

# Aesculapius Ex

Invocation  
Almighty God, thank you for another time of gathering. Forgive us our frailties and may our thoughts, words and deeds reflect your love and compassion. Amen

New York, New York, USA

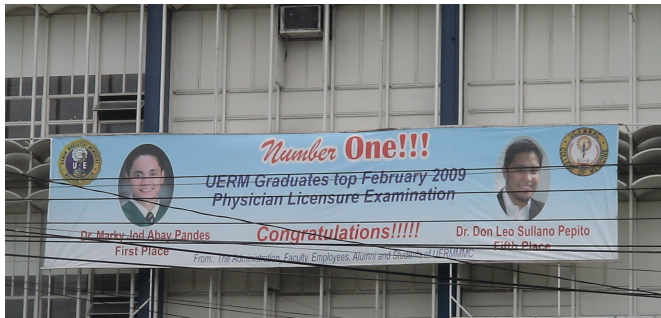
Newsletter of the UERMMMCM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

Convention Special, July 3, 2009

## UERM back on top, enrolls 320 freshmen

**“We’re No. 1!”**

This was Dean Tan-Reyes’ terse message to alumni last March as she reported that two UERMMMCM alumni took the 1st and 5th places of last February’s physician licensure examinations in the Philippines, besting rivals from FEU, UST, UP and Fatima. She added that our 2007 graduates scored a 90% overall passing rate, “100% for first timers and 84% for retakers.” Based on these, UERMMMCM moved up to 2nd place in medical school board performance behind UST and ahead of FEU.



Topnotcher Dr. Marky Jod Pandes, *cum laude* and class valedictorian, of Legazpi City received a cash gift of P100,000 from the school and various donors while fifth placer Dr. Don Leo Pepito, *cum laude* and class salutatorian, from MetroManila received a cash price of P15,000 from the school and other cash gifts from the dean and alumni president Dr. Andres Borrromeo. Both served their senior internship at the UERM Hospital and are products of the PBL curriculum. Pandes plans to come to the U.S. for training then return home to be a missionary doctor in Albay. Pepito eyes a career in invasive cardiology in the U.S.

The new physicians had their oath-taking at the Manila Hotel on March 10, 2009 and were feted by the medical school at a testimonial dinner the next day at the Century Park Hotel.

## Dean bats for more scholarships

Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes in her report to the annual alumni foundation meeting at the Philippine Consulate yesterday, announced that the College of Medicine enrolled a bumper crop of 320 freshmen for the new school year including one *summa cum laude*, 3 *magna cum laude*, and 17 *cum laude*. This batch also includes 26 foreign students, 20 of whom are from the U.S.



In an interview with *Aesculapius Ex* last January, the dean said that the quantity and quality of applicants to the medical school have increased due to more applicants from U.P. and other schools as a result of the U.P. College of Medicine’s new 5-year curriculum and post-graduate public service requirement and return of pre-med graduates to the applicant pool due to declining opportunities in nursing

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The alumni foundation (AFUSA) held its 28th annual meeting yesterday at the Philippine Center at 45th St. & 5th

Ave. Presided over by outgoing Chairman Dr. Benjamin Rigor, the body heard the somber yet cautiously optimistic report of Treasurer Dr. Elmer Gilo, the grateful words of Dean Tan-Reyes who thanked alumni for their support of various projects at the medical center, the reassuring pledge of UERMMMCM Vice-Chairman Wilson Young to lead the school to financial stability and to address alumni concerns, and the reports of standing and special committees who are hard at work to improve the charitable work of alumni including the impassioned plea of AFUSA Chairman Emeritus Dr. Wilmer Heceta, one of UERMMMCM’s first 3 *cum laude* graduates, for

## Past and future: annual meeting highlights

“Please give . . . even if only one dollar a day!”

The board also approved a budget of \$77,800 that calls for a program expenditure of \$59,000 63% of which will be for expanded scholarships, up from last year’s 48%. On the revenue side, the board awaits the recommendations of an investment consultant it sought after its midyear meeting in Baltimore last March, and will consider fund raising options proposed by its ways & means committee headed by Dr. Ned Valen.

Finally, the group unanimously re-elected trustees Drs. Casibang, Dona, and Raymundo and elected new trustees

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contributions to the endowment fund named in his honor as he said “Thank you for attaching my name to it!”



*Clockwise from left upper frame - Alumni scholars with Dean Tan-Reyes, College Secretary Brizuela and Medical Director Borromeo; alumni scholars with the Dean, College Secretary & editor; research lab of the graduate school; new traffic lights and pedestrian lane across Aurora Blvd.; the brand-new façade of the Out-Patient Clinic; and the newly unveiled bust of the school's namesake, the late President Ramon Magsaysay in front of the North Campus' JMC Bldg.*



## *UERM back on top, enrolls 320 . . . Continued from page 1*

abroad and the Philippine government's new edict requiring new nurses to render long community or rural service. The dean added however that during her recruiting sorties, the foremost question of applicants from top pre-med schools is what scholarships and other financial incentives does UERM offer. She explains that St. Luke's and Fatima offer very generous financial packages immediately to top incoming freshmen. She wishes for more robust alumni scholarship or

financial aid to deserving students right from first year.

At present, the alumni foundation funds gold (\$2,000/year for four years), silver (\$1,000/year for four years), and bronze (\$500 a year) tuition scholarships, and book scholarships of \$150 a year upon recommendation of the College of Medicine's scholarship committee. A new financial aid program was also established last year by the AFUSA to address the special situations of needy students.

The school, for its part, provides entrance, university and college scholarships as well as grants-in-aid.

Other concerns of medical school applicants reported by the dean are the cost of books and living expenses. Upping up the ante on these programs, Dr. Tan-Reyes stressed, could put UERMMMC in a very formidable position to attract more high caliber applicants. In the same interview, the dean revealed that as of late January, more than 600 applicants had already been received by the college.

## UERMMM Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE: 370 7th Ave., Suite 3102, New York, N.Y. 10001

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: **Benjamin Rigor, M.D.**, Chairman; **Isabelita B. Casibang, M.D.**, President; **Renato Querubin, M.D.**, Vice-Chairman; **Dekiam Ong, M.D.**, Vice-President; **Ruby Reyes, M.D.**, Secretary; **Ana Maria G. Pasatiempo, M.D.**, Assistant Secretary; **Elmer Gilo, M.D.**, Treasurer; **Roy Baldomero M.D.**, Assistant Treasurer;

**Manuel Blas, M.D.**, Member; **Samuel Dona, M.D.**, Member; **Ma. Elena Gragasín, M.D.**, Member; **Zosimo Herrera, M.D.**, Member; **Victor O'Yek, M.D.**, Member; **Renato Raymundo, M.D.**, Member; **Josefina G. Siddig, M.D.**, Member; **Ned Valen, M.D.**, Member.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: **Irene I. Manlapaz, M.D.**, President, UERMMCMAAA, Inc.; **Susan P. Suintay, M.D.**, President-Elect, UERMMCMAAA, Inc.; **Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, M.D.**, Dean, UERMMM College of Medicine.

PAST PRESIDENTS: **Conrado Miranda, IV, M.D.**, **Francisco Rabadam, M.D.**

CHAIRMEN EMERITII: **Bayani Elma, M.D.**, **El Castro, M.D.**, **Wilmer Heceta, M.D.**, **Fernando Sanchez, Jr., M.D.**

ADVISERS: **El Castro, M.D.**, **Rogelio Sion, M.D.**

PARLIAMENTARIAN: **Isabelita Casibang, M.D.**

### Election Notice

There are 5 seats in the Board of Trustees that are up for election each year. Those interested in running must have attended at least one foundation meeting and are required to submit their letters of intent and resumes to the President, Dr. Isabelita B. Casibang, 6303 West Vein Rd., Bowie, MD 20720 or email [Ibcasibang@aol.com](mailto:Ibcasibang@aol.com) before each annual meeting.

### Annual Meeting Highlights . . . . Cont'd fr. page 1

Drs. Bob Moorjani and Teresa Torres to a new 3-year term. The board reorganized itself and voted the following as officers for the next 2-year term: Chairman, Dr. Renato Querubin; Vice-Chairman, Dr. Carlos Gotardo; President, Dr. Isabelita Casibang; vice-President, Dr. Ana Maria Pasatiempo; Secretary, Dr. Ruby Reyes; Assistant Secretary, Dr. Maria Herrera; Treasurer, Dr. Elmer Gilo; and Assistant Treasurer, Dr. Roy Baldomero.

Dr. Benjamin Rigor, also a former alumni association president, stepped down as foundation chairman after completing one term. He admonished the new trustees to do their job diligently. New chairman Dr. Querubin in a brief interview vowed to work with the alumni association and its chapters to bring about a complimentary relationship towards generally the same objectives.

Earlier in the meeting, the board took note of the treasurer's report recognizing the biggest corporate contributors to the foundation accounting for almost 40% of donations: UERMMM CMAAA, Inc., alumni chapters (Northern California, Southern California, Midwest, Michigan, Northeast, and MarVaDC), and the

soon-to-dissolve UERMMCMAAA Alliance & Friends. Individual alumni still give about 50% of contributions to the alumni foundation.

Details of officers' and committee reports will be published online at [www.uermafusa.com](http://www.uermafusa.com).

### Need anything from the Registrar?

The registrar, Ms. Imelda De Los Reyes, would like to inform us that her office provides the following services to overseas alumni: 1) confirmation of graduation and degree by email; 2) official copy of transcripts only by mail through EMS mail service within 5 - 6 days for \$30 US (there is no fee if the request comes from an agency or hospital); 3) report of clinical rotations, \$30 US; 4) verification of medical education, \$30 US; and 5) affidavit of loss of diploma, \$30 US.

Only requests from UERM alumni accompanied by consents with or without photo I.D. will be honored. All fees must be made payable to UERMMM.

Ms. De Los Reyes can be reached at: OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UERMMM, 62 Aurora Blvd. Quezon City 1113, Philippines, phone 011-632-713-3315 or 011-632-713-0861 local 261, cellphone 011-63-928-2205761, or email [idelosreyes@lycos.com](mailto:idelosreyes@lycos.com)

### UERMMM ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC.

(A non-profit charitable, 501 C 3 tax-exempt corporation, Tax I.D. No. 13-3119113)

All gifts are tax-deductible.

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I pledge a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ which will be paid on dates: #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed is my check for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ (other) payable to: **UERMMM**

**Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. Or:**

Charge the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my VISA/MASTERCARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature as shown on the credit card \_\_\_\_\_

My gift will be used for:

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| <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: \_\_\_\_\_ **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!**

Please mail this form and your check to **UERMMMCAFUSA, Inc. c/o Elmer Gilo, M.D., P.O. Box 2154, Bedford Park, IL 60499-2153.**

## Website Primer

The *uermafusa.com* website consists of 8 pages (home, about us, reports, programs, news/links, donations, campus, and contact us). Each page when highlighted by the mouse brings up sections for the visitor to choose from. When a section is clicked, a page or pages will open up for browsing. Read through posted directions along the way for easy navigation.

You must have the latest version of the Acrobat Reader to be able to read some reports and newsletters. You must also have the latest version of Windows Media Player to enjoy the upcoming multimedia enhancements which are being built into the website. You can download any material as you wish. You can make donations online either by bank draft or credit card through the site's **secure** system. You may also make your donation by filling out the donation form on page 3 and mailing the same with your check or credit card information to our treasurer. A receipt will be sent to you by the same.

When applying for a funding request, please use the forms from the program page, fill out properly and then submit with the necessary documents or supporting papers to the Secretary by email attachment, regular mail or courier service. You will then be similarly notified of the Board's action. If you receive funding, you will be asked to submit an acknowledgement of the fund and later on, an evaluation at the conclusion of your project.

We invite your letters and comments. Specific inquiries will be routed to the appropriate officers of the foundation for prompt response.

We hope you have a pleasant visit and thank you for your support!

### *Aesculapian Ex*

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## Editorial

# Same mission, same vision



Much has been said of our shared mission and vision. As alumni, we established two distinct entities to help us realize them. Thus were born the UERMMMMC Alumni Foundation, USA., Inc. 28 years ago and the UERMMMMC Medical Alumni Association in America, Inc. 23 years ago. We declared through the foundation that we would support quality medical education and promote the advancement of physicians particularly those from UERMMMMC. We reiterated through the association that to do these, we would foster camaraderie and support the UERMMMMC College of Medicine.

Now what do we have to show for it? As alumni who have had the fortune to come, study, train, work, live and serve in America, we see an opportunity to give back to our homeland in general and to our *Alma Mater* in particular. Of the 5,000 of us who are here, about 500 have faithfully participated, contributed, and supported these two organizations we have commissioned to fulfill our vows.

As a result, we have put through medical school some 50 deserving students, provided recognition and advancement to our school's hard-working faculty, given modest tools to our teachers to impart a rigorous, demanding, yet fulfilling understanding of the compassionate art and science of medicine to our equally motivated students. In the process, we have expanded our concepts of giving and service to now include medical missions and indigent care among others. This is well and good.

However, in our zeal, we have somehow developed differences that threaten our oneness and unity of purpose so much so that we are beginning to lose focus on what we are here for in the first place: to help our *Alma Mater*!

Before we fall into the abyss, let us stop our bickering, retrace our steps back to the unity we so crave, and overcome our pettiness with the unselfishness of our highest values and realize that we have the same mission and vision after all.

My fellow alumni, can we all get along? (*My apologies to Rodney King.*)

*The UERMMMMC College of Medicine is now accepting applications for the first year class of the academic year 2010-2011 starting in June, 2010. Please contact the Registrar's Office as soon as possible for more information at 011-632-713-3315 or [www.uerm.ph](http://www.uerm.ph). Applications must be completed by January 15, 2010. In addition to academic and documentary requirements, applicants must take the NMAT (National Medical Admission Test) administered in Manila, Chicago or Los Angeles. Foreign students are encouraged to apply early. The names of accepted applicants will be posted at the above website as they become available.*