downtown Hotel  
540 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

**Wednesday, August 4, 2004**

Alumni Foundation Annual Meeting and Orientation, 5th Floor. All alumni are welcome and invited.

8 AM 12 Noon Orientation.

1 PM 3 PM Board of Trustees Meeting and Election of Officers.

3 PM 5 PM Joint Meeting of the Alumni Foundation and Alumni Association.

**Thursday, August 5, 2004**

6:30 AM 4 PM Golf (Harborside International Golf Center)

12 N 6 PM Registration 5th floor

6 PM 12 MN Welcome/Fellowship Night, 5th floor

**Friday, August 6, 2004**

7 AM 8 AM Continental Breakfast (Ballroom, 5th Floor)

7 AM 4:30 PM Registration, Exhibits, Silent Auction

8 AM 5 PM Continuing Medical Education (Medical & Surgical Advances, 8 hrs., Category 1), raffle at end of CME

12 N- 1 PM Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture (lunch provided)

6:30 PM 1:00 AM The 70's Jubilarians' Nite hosted by the Silver Jubilarian Class '79. All classes are welcome (attendees must register and reserve.)

**Saturday, August 7, 2004**

7 AM 8 AM Continental Breakfast, 5th flr.

8 AM- 12 N General Alumni Assembly

\*Dean's Report by Dr. Georgina T Paredes

\*Foundation Report by Dr. Bayani Elma

\*Association Report by Dr. Joseph Rastrollo

\*Ratification of CBL amendments

\*Election of new association officers

\*Auction of the Dean's Wish List

12 N 1 PM Lunch on your own

1 PM 4 PM Alumni Association Annual Executive Council Meeting

6:30 PM 7:30 PM Cocktail, 6th floor

7:30 PM 12:30 AM Gala Night

\*Candlelight Ceremony honoring the Silver Jubilarian Class 1979

\*Recognition of Ruby Class '64, Jade Class '79, and Pearl Class '74

\*Valedictory Address, Dr. Joseph Rastrollo

\*Installation of New Alumni Association Officers

\*Inaugural Address, Dr. Manuel Blas

\*Dance and Entertainment

Continuing Medical Education Program  
**MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ADVANCES**

Friday August 6, 2004, Marriott Chicago Downtown, 5th Floor Chicago, Illinois

7:00 AM 8:00 AM

Registration, Continental Breakfast, & Exhibits

8:00 AM 8:05 AM

Welcome Address Manuel P Blas, M.D.

8:05 AM 9:30 AM

Acute Coronary Syndrome: Spectrum of Care Strategies and Evidence-Based Management

Rogelio Pine, M.D., FACC

9:30 AM 9:50 AM

Coffee Break & Exhibits

9:50 AM 10:30 AM

Acute Brain Attack: Diagnostic & Therapeutic Update

Romergrko G. Geocadin, M.D.

10:30 AM 11:10 AM

Hyponatremia: What Is The Proper Rate of Correction?

Myra Chang, M.D.

11:10 AM 11:50 AM

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Maribe Bangayan M.D.

12:00 N 1:00 PM

Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture

Benjamin Rigor M.D., Presiding

1:00 PM 1:50 PM

Advances in Colorectal Surgery

Constante Avecilla, M.D., FACS

1:50 PM 2:30 PM

Advances in the Management of Prostate Cancer

Michael Manyak, M.D.

2:30 PM 2:50 PM

Coffee Break & Exhibits

2:50 PM 3:30 PM

A Rational Approach to Anti-Hypertensive Therapy: An Alternative to the ALLTHAT Study

Emmanuel L. Bravo, M.D.

3:30 PM 4:10 PM

Heartburn: A Journey Into Its Pathogenesis & Current Therapeutic Options

Eugene R. Pantangco, M.D.

4:10 PM 5:00 PM

Hospital Administrator: Friend or Foe?

Renato J. Suntay MBA

Program Director & Moderator Benjamin Lumicao, M.D., FACC, FACP

**ACCREDITATION:** This program is jointly sponsored by the Philippine Medical Association of Chicago and the UERMMMMCAA, Inc. and is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This program meets the criteria for 8 hours of Category 1 credit towards the AMA Physicians Recognition Award.

**FACULTY:** Constante Avecilla, M.D., FACS, FASCERS, *Emeritus* Chief, Director & Professor of Surgery, Marshfield Clinic, University of Wisconsin; Maribe Bangayan, M.D., Pulmonologist/Intensivist, Weiss Hospital; Emmanuel L. Bravo, M.D., Consultant, Department of Hypertension & Nephrology, Cleveland Clinic Foundation; Myra L. Chang, M.D., Associate Professor & Chair Department of Pediatrics, Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, West Virginia University; Romergrko G. Geocadin, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, & Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, Neuroscience Critical Care Division, John Hopkins Medical Institutions; Benjamin Lumicao, M.D., FACC, FACP Assistant Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg Medical School; Michael Manyak, M.D., Professor & Chairman, Department of Urology, George Washington University; Eugene R. Pantangco, M.D., GI/Hepatology Fellow, L.A. County Hospitals, University of Southern California; Rogelio M. Pine, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Senior Cardiologist, Princeton University; Benjamin Rigor, M.D., *Emeritus* Chairman & Professor of Anesthesia, University of Louisville School of Medicine; Renato J. Suntay, MBA, Vice-President, Kaleida Health Systems, Buffalo, New York.

# Golf is hot in Chicago! by Norman Aliga, M.D.

It used to be basketball! Remember those heated inter-class basketball tournaments at the Crispa/UE Warriors practice gym right in front of the library? The freshmen or sophomores always won. Forty pounds later, it's golf. And GOLF IS HOT in Chicago this year.

It's the inaugural Cup Tournament for UERM alumni. A la Ryder Cup, there will be a substantial trophy on which the names of yearly winning teams or champions will be engraved. Make suggestions for the Cup name ("Windy City Cup" "Santa Mesa Trophy" "Chicago Cup" maybe. .). Help us determine which of the following categories that will be contested carries the most significance and therefore worthy of The Cup:

1. Graduates of odd years versus graduates of even years.
2. Inter-chapter champions: a chapter must have at least 4 golfers to qualify.
3. Class Champions: must have at least four golfers to qualify.
3. Decade Champions (graduates of the 60s vs. 70s vs. 80s vs. 90s and zeroes ('00)). I'll bet on the 70s: we're still young enough, strong enough and maybe smarter now. The 60s are already in their sixties. The 80s are still raising kids. The 90s and Zeroes are still learning the game. (Do I hear an impending roar of protests? Well, come and walk the talk.)

Oh yes, we're playing for pride. We're playing for bragging rights. We're playing for keeps.

The points system is still being worked on, but the more the participants in each group, the greater the chances of getting good scores that will figure towards points. So call up your classmates or your chaptermates and people in your age group to come. Non-alumni guests are welcome to play but will not count in the team competitions.

We will have the usual individual (men and ladies) awards for Low Gross, Low Net, Longest Drive, Longest Putt, Closest to the Pin.

1. A perpetual UE Masters trophy (tentatively named, give suggestions) will be awarded to the alumnus with the lowest score (gross or net to be determined. What do you think?)
2. A "Honey" Cup (tentatively named, give suggestions) will be awarded to spouse teams with the lowest combined score (A spouse does not have to be an alumnus).

The date is August 5, Thursday. The site is Harborside International, which has hosted the Senior PGA Tour, by Lake Michigan, just minutes south of the convention site in Chicago (Check its website: <http://www.harborsideinternational.com>) The bus leaves the hotel around 6:00 a.m., first tee time is 7:00 a.m. There will be a sit down lunch with a short presentation by our sponsor. Damage is \$150; it's a fun-raising fund-raiser for good ol' UERM. You could include your payment with your convention registration.

All you alleged golfers: come for the golf, stay for the convention. You'll want the chance to be first name on the perpetual trophies/cups.

For info, contact Ish Lee Chuy at [ishleechuy@aol.com](mailto:ishleechuy@aol.com) or Mandy Aliga at [bacarra@comcast.net](mailto:bacarra@comcast.net) or [naliga@marianjoy.org](mailto:naliga@marianjoy.org) or (630) 510-0338, or fax (630) 510-0513.



*Harborside International Golf Course*

## SOUVENIR PROGRAM ORDER 16TH ANNUAL CONVENTION & REUNION

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USA, INC.

Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois, August 4-7 2004

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We are still in need of ads so consider placing them soon. Your donation maybe tax-deductible. Please consult your accountant or tax adviser The UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. Federal Tax I.D. Number is: 52-1745846. Deadline is approaching. For more information, please contact Susan P. Suntay, M.D., overall convention chair at (402) 201 8083 or [spsuntay@yahoo.com](mailto:spsuntay@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support and prompt response.

## Chicago tour and transport

### Ground Transportation

Airport Express 1-888-THE VAN (284-3826)

Rates: **O'Hare Airport to Marriott**

Single: \$21 one-way, \$39 roundtrip

2 Passengers: \$16 each one one-way, \$30 roundtrip

3 Passengers: \$12 each one one-way, \$23 roundtrip

**Midway Airport to Marriott**

Single: \$16 one-way, \$30 roundtrip

2 Passengers: \$12 each one one-way, \$22 roundtrip

3 Passengers: \$10 each one one-way, \$18 roundtrip

Other Limousine Service: O'Hare-Midway (800-468-8989)

A-1 Airport Limo (800-354-5849)

A-Starr Luxury Limo (800-871-7627)

Access Limousine (888-373-0404)

AMTRAK: 1-800-USA-RAIL (872-7245), [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

CTA. [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com) (runs buses, I-204, and elevated/subway transit trains from O'Hare and Midway in Chicago and 38 nearby suburbs, runs q 5-20 minutes. Basic fare: \$1.50 one-way.

### City Tours & Attractions

Architecture Cruise: Shoreline Sightseeing (312-222-9328 or [www.shorelinesightseeing.com](http://www.shorelinesightseeing.com))

Wendela Sightseeing Boats (312-337-1446)

Harbor Lake Cruises: Premier Yachts.com (1-888-957-2327)

Spirit of Chicago Harbor Cruises (1-866-211-3804 or [www.spiritofchicago.com](http://www.spiritofchicago.com))

CityPass-Chicago: \$49 each person (a \$92 value). One low price, 6 attractions: *The Art Institute of Chicago, The Field Museum, The Museum of Science & Industry Shed Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, and The John Hancock Observatory.*

CityPass is on sale at all of the above attractions. Ask for it at the first one you visit. Good for 9 days. Call (707) 256-0490 or visit [www.citypass.com](http://www.citypass.com).

**Shopping:** The Marriott Downtown is located next door to Nordstrom Mall and you are right in the heart of Miracle Mile (the Rodeo Drive of Chicago), walking distance to all shops!

**Parks & Recreation:** The Marriott is walking distance to Grant Park, Lakeshore Drive Parks, & the Museum Parks.

**Restaurants:** The Marriott location is also in the heart of all finest restaurants in Chicago and Chinatown is a 5 minute drive.

For more info, contact Dr. Susan P. Suintay: (402) 201-8083 or email [spuintay@yahoo.com](mailto:spuintay@yahoo.com).

*Manuel Blas, President Midwest Chapter and President-Elect, MAAA, Inc., Susan P. Suintay, Overall Convention Chair and Executive Vice-President, MAAA, Inc., Conchita G. Gavino, Cochairwoman, Odette Blas, Vice Chair & President-Elect, Alliance & Friends.*

**Registration & Finance Committee-** Sonia Rico Todd, Chair; Leonard Go, Co-Chair; Marilou Cocjin & Froilan Juan, members. **Program Committee-** Manny Blabs, Chair; Suan Suintay & Odette Blass, members. **Entertainment Committee-** Tito Magno, Chair; Thursday & Friday nite group. Tito Magno (chair), Ish Lee Chuy, Fely Buena, & Mary Rosales, members; Gala Nite group. Zomie Herrera (chair), Olive Aliga & Pete Parayno, members. **CME Committee-** Ben Lumicao, Chair; Marilou Cocjin, Wayne Gavino, Dave Roble, Michael Hizon, Val Guzman, Fred Tumbali, Letty & Sonny Atadero, members. **Hospitality and Youth Program Committee-** Evelyn Basco, Chair; Divina Carpio, Co-Chair; Sally Olaya, Evelyn Fajardo, Yolando Co, Annette Azcueta, Nini Ann Parayno, members. **Youth Room Committee-** Marilou Cocjin, Annette Azcueta, and Beth Magno. **Fellowship Nite Committee-** Maria Herrera, Chair; Letty Claridad, Evelyn Fajardo, Jean Farne-Jumawan, Edith Pano-pio, members. **Jubilarian Nite Committee-** Lolita Gonzales, Chair; Sally Olaya, Lerma Roble, & Olive Aliga, members. **Gala Nite Committee-** Fe Lumicao, Chair; Chit Gavino, Vangie Guzman, and Maria Herrera, members. **Souvenir Program Committee-** Adolfo Gonzales, Chair; Lolita Gonzales, Odette Blas, Zomie Herrera, Greg Carpio. **Sports Activities Committee-** Norman Aliga, Chair; Ish Lee Chuy, Greg Carpio, Rene Azcueta, Leonardo Chato, and Dave Roble, members. **Vendors & Exhibit Committee-** Odette Blas, Chair; Esther Querubin and Gemma Mendoza, members. **Pharmaceutical Exhibits-** Yolanda Co and Mary Rosales. **Silent Auction Committee-** Penny Miranda, Chair; Fe Lumicao, Odette Blas, & Esther Querubin, members.

## The Cast

## Talent Contest

The talent show and contest will be held on Thursday's (August 5) fellowship night. It will be a "free for all," said Dr. Blas adding that "we will start with a sit down dinner followed by a variety show of sorts." Participants are requested to submit their names, class year relationship to an alumnus/alumna, and number to be performed. A maximum of 15 minutes is allotted for each participant. The show is expected to last for at most two hours after which there will be dancing to a DJ's spin until midnight. Our host will be Fausto "Tito" Magno of Class '78. To enter please notify him at 219-462-4671 (office) or 219-242-4455 (cellphone).

## This is Houston calling!

Attention alumni from the Southwest Region encompassing Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico!

We are next year's convention hosts and Overall Convention Chairman Tomas Lumicao, M.D., '75 who is coming to Chicago would like to invite us to formally organize the host committee on August 7 2004. We already have the hotel arrangement sewn up by the new Convention Commission of the national alumni association. It will be held on August 3-6, 2005 at the Marriott Galleria. Room rate will be \$99/night.

Our contact numbers are: [tomasl@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:tomasl@bcm.tmc.edu), group email [houstonreunion2005@yahoogroups.com](mailto:houstonreunion2005@yahoogroups.com), group home page <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/houstonreunion2005> or Tom's phones: (318) 448-6740 or (318) 561-4154 office.

## Young grads . . . from page 17

weren't trained well in the management aspect of diseases. All we ever did during clerkship was monitor vital signs of patients. We might have developed a clinical eye to some extent but we lack the skills to manage patients.

**RJ:** The main problem in the curriculum is that the tests do not provide equal level of questions on each subject such that some or most students will not devote time equally in all subjects. **Anonymous:** Yes, especially when it comes to dealing with patients and thinking analytically. **Anonymous:** UERM interns were the consistent topnotchers because during S-ship, all are from UE! **Rachel:** Yes, I believe I developed my skills and values from UERM and was able to apply them during internship. **Mari:** Yes, good physicians who can diagnose and treat patients holistically! However passing the national board exam is another thing.. We need more emphasis on the basics, not just the clinics. **Cari:** Yes, I believe we were given the basics for the general practice of medicine. Most of our lectures and cases for the PBL more or less covered the important topics. However it would be better if there would be some variations in the delivery of lectures. The facilities for learning need a lot of improvement. For junior internship, it would be very helpful for interns to have a well ventilated "quarter" in each department that is conducive for learning. **Anonymous:** I believe UERM gave us good education, not the best. Medyo kulang pa. I believe UERM JI's are the best in patient-doctor relationship. **Eman:** I believe that no matter what system the school adopts, it will always prepare the individual to become a good physician in the future. That there will always be room for improvement. PBL needs a lot of improvement like integrating the traditional method in the first 2 years and a PBL type in the 2nd year is a much better option. On the whole, I am proud to say, and will always be proud, I come from UERM! **Anonymous:** I believe UERM has done justice in training us to become good physicians. This is most remarkable in terms of relating to patients. Academic wise, we were equipped with general know-how. We do need reinforcement in the specifics of basic and clinical sciences as we find ourselves inferior compared with interns from other schools. Higher standard and objective evaluations can point us to what needs to be studied. I also suggest that some of our lecturers update the contents of their lectures and improvise on their style. I commend those who went beyond reading and rephrasing their transparencies.

**Jomer:** Yes of course! Extended library time and more study areas need to be installed so that independent study time is spent wisely. **Pen:** Yes! Yata.. **Anne:** A good physician is one who is knowledgeable in normal human body functions, different disease entities and their proper management. I believe UERM prepared us well. Moreover it has instilled in us compassion for our patient's plight. (Class '03 will take the boards in August. Editor.)

The UERMMM College of Medicine is now accepting applications for the first year class of the 2005-2006 academic year. For further information, please call the Registrar's Office at 011-632-3315 or visit the school's website at [www.uerm.ph](http://www.uerm.ph). In addition to academic and documentary requirements, applicants must take the NMAT (National Medical Admission Test) administered in Manila and New York. Foreign students are encouraged to apply early. Names of accepted applicants are posted at the above website as they become available.

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Email [asanluis@mydestiny.net](mailto:asanluis@mydestiny.net)

Please help us build a home where we can better serve others. Your sponsorship in this endeavor can offer comfort and an ideal place for Palliative Care.

We are looking for Angels who will help us help others.

Yes, I want to help terminally ill patients and to give them Comfort and Love. Herewith is my contribution for the construction of the St. Michael's Hospice Center

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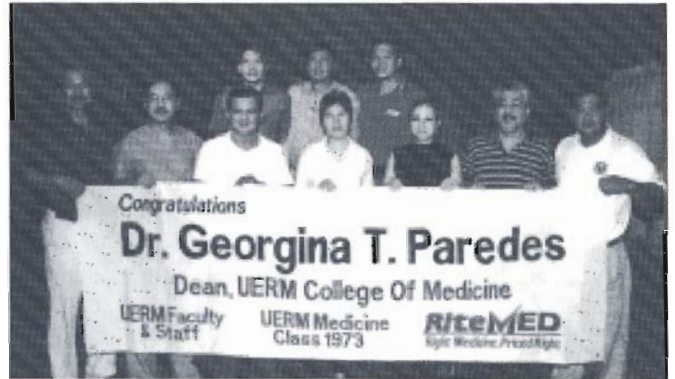
Please send your cheque donation payable to St. Michael's Hospice Foundation, Inc. to the above address or deposit to SMHFI, Bank of P.I., Sta. Lucia, Grand Mall Branch Acct. No. 4171-0007-56 for peso account or 4171-0036-67 for dollar account.

Executive Board: Mrs. Sonia M. Roco, Chairman; Amado San Luis, M.D. '74, President; Cynthia V. San Luis, M.D. '81, Vice-President; Dr Marlyn Sibug, Secretary; Dr Marivic Aguho, Asst. Secretary; Moises Visperas, Treasurer; Engr Menandro Tablante, PRO

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*Surgical teams use two OR tables to care for more patients.*



*Dean Paredes joins the medical mission team in Angeles City.*



*Dr. Andy Ebilane leads the newly inducted SoCal officers.*



*Ed Banez, Jeff Rastrollo, and Henry Yanez with Gene Magdaleno.*



*Gentlemen of the MarVaDC Chapter at their May 29 fundraiser*



*Odette & Manny Blas (Midwest) and Alex & Debbie Bobila (Northeast)*



**Class '78 Silver Celebrants at ShangriLa Edsa's Alumni Fellowship Ball, December 18, 2003.**

# Calling Classes '79, '74, '69, & '64!



*Silver Jubilarian Class '79 in New York last year*

You are warmly invited to the 16th UERMMMMC Alumni Convention & Reunion in Chicago on August 4-7, 2004 and receive the well wishes and honor from your fellow alumni in the occasion of the silver, pearl, jade, and ruby anniversaries of your graduation. Come, reconnect with your classmates, former teachers, and school and enjoy that weekend in the company of old and new friends.

So please register now and contact your class coordinators for details on your class plans: Lorna Lumicao, '79 [lumd126@aol.com](mailto:lumd126@aol.com), Nora Ramos Mangunay, '74 [mangdan@aol.com](mailto:mangdan@aol.com); Cristy Magpantay, '69 [cristy.magpantay@verizon.net](mailto:cristy.magpantay@verizon.net); and Nely Recano, '64 [nsrecano@aol.com](mailto:nsrecano@aol.com).

## 2004 UERMMMMC Alumni Homecoming Schedule

**Wednesday, December 15 (UERMM Gymnasium)**

5:30 PM Tour of the Center

6:00 PM Grand Alumni Welcome Party  
(Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, P. T.)

**Thursday, December 16**

6:00 PM Carolfest

7:00 PM Class Night for UERMMMMC '79

**Friday, December 17 (Auditorium)**

9:00 AM 12 Noon Convocation

12 Noon 2:00 PM Lunch & Baccay Lecture

2:00 PM 4:00 PM Scientific Meeting, Business meeting (election of officers)

6:00 PM Lantern Parade (Quadrangle)

**Saturday, December 18 (EDSA Shangri-La)**

6:00 PM Grand Alumni Fellowship Night

**Sunday, December 19**

Class 1979 get together and family outing

**Susan Pilapil-Lazaga, M.D.**

Overall Chairman, 2004 Host Committee

(632-532-4221 or 09189187080)

For more information, please call the UERM Alumni Office Secretary, **Ida Tabuzo**, at O11 632-716-0771 or [uermmaa@i-next.net](mailto:uermmaa@i-next.net).



## The Alumni Newsletter

UERMMMMC Medical Alumni Association of America, Inc.

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