



Aesculapius Ex

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Plano, Texas, U.S.A.

Newsletter of the UERM MMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

Year XXX, June 15, 2011

Midwest Chapter has something for everyone!

Calling all alumni! There's a lot of fun and activities in store for you at the 23rd reunion and convention in Chicago next week. Join the golf tournament on the 21st then meet your classmates and colleagues at the Welcome Night reception that evening. Try your luck at enticing prizes in AFUSA's Donor Appreciation Hour on the same evening. Hit the dance floor at the **jubilarian** parties on the 22nd and of course the gala on the 23rd.

For the serious ones, come to the foundation annual meeting, and the association's general assembly & executive council session and learn how you can participate in alumni work and help our *alma mater*! For more details visit www.uermmmc.org, uermmfusa.com or www.uermmarvadc.org.

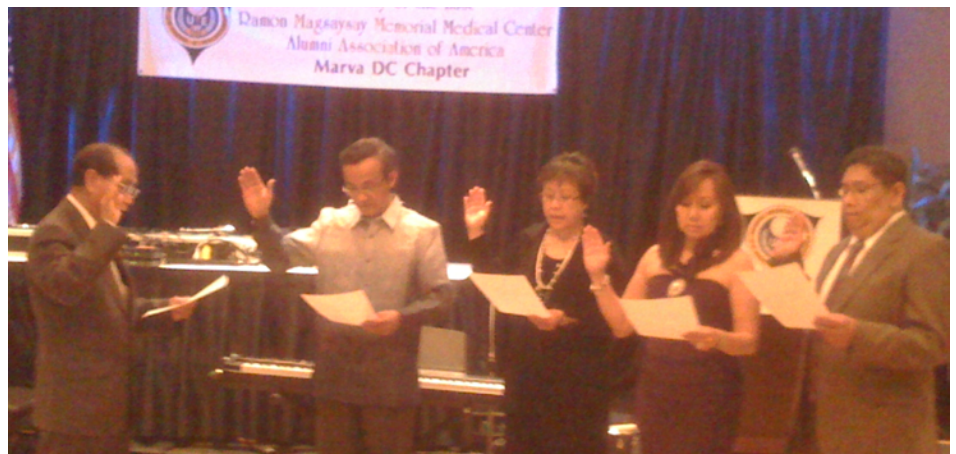
AFUSA to mark 30th year

The alumni foundation observes its 30th year of founding next week with a special recognition of its founders and donors during its 2nd Donor Appreciation Hour on the alumni convention's Welcome Reception at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Chicago. With assets knocking at the million dollar mark and increased capacity to expand and sustain its project programs at UERM MMC, AFUSA has strengthened its managerial acumen and is now focusing on fundraising and investments. Its flagship endowment fund, the Dr. Wilmer G. Heceta or 333 Fund is yet to realize its minimum goal of raising one-million dollars that can put its funding of existing charitable projects in perpetuity. It has kept up efforts to bring about a culture of generosity among alumni and a culture of

compliance at the medical center. The number and quality of recipients attest to the need for these efforts (see page 3).

To be led by Chairman Dr. Rene Querubin, '67 and President Dr. Vickie Casibang, '71, AFUSA will hold its annual meeting (open to the public) on Thursday, July 21st, its 2nd Donor Appreciation Hour that evening capped by a raffle drawing (prizes on page 2), and a Report to the General Assembly on Saturday, the 23rd. There will also be an election of 5 trustees for the new 3-year term and one trustee for a vacant slot that has 2 years left on its term. Interested candidates must have attended at least one annual meeting and submit a letter of intent and resume to the President.

Trustees sworn in



Chairman Emeritus Dr. El Castro swears in Drs. Elmer Gilo, Ruby Reyes, Marita Guevarra, and Orson Battad as trustees for the new 3-year term, at Baltimore last March 19th.

Schedule of Activities

Day 1

Golf, AFUSA meeting, Welcome Night Reception, Donor Appreciation Hour

Day 2

CME, Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture, Jubilarian Night & Batch Parties

Day 3

General Assembly & CBL Referendum, YADP, Executive Council meeting, Gala

UERMMMCM allotted 400 freshmen

UERMMMCM has been allowed by the Commission on Higher Education in the Philippines to enroll 400 freshmen effective the schoolyear 2011-2012, *Aesculapius Ex* was informed by the Dean and Medical Director on June 29. Thus, the College of Medicine has enrolled this many first year students last month. More students, more strain on resources, including facilities and faculty. The Center is currently in the middle of a capital improvement to meet those needs. The skills lab in the old OPC in the North (Academic) Campus is undergoing renovation while the new OPC is now operational in the South (Clinics) Campus' old canteen space.

Choir rehearsals

UERMMMCMMAAI Music Director, Dr. Rey Gonzales, is reminding choir members of daily rehearsals for the Harana to Golden Jubilarian Class '61 on July 21, 22, and 23. Please read the announcements from the Executive Director Dr. Carmen Agcaoili for details. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Rey Gonzales at rxgonzales@msn.com or (818) 744-2808.

UERMMMH opens new pediatrics floor

The pay hospital inaugurated its world-class 21-bed Pediatrics Unit at the north wing of the 4th floor last January. This was announced in the April issue of

Raffle Prizes
To be given away at the Donor Appreciation Hour

1st Prize
One-week vacation for 2 in Mexico or Dominican Republic (\$5,000 value)
2nd Prize
One-week ski vacation in Virginia (\$2,000 value)
3rd Prize - \$500 cash
4th Prize - \$300 cash



of the hospital's newsletter (see *Campus* page of www.uermafusa.com for details). President Dr. Romeo Divinagracia proudly showed off the unit last month to the editor. Kudos to department chair Dr. Milagros Bautista for initiating this enhancement!

2009 valedictorian places 10th in February boards

Class 2009 valedictorian and cum laude graduate, **Dr. Donna Lea Pepito**, took 10th place in the February 2011 physician licensure exams in the Philippines, Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes told *Aesculapius Ex*. The results released by the Board of Medicine of the Professional Regulation Commission on February 25 and published the next day by the [Philippine Daily Inquirer's online edition](#) showed that FEU topped both the individual as well as the school performance rankings with a passing rate of 86.24%. In the comparative

performance report shared by the dean, UERMMMCM's performance of 74% (34 out of 46) ranks the school 3rd behind St. Luke's Medical Center (88%) and Ateneo de Zamboanga (81%) in the 9 schools with 25-49 candidates taking the exams. De La Salle University topped the 50-99 group with a passing of 67%. Thirty-nine (39) medical schools fielded candidates for the 3-day exams. Three (3) schools registered zero passing, while six (6) obtained 100%. The next board exams will be held in Manila, Cebu and Davao next month.

Please read Dr. Pepito's speech at UERM's testimonial dinner for the successful examinees in March on page 5.

In memoriam

Let us pray for the repose of the souls of these dear teachers who died recently:

Dr. Gregorio Patacsil, Jr., former professor of medicine and cardiology.

Dr. Virginia Cagampan de Leon, former professor of pediatrics.

Dr. Presentacion Peralta, former professor and chair of the Department of Preventive and Community Medicine.

Visit the UERMMMCM Alumni & Friends Inc.'s Silent Auction Table, make your bids for valuable items and help raise funds for scholarship, faculty development, community medicine and others.
Good luck!

AFUSA Snapshot

Years in operation

30

Board chairmen

6

Total donors, percentage of donations

31 corporate (19%), 924 individuals (81%)

Current total assets

\$768,496

Latest annual donations

\$45,103 (75% of total income)

Latest annual investment income

\$14,688 (25% of total income)

Current budget allocations

Total \$106,350 - 72% for project programs (scholarships 62%, faculty development 14%, awards & lectures 20%, community service 3%, library 1%), 28% administration and fund raising

Current scholarship awards

Special honors 20, gold 4, silver 11, partial tuition (bronze) 15, book 29, academic excellence 30, clinical honor roll 10, financial aid 1

Total scholarship recipients to date

995

Total faculty development awards to date

10

Estimated value of in-kind donations to date

Books and journals \$150,000, medical instruments and equipment including the newly shipped items \$1.515 million,

Please visit www.uermafusa.com, or uermafusa.org, or uermafusa.net for more details.

Winter Board Meeting and Leadership Workshop

The alumni foundation held its winter meeting and leadership workshop for the second time in Baltimore's Sheraton BWI Hotel on March 19, 2011 in conjunction with the MarVaDC Chapter's induction day.

Chairman Dr. Renato Querubin assisted by President Dr. Isabelita "Vickie" Casibang, presided over a marathon business meeting that went past midnight the



night before, tackling key committee reports and approving a new disclaimer form for electronic communications and an acknowledgement of the new whistleblower policy to make AFUSA conform with a new standard for non-profits.

The day-long leadership workshop kicked off with a talk on social security changes by financial planner James Chang followed by lawyers Manny Mirasol and Tia Salonga's review of changes in New York laws affecting charities, especially on anti-terrorism, conflict of interest, and disclosures. Former chair Dr. Bayani Elma gave a historical review of the foundation. The highlight



of the workshop was the mock IRS Form 990 audit simulation conducted by former chair Dr. El Castro in the afternoon. Earlier in the day, Castro

talked on AFUSA's survival and survivability. He identified the strengths and weaknesses of the foundation and advised **"Together everyone achieves more while offering respect and kindness!"** The session received an overwhelming positive rating from the attendees who took home the mantra of "compliance, compliance, compliance!" Atty. Mirasol best summed up the rationale for compliance: **"So that the organization persists, survives and endures."**

AFUSA Scholars for 2011-2012



Dr. Lily Sia-Vargas, Chair of the College of Medicine's Committee on Scholarship listed the following recipients of the alumni foundation scholarship grants for the new schoolyear. In a brief interview with the editor at the Dean's Committee meeting on June 29, she said that alumni support for scholarship has enabled the school to ensnare highly qualified freshmen adding that there is a high demand for gold and silver scholarships. "We need a lot of help" in this program, she appealed.

There are 4 gold scholars, 11 silver, 15 bronze or partial scholars, 29 book scholars, 20 special honors awardees, and 3 sets of top ten academic awardees for the first, second and third years, respectively.

Alumni scholars in a meeting with the editor at the College of Nursing's amphitheater on the same day, expressed gratitude to alumni sponsors and donors for the assistance they have received specifically in matriculation and textbooks. The current tuition is P104,000 a semester. They are not aware of any problems in obtaining their funding. Nearly all have email addresses on file.

Gold Scholarships - Robert Berina, Fatima Gansatao, Joanna Santos, and Jed Reyes.

Silver Scholarships - Catherine Credo, Abigail Maralit, Armand Tan, Glen Ventanilla, Daphne Villanueva, Charmaine Liao, Jamie Mendoza, Sharleen Trillana, Manuel Velasco, Jr., Matilde Cheng, Juan Gonzales,

Bronze (Partial) Scholarships - Canarie Esguerra, Maria Menchavez, Virra Rosales, Alvin Tengonciang, Roland Abaya, Jose Chan, Jerica Esguerra, Erik Estrada, Juan Estrada, Zara Felix, Marjo Garcia, Edelbert Javillo, Emerie Vallesterro, Katrina Cordova, Sarah

Jimenez.

Book Scholarships - Faye Bautista, Ralph Bautista, Virgi Esquivel, Jessica Baquiran, Hidelisa Budao, Mark Bunag, Andrew Co, Ahmad Domado, Maria Doquenia, Giezelle Duro, Lesley Gallardo, Santino Grcia, Katrina La O', Alvin Lavadia, Gia Mandigma, Vernone Palermo, Roselyn Pamatmat, Danielle Paras, Reinalyn San Andres, Maria Tanada, Camille Alcantara, Ruby Cerdeno, Jan Chu, Gillian Grecia, Maria Isaac-Lim, Denise Leh, Jemie Narag, Michael Ramos, Georgia Tiu

Special Honors Award - Mae Ang, Martha Bernardo, Sofia Bustamante, Justine Cabrera, Dana Cammayo, Genesis del Rosario, Maricia Diaz, Maria Doria, Maria Estrada, Ida Felix, Philip Golez, Janine Macaspac, Iris Magpali, Katherine Montejo, Ronna Paclibar, Eliseo Pagdato, Jose Parabuac, Maria Pura, Erika Reyes, Andrew Torres.

Academic Excellence (Top Ten)

First Year - Christian Tan, Stephanie Jordan, Nikko Cablao, Jan Formalejo, Red Dumo, Juan Gonzales, Jolie Guevara, Ruby Cerdeno, Averille Caridad, Cordella Pelaez, Erika Chen.

Second Year - Dale Dizon, Randall Tan, Maria Santos, Katrina Ventura, Marie Camaclang, Maria Relente, Marielle Manuel, Reinald Cunanan, Arriane Evangelista, Gielzen Sisayan, Paola Young.

Third Year - Co-Neil Relato, Marife Bonifacio, Ma. Nessa Gelvosa, Maureen Borja, Virgi Esquivel, Gerald Libranda, Daphne-Dominique Villanueva, Monique Punsalan, Vincent Reolalas, Ana Balderrama, Robert Berina.

The UERMMM College of Medicine is now accepting applications for the first year class of the academic year 2012-2013 starting in June, 2012. Please contact the Registrar's Office as soon as possible for more information at 011-632-713-3315 or www.uerm.edu.ph. Applications must be completed by January 15, 2012. 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 online at said website. Foreign applicants are notified by email.

We rededicate ourselves to our calling as healers



Speech delivered by Dr. Donna Lea Pepito, Class 2009 at UERMMMC's testimonial dinner for newly sworn in physicians last March 2011. Editor

Esteemed officers of the UERMMMC Administration, President Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, our guest speaker Dr. Alberto Chua, Dr. Alfaretta Reyes, faculty members, my classmates and fellow new doctors, Good evening.

I consider it a singular honor to stand before you on this joyous evening and speak on behalf of my classmates and fellow new physicians as we celebrate our achievements in the February 2011 Philippine Medical Board Examinations, both as individuals and collectively as proud alumni of the UERMMMC community.

Five years ago, my classmates and I took the first of many steps that has led us to where we are tonight. The journey that has culminated in tonight's festivities was not, by any means, an easy one. It was an endeavor fraught with sacrifices. Over the course of the past five years, we had to relinquish so much of the things we personally held dear. To a great extent, we had to give up our personal time, our hobbies, and our social lives. Many of us had to put relationships on hold, if not completely forego them. We have had to endure varying degrees of physical exhaustion and emotional distress as we persisted through the academic, extra-curricular, and personal obstacles that stood between us and our goal of becoming physicians. Countless times, we found ourselves pushed to the very limits of our capabilities; we questioned ourselves and doubted our ability to make it through to the end. Indeed, some of those who began this journey with us were unable to complete it and are regrettably not here with us tonight.

Still, we pursued that dream; we persevered; we fought on through. We sat through hours and hours of grueling tests and squeezed every last ounce of resolve we had within; we forced ourselves through our tears and fears. Now here we are at last. We have finally conquered the final test and are now qualified to call ourselves full-pledged physicians, eager to join the ranks of the noble profession dedicated to the business of ministering to and healing our fellowmen.

Tonight, as we allow ourselves to temporarily bask in feelings of pride in our achievements and savor the sweetness of these moments, we acknowledge that our successes are not ours alone. Without the invaluable support and contributions of our professors, administrators, families and friends, we would certainly not be here tonight.

To our dear alma mater and the faculty, staff, and administrators that comprise your ranks: your esteemed reputation is indeed well-deserved. You are simply the best. Your consistent

placement among the top performing schools and your track record of consistently graduating board topnotchers attest to the high quality of education and training you provide your students. We are extremely proud to count ourselves among your products and deem it an honor to be able to add to the rich tradition of excellence you have accumulated over the years through our performance in the most recent licensure examinations. We vow to uphold the spirit and the professionalism you have instilled in us throughout the duration of our term as your students. We have learned much from you. However, we know that there should never be an end to our learning. We owe it to you and to our patients to ensure that, for as long as we practice our vocation, we continuously engage ourselves in ongoing education and continuous improvement and enhancement of the skills and talents you have developed in us. We will never be content with mediocrity and will always strive to uphold your name and the standard of excellence associated with it wherever we practice.

To our Almighty God: all glory and honor be to your Name. You are the source of everything that is good, and your bountiful grace as well as the talents you have bestowed to us, form the foundation upon which all our achievements are built. Without you, we can do nothing. With you, we can do everything. We acknowledge our roles as your stewards and resolve to discharge our responsibilities as physicians with utmost solemnity.

Finally, to my classmates and fellow new doctors: After tonight, we will be assuming the sacred mantle of responsibility as we formally begin our careers as physicians in our respective fields of specialization. May we never lose sight of the UERMMMC mission and vision. As alumni of this fine institution, it is incumbent upon us to always be "competent practitioners of medicine, healers with conscience, who are deeply concerned about the welfare of our fellowmen".

In the end, the measure of our success as physicians will lie not in the laureates we garner, the publications attributed to our names, the material wealth we amass, or the prestige we attain. Rather, the measure of our success will lie in the nature and magnitude of the impact we have on the lives of our patients, and whether, through our interactions with and ministry to them, we are able to make their lives better.

Tonight, we celebrate our successes and achievements. More importantly, however, we reaffirm our commitment to our dear alma mater and to the ideals she stands for. We rededicate ourselves to our calling as healers of and ministers to mankind and embrace the solemn responsibility that comes with the power we hold in our hands to do good, to heal, and to make this world a better place. Like the seeds from a tree that is strong and tall, we will all be scattered across the country and around the globe. Wherever we go, we will take our training, our memories, and our friendships with us.

Why we need an Office of Alumni Relations

By Bayani B. Elma, M.D., AFUSA Chairman Emeritus and MAAAI Past President and First Alumni Newsletter Editor



“Once a UERM alumnus, always a UERM alumnus.” It is the spirit of this phrase that has hopefully fostered loyal alumni in UERM since its founding in 1956. The alumni look to the lessons in their student days for inspiration and strength throughout their daily lives. Yet, while these student years are the core experiences for a lifelong journey, the Medical Center has to continue its efforts to build students – medical, nursing, physical therapy and graduate – into practitioners of high ideals and ensuring that these experiences are available for future generations to come. As one noted University President wrote, “as students we were in the “getting” business, as alumni we should be in the “giving” business. Their respective Associations and Foundations provide the avenues for the alumni to give back to the Medical Center and all the alumni are called upon to achieve the fullest potential of this possibility by making the most of their participation. Alumni are the reflection of our past, a representation of our present and a link to our future. This vision of the Medical Center that fosters ongoing relationships through an environment that invites, supports and pre-supposes post- graduation school involvement and interaction on local, regional and national levels is critical to the future of the Medical Center. Continued involvement by all alumni is an expectation and obligation!

This is where the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR) comes in. The Office of Alumni Relations is the primary communications link between the Medical Center and the alumni. Its most important goal is to encourage and foster lifelong alumni participation, involvement and commitment within and outside the Philippines. With the unimagined geometric explosion in medical knowledge and the science fiction realization of communications, it is not beyond the means of Croesus for the UERM Board of Trustees to morph the four (4) colleges/schools in the Medical Center’ one-college/school oriented function to that of inter-connected team paradigm based on a new understanding of the best use of limited resources and the vastly improved ability to communicate.

Within the campus of the Medical Center, a new building is under construction. This is the optimum time for consideration of the location of the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR). The Office Director and his team face a fierce headwind of challenges: unexplored true costs of financing and maintaining the Office and getting the alumni of the 4 colleges/schools to rise above and grasp a new understanding of a different way of existing and functioning as inter-connected affinities in the Medical Center. The OAR over months and years will create programs which match the interests and needs of the alumni, to maintain and build upon the positive relationships with the more seasoned (older) alumni and to increase the participation, involvement and communication with the younger alumni. The Office of Alumni Relations should recognize, acknowledge and embrace the alumni of the 4 colleges/schools as vital stakeholders in the advancement of the Medical Center.

For the welfare of the UERM Medical Center, the patients and the communities it serves, the Medical Center needs an Office of Alumni Relations and must do it NOW!

Website Primer

For first-time visitors or for those who have not yet visited or returned to the foundation website www.uermafusa.com, here's what you expect to see:

- Flash and archived news, streaming pictorials of the alumni foundation's activities, streaming list of donors, and announcements in the **Home** page;
- Comprehensive information about AFUSA including its founding documents and current trustees and officers in **About Us**;
- Financial info in the **Reports** of officers, standing committees, MAAAI president & dean;

- **Newsletters** of the AFUSA (*Aesculapius Ex*), MAAAI, chapters, Philippine alumni and others;
- Overview of projects with pictorials currently supported by AFUSA donors in the **Programs** page;
- Donor categories, ways and types of donation to choose from & secure online donation in the **Make a Donation** page;
- Illustrated steps in requesting for **Funding**;
- Virtual visit to UERMMM on the **Campus** page including campus publications and link to www.uerm.edu.ph (You may download application to the College of Medicine);
- Of course, you can **Contact Us**.
So what are you waiting for? Visit us. Welcome!

Battad sworn in as MarVaDC president

Dr. Orson R. Battad of Class '78 was sworn in as the new president of the MarVaDC Chapter at the gala held March 19, 2011 at the Sheraton BWI in Baltimore. The affair coincided with the winter meeting of the UERM alumni foundation. Also taking the oath of office administered by Dr. El Castro, AFUSA chairman emeritus, were: Drs. Nathalie Bernabe-Quion, '88, vice-president; Lisa Coronel-Manaloto, '88, secretary; Lolita Lopez-Roncal, 88, assistant secretary; Albert Coe, '83, treasurer; Maria Rita Guevarra, '85, press relation officer; Elwin Bustos, '84 and Lunei



Lacerna-Fitzsimmons, '84, business managers. They will serve for 2 years.

Battad succeeds Dr. Ana Maria (Nanette) Pasatiempo. In his inaugural address, Battad paid tribute to the initiatives of the previous administration and vowed to continue and further develop the chapter's two signature activities - the Young Alumni Development Program (YADP) and the acquisition of used medical equipment and supplies, books and journals in conjunction with the Gift-in-Kind program (GIK) of the AFUSA. He along with co-chapter members Drs. Guevarra and Sam Dona serve as trustees of the foundation.

The YADP has helped several young UERM graduates apply for residency positions in the United States while the GIK has sent donated medical machines and reading materials to UERMMMC, the latest of which were delivered in a container shipment to Manila. For further information on these 2 programs, please read the last issue of *Aesculapius Ex* at www.uermafusa.com and the *MarVaDC Newsletter* at www.uermmarvad.org. Or read the Reports and Programs pages of the foundation website.



Mailbag

First I would like to commend the foundation for a really nice and polished website.

I have a suggestion for something that the foundation can possibly work on with UERMMMC. I think it would be advantageous to try and get the UERMMMC Journal of Health Sciences indexed by one of the major databases such as pubmed, google scholar, etc.

This would bring more recognition to the medical school, allow the students' hard work to be recognized and disseminated to the academic community at large.

Thanks.

*Bruce Kuo, M.D., Class '04
brucekuo@gmail.com*

Editor's Reply:

Thank you Bruce for visiting. Please visit often as we try to update the info for the benefit of all alumni and constituents.

I referred the matter of the journal to the Dean and President. We will soon have a link to the journal via www.uerm.edu.ph through the help of Dr. Divinagracia.



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Samuel A. Piga, M.D. Editor
3105 W. 15th St., Suite E, Plano, Texas 75075, (469) 467-9755,
sapigamd@gmail.com

Advisers: Elected officers of the Board of Trustees.



Editorial

Fruits of our labor

During our visit to UERM two weeks ago, my wife and I were invited to join the Dean's Committee meeting. There we sat with the heads of all academic departments and had the rare privilege of listening to their deliberations. The four-hour meeting tackled so many issues which have to do with improving the teaching and performance of students both in the classroom and clinics including the school's community outreach programs in Antipolo and nearby Barangay Imelda. On top of these, they have to grapple with new regulatory standards mandated by the Board of Medicine and Commission of Higher Education. We could see the weight of responsibility they carry but their discussions show their enthusiasm and determination to produce quality graduates.

Then I met with the alumni scholars through the kindness of Scholarship Committee chair Dr. Lily Sia-Vargas and secretary Dr. Melissa Calilao. I was met with an effusive expression of gratitude for the support we give in every level of the program. I was touched by one student's response: "The help you give us has inspired us

"Now being admitted to the profession of medicine I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity. I will give my respect and gratitude to my deserving teachers. I will practice medicine with conscience and dignity. The health and life of my patient will be my first consideration. I will hold in confidence all that my patients confide in me. I will maintain the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession. My colleagues will be as my brothers. I will not permit considerations of race, religion, nationality, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patients. I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of its conception. Even under threat I will not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity. These promises I made freely and upon my honor."

to study harder and succeed so that one day we too could give back to those who would need assistance from us!"

I also had an audience with President Dr. Divinagracia who graciously

gave me a personal tour of the South (Clinical Campus). I saw physical improvements that speak of an administration that is trying to provide the milieu for quality medical education. Likewise I was reassured by the sense of compassion shown by the Medical Director Dr. Andy Borromeo who was very kind to accept an indigent patient of mine for treatment in the ward.

Throughout my sortie, I came across respectful students and staff. I even had a chance to talk to Dr. Sotomayor, a former AFUSA faculty scholar who completed a masteral work in epidemiology and continues to serve with the Department of Pharmacology. Best of all, Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes exudes poise, patience and determination in leading the faculty to higher goals.

The product? Just read Dr. Pepito's remarks and you cannot help but be reminded of why we swore to Hippocrates as physicians in the first place. Such is the *raison de' etre* of our work - **competent, ethical and compassionate physicians!**

UERMMM ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC.

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

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