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Newsletter of the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

Year XXXI, June 15, 2012

San Francisco awaits you!



Reunite, reminisce, reconnect!

The Northern California chapter has prepared a **Mardi Gras** for the 24th alumni reunion and convention's reception night on July 5th, an 8-hour CME on "Rejuvenation of the Aging Population" and batch parties on the 6th, and a gala on Saturday, July 7th honoring mainly the Silver Jubilarian Class '87, Golden '62, and Ruby '72.

As you "eat, pray, love," please attend also the business activities.

Everyone is welcome at the foundation's annual meeting, and the association's general assembly (we elect the new set of officers for the next 2-year term) & executive council session and learn how you can participate in alumni work that benefits our *alma mater*! **Young alumni** can get help on their residency applications from the YADP program of the MarVaDC Chapter on July 7th.

For more details, see pages 10-11 or visit www.uermafusa.com, uermmm.org, or uermmarvad.org.

A call to serve

At next month's convention, both the alumni foundation and association end their respective fiscal years. There will also be a turnover of officers. At this juncture, we pause to thank the outgoing leaders for the services they have done. Their dedication has advanced our common cause a step further and higher. We will also fulfill the task of electing new leaders. It is therefore an opportune time for all of us to summon the will to affirm our ideals, recommit to them, and participate in this enterprise of service to our *alma mater*, to our homeland and to one another.

Through the efforts of many who have volunteered their *time, talent, and treasure*, the foundation and association offer you a wide array of activities that suit your situations both at the upcoming convention and annual meeting and after. Let us learn from one another so that we can work together and then share the blessings of achieved charitable goals.

Aesculapius Ex invites you to this journey!

Wilmer G. Heceta, M.D. (1936 - 2012)

Being first in anything is a heavy responsibility especially when it involves charting a course for others to follow. Blazing that proverbial trail demands the best from anyone.

Dr. Wilmer G. Heceta did not only belong to UERMMMCA's first medicine class of 1961. He was the school's first valedictorian and one of its first *cum laudes*. After carving out a successful professional career in the Ohio Valley, he co-founded the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc. (AFUSA) and served as its first UERM graduate board chairman (1984-1996).

During his tenure, he laid the groundwork for AFUSA's long-term viability by establishing the 333 Fund

which we now call the Wilmer G. Heceta Endowment Fund. Long after his term, he was one of the first to sign up for AFUSA's life insurance estate gift program. Now, through the love and devotion of his widow and former classmate, Dr. Estherbelle A. Heceta, their 3 children and 7 grandchildren, he continues to give to our *alma mater*, undeterred by his physical death.

The tributes many have written (page 6) speak of a very intelligent yet humble, compassionate, and wise human being. Generosity is the destination he pointed us to. He modeled hard work as the way to follow. Gratitude and cheerful optimism were his articles of faith that will get us there.

**Welcome to our
new trustees**

Hedy Jimenez Mountbatten-Windsor, M.D.

Dr. Mountbatten-Windsor belongs to Class '71, has practiced normal and high-risk OB and gynecology in Indiana and West Virginia. She is a fellow of ACOG. She has held membership and various leadership positions in both professional and community organizations, notably president of PMA of West Virginia, board member of APPA, and president of 2 different Tri-State Fil-Am Associations. She is the mother of two adult children.

**Ernesto Suguitan, R.N.,
Ret. Capt., USN**

Mr. Suguitan is the very first non-MD trustee of AFUSA. He and his wife, Dr. Eden Suguitan, Class '67 have been very generous supporters for many years. He has served as co-chair of the Fund Raising Committee for the past 2 years. As one of the founders of the UERMMM Alliance & Friends, Inc., he has actively helped raised money for AFUSA and MAAAI. As a critical & nephrology nurse, a former US Navy officer, search & rescue pilot and an engineer, he has a wealth of experience in leadership and volunteer work.

Trustees for the 2009 - 2012 term



*Dr. Baldomero
Asst. Treasurer*



*Dr. Casibang
President*



Dr. Dona



Dr. Raymundo



Dr. Torres

Trustees for the 2010 - 2013 term



Dr. Battad



*Dr. Gilo
Treasurer*



Dr. Herrera



*Dr. Reyes
Secretary*



Dr. Guevara

Trustees for the 2011 - 2014 term



Dr. O'Yek



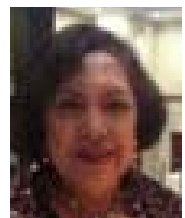
*Dr. Querubin
Chairman*



Mr. Suguitan



Dr. Valen



Dr. Windsor

Non - Trustee Officers



*Dr. Carlos Gotardo
Vice-Chairman*



*Dr. Nanette Pasatiempo
Vice-President*



*Dr. Maria Herrera
Asst. Secretary*

Ex-Officio Trustees

*Dr. A. Tan-Reyes,
Dean
UERMMM
College of
Medicine*



Dr. Suntay, MAAAI President



*Dr. Ballon-Reyes, MAAAI
President-Elect*

AFUSA Snapshot

Years in operation

31

Board chairmen

6

Total donors, percentage of donations

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

Current total assets

\$768,486

Latest annual donations

\$30,932 (78% of total income)

Latest annual investment income

\$15,094 (22% of total income)

Current budget allocations

Total \$59,953 - 88% for project programs (scholarships 54%, faculty development 16%, awards & lectures 30%, community service 0%, library 0%), 12% 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

1,025

Total faculty development awards to date

150

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.

Board Actions



The alumni foundation's board of trustees held one face-to-face meeting and one teleconference during the current fiscal year.

At last July's annual meeting, the board elected two new trustees, Dr. Hedy Jimenez Mountbatten-Windsor from Indiana and Mr. Ernesto M. Suguitan from North Carolina, and re-elected Drs. Renato Querubin, Ned Valen and Victor O'Yek to a new 3-year term ending in 2014. The board also approved the 2011-2012 budget (see Snapshot) and heard reports from the 11 standing committees (see page 5) as well as the treasurer's report and those of Dean Alfaretta Luisa T. Reyes (pages 7-8), UERMMMC Medical Director Dr. Andres Borromeo, MAAAI President Dr. Susan P. Suntay, and UERMMMC Alliance & Friends, Inc. President Mrs. Esther Querubin. Dean Reyes acknowledged AFUSA's donations and batted for stronger support for faculty development programs. Dr. Borromeo appraised the board of UERMMMC's on-going capital improvement.

The teleconference held on April 18, 2012 approved an amendment to the constitution to allow the participation of other healthcare professionals in response to a UE Dentistry alumna's interest in AFUSA's activities. So far, AFUSA has funded a few projects for the Colleges of Physical Therapy and Nursing.

Website Primer

For the latest in-depth information about the alumni foundation and the lead articles in this issue, please visit www.uermafusa.com or uermafusa.org or uermafusa.net. You must have Adobe application to open those links.

Unity comes from working together

By Renato D. Querubin, M.D.
Chairman, UERMMMCAFUSA, Inc., 2009-2012



This is my "Swan Song" article as Chairman of the AFUSA. It is the moment to clasp my hands and reflect, relish the 3 years that have passed in such capacity. I must confess that I almost yielded to the pressures that I stay longer in leadership, but I perceived that I must go, as good things must come to an end. Working with you and for

you has been a memorable experience. Several achievements of AFUSA have been accomplished. These could have not been realized if each of the BOT did not give of himself/herself unselfishly in achieving our objectives.

St Thomas Aquinas, the great Christian Theologian, defined GRATITUDE as the virtue that inclines us to give prompt acknowledgement of the good that has been accorded us. Therefore, without reminiscing to the extreme, I would like to express my thanks to the AFUSA Board of Trustees for having served the Foundation during the last 3 years. With the spirit of tolerance and solidarity, you have assisted me tremendously during my term as Chairman, making it worthwhile remembering. Several achievements of AFUSA have come to fruition because of the partnership attitude of the governing Board of Trustees which allowed us to carry out our mission and vision.

As I step down as Chairman, it is my wish that we continue to look at ideas and programs that will meet the needs of today and be unafraid to rework some of our approaches. I will continue to serve AFUSA though I will no longer be your Chairman. I will continue to speak about the need to promote unity, solidarity and shared vision among ourselves. However, unity is not something we can force or legislate. Unity comes to an organization by growing together, working together on common interests, and developing confidence and a culture of trust.

AFUSA did not come to its existence to be just a level playing field for somebody's political whims and caprices of greatness. It was established to manifest our intentions and desires to

assist our Alma Mater in realizing her academic goals. The Foundation was formed to give Alumni the opportunity to unite and reinforce their awareness and pride in our Alma Mater and, finally, to have a core value and common belief of who we are and what we believe in.

Clearly, we are moving towards a future which has desperate needs and vast potentials. We will need more donors for our projects that fulfill the needs of our Alma Mater. We are well positioned to serve as a bridge between problems and their solutions. Despite economic dilemmas, our alumni continue to show tremendous generosity during the last few years. We have a strong presence with our alumni group. Let us use that presence and the unique perspective it affords us.

For the past 29 years, the Foundation has faithfully served alumni and other donors in providing a vehicle for charitable gifts to our Alma Mater, despite the rough road during the last few years. The role of the AFUSA BOT along with their fiduciary responsibilities, will remain unchanged. We will continue to support the Medical Center's needs according to each donor's wishes. The Foundation will remain linked with the UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. in the pursuit of our common missions and visions.

Lastly, this swan song will lose its essence if I do not emit a note of acclamation to my predecessors who have guided the organization to where it is now. I will also be remiss if I will not express my deepest thanks to my dear wife---Esther. Anything that I have done would not have materialized without her unconditional love, unwavering and unflinching support. I thank her for sharing me with all of you and I am glad to have done this on your behalf and for the glory of our dear ALMA MATER.



Dr. Querubin with UERMMMCM officials

With scholars

Department of Otolaryngology lecture

Keep traditions but be open to changes

by Isabelita Barnachea-Casibang, M.D.

President, UERMMMCAAFUSA, Inc., 2006-2012



They say that in every story there is a beginning and that every story has also an end. As I reflect upon my two terms as AFUSA president, I am deeply grateful for the many help, cooperation and encouragements I have received from and given by the members of the Board of Trustees and Community Volunteers during my tenure. From the time I agreed to take on the presidency position to my election and the beginning of my first few months, I know it will be an uphill climb to the top since the arena I have entered had been a male dominated one from its inception to the time I broke the glass ceiling. I would say my first few months were very tough and hard; I was locking horns with the elders who thought that a younger alumna and a woman at that 'cannot handle the job and deliver the goods.' I believe now they have changed their minds.

Everyday that I open my computer to go to work for our Foundation, to deal with picking those alumni who would lead the different committees and to write the different committees' policy is a big challenge as a woman first and foremost and as the first woman president of the AFUSA. But I'll tell you this now, what a privilege it has been to be part of this 31-year old Foundation that serves our *Alma Mater*, an institution that is key to our present successes where ever we may be. We are the legacy of our beloved UERMMMCI education and we carry its traditions, like it or not. Each of us is the embodiment of its mindset and proper practices. Each of us, you and I, are a little *Alma Maters* and our Foundation is a special society of these

mini Alma Maters coming together with one mind, one purpose and one goal - a successful UERMMCI; to keep it going and open for all alumni's future, the repository of academic records. This is the original purpose for which our Foundation was built on.

I understand that each volunteer, many times a thankless job, plays a small but significant part in contributing to the greater good of our Alma Mater, its faculty, students and the Community it serves. It is a great privilege for me to lead such a distinguished group and colleagues. Each year of my administration, with new Trustees and new volunteers whom we take under our wings, is a reminder to myself that officers and Trustees should strive to nurture, teach and guide them about what the Foundation is all about and how being a member of the AFUSA is already a sign of an excellent leader. Volunteering for this organization is already a great educational journey in itself. Let us not forget to mentor the young ones and new ones who would join us and one day take our place to lead our Foundation. Let us not be afraid to share our knowledge to those who would stand beside us as officers of this elite organization because it is only then that we become true leaders.

Let us always remember that as we strive to maintain traditions and norms that define and started our beloved UERMAFUSA, we must always be open to new opportunities as we develop more effective ways to accomplish our missions. I am very truly thankful to everyone who has lent me a hand during my presidency and the opportunity to have served the Foundation, MAAAI and the alumni community at-large for the greater glory of our organizations and our *Alma Mater*.

Standing Committee Activities

Fundraising (FRC) - The committee focuses its fund campaign on the troika programs of scholarship, faculty development & community service. Two raffles were held in Chicago last July in collaboration with the Alliance & Friends. A renewed campaign for the Wilmer G. Heceta Endowment Fund is underway.

Finance, Budget & Investment (FBI) - See budget online.

Scholarship & Financial Aid (SFAC) - Recommendations for a tightened implementation of programs at the College level were approved. There is an increased demand for scholarship support as UERMMMCI competes for top-ranked applicants and sharp increase in tuition, now about P100,000 per semester.

Faculty Development (FDC) - The program is challenged

by the dean's appeal for increased support. Biggest support comes from the Southern California Chapter.

Community Service (CSC) - Same on-going programs.

Residents' Awards (RAC) - Awards are being increased.

Library (LC) - Same on-going programs.

Gifts-In-Kind (GIK) - New policies & procedures have been approved based on experiences with the first-ever large container shipment of used medical equipment, books & machines in 2010. A new online donation form for GIK will be uploaded.

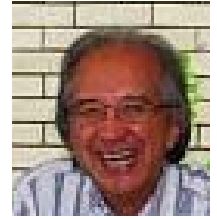
Audit & Ethics (AEC) - Recipient data base development and documentation of acknowledgements are reiterated.

Strategic Planning (SPC) - IRS audit simulation in Baltimore in early 2011 has been helpful to officers & volunteers.

Constitution & ByLaws (CBL) - See Board Action page 3.

Tributes to Dr. Heceta

Compiled by Lamberto “Benching” Tan, M.D.



Dr. Heceta presides over AFUSA board meeting.

I am blessed to have friends like you to lean on in moments of weakness . . . One thing I learned from you is: I will not always achieve the goals I set out to achieve. However, it's the incredible blessings and joy that I have for having a chance, in having the journey in accomplishing it. Thank you for being a mentor.

Renato D. Querubin, M.D. '67, AFUSA Chairman

Wilmer's passing is a great loss for us but his legacy will stay forever . . .

El B. Castro, M.D. '63, AFUSA Chair Emeritus

His loyalty to UERMMMCI, his dedication and total commitment to bring his Alma Mater to greater heights are worth emulating by all of us . . . I can't help but admire this great man with a magnanimous heart as he was persistently pushing for the 333 Endowment Fund, which is not far from possible to achieve if only we will listen and take a second look at the meaningful purpose of his brainchild.

Alfaretta T. Reyes, M.D. '73, Dean

Wilmer is a true friend who always had our alma mater in his thoughts to the very end. We will pray for him and keep him in our thoughts always.

Romeo Divinagracia, M.D. '63, President, UERMMMCI



Alumni homecoming, February, 2011

You are a great inspiration, a legend, an icon, a true caring philanthropist who loved our Alma Mater and UERM alumni . . . And we love you in return . . . Many thanks for appreciating me . . . We will all miss you, your emails, your words of wisdom, your humor . . . Sleep tight Sir Wilmer. Sweet dreams . . . Just say goodnight not goodbye . . . God bless . . . Godspeed . . .

Lamberto Tan, M.D. '72, Past MAAAI Executive Director

On behalf of our Medicine Class '65, we offer a mass and prayers for the repose of the soul of Dr. Wilmer Heceta.

Edith M. Regalado, M.D. ;65

He has ingrained in my heart and in our hearts the kind of person a doctor should be: a man of faith, a friend, and a kind surgeon. He will always be in my mind. My heart and prayers to Estherbelle.

Cesar V. Menez, M.D. '61



At his 50th anniversary, February, 2011

We were behind their class and we saw how Dean Cuyegkeng loved the pioneer class. We were together at St. Joseph Hospital in Manapla in Negros Occidental in 1968 to 71. Our children were playmates. We will surely miss him.

Gil N. Octaviano, Jr., M.D. '62

God didn't promise - days without pain, laughter without sorrow or sun without rain. But God did promise - strength for the day, comfort for the tears and a light for the way.

And for all who believe in His kingdom above, He answers their faith with everlasting love.

The spirit of Wilmer probably would say this: Don't grieve for me, for now I am free. I'm following the path God laid for me. I took God's hand when I heard the call. To Him I return my borrowed life. To Him I give my heart and love. Lift up your heart and share with me. God wanted me now and set me free.

M. S. Rallon, M.D. '63

Dean's Report on the Chicago Meeting

By Alfaretta Luisa T. Reyes, M.D., Dean. College of Medicine



The 23rd Annual Convention and Reunion of the UERMMMCI-Medical Alumni Association of America, Inc. (MAAA, Inc.) and the 30th Year Anniversary of the UERM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. (AFUSA, Inc.) were held at Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, USA last July 21-25, 2011. This was co-hosted by the MAAAI-Midwest Chapter led by its President, Dr. Zosimo Herrera. Approximately more than 400 alumni and their guests from the various states attended this memorable occasion which was highlighted by the golden jubilee celebration of the Pioneer Class of Medicine 1961 and the silver anniversary of Medicine Class 1986, as well as the other Jubilarians from Classes '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, 2001 and 2006. It was a momentous occasion to rekindle friendships, reminisce the good old days in UERMMMCI and enjoy the camaraderie with the alumni and friends.

Dean Alfaretta T. Reyes and Medical Director, Dr. Andres D. Borromeo were the official representatives of the Medical Center to this event. Also in attendance was Dr. Jesus Adelo Inciong, President, UERM College of Medicine Alumni Association, Inc.

The Dean is invited annually to this event to deliver respective reports on programs and projects supported by the alumni and friends, and to actively participate in their various activities and meetings.

This also serves as an opportunity for the UERM delegates to strengthen ties with the internationally-based alumni and to give updates on the current status of the College of Medicine as well as on Infrastructure Development in the Center.

Separate general annual assemblies were conducted by the MAAA and AFUSA.

The Dean presented the details on the status of monetary funds released by AFUSA to the College of Medicine (COM) as of SY 2010-2011 that included *total donations* (USD65,699.88), *total disbursement* (USD60,331.79) and the remaining balance (USD5,768.09) as of July 15, 2011.

These were earmarked for the various programs/projects supported by the foundation mostly geared to promote quality medical education through faculty capacity building and recognition, student scholarships, library and facilities development, community service and research awards.

All accomplished acknowledgement of donation forms from our recipients and official receipts were submitted to the AFUSA officers. Likewise, as endorsed by Ms. Iris B. Militar, UERM Asst. Treasurer and Budget Officer, the summary of expenses and supporting receipts on the release of AFUSA donation for the Disaster Relief Fund in response to the calamity caused by typhoon Ondoy was submitted to AFUSA President, Dr. Isabelita Casibang. Two copies of the UERMMMCI Annual Report 2009-2010 were also endorsed to Dr. Elmer Gilo, AFUSA Treasurer, as required by the US IRS.

The AFUSA adopted policies and guidelines regarding the Gifts-in-Kind (GIK) donations to UERMMMCI after the challenging and learning experience of the MARVADC Chapter project. The GIK Committee was tasked to ensure that the GIK must be of absolute use to the facility in its operations in the field of medical education, service, research, business operations, relevant to the Medical Center's mission and function. They will revisit their policy for possible amendments. There may be a need to come up with a Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU) with UERMMMCI since it did not include responsibility of the consignee.

For SY 2009-2011, a total of USD27,460.00 was funded by AFUSA for *faculty development and recognition awards*. These included the Basic and Clinical Sciences Best Teachers Award given to deserving faculty during the Opening Exercises and Recognition Day held last June 4, 2011; educational study grant, funding assistance for the participation of six (6) faculty members to the 8th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC) and workshops held in Singapore; AFUSA reiterated that the process for grant application for funding has been posted in their website.

For SY 2010-2011, a total of USD30,450.00 was funded by AFUSA for student *scholarships*, book awards and recognition for academic excellence (top ten per year levels) and clinical excellence (outstanding clinical clerks). AFUSA's original concept of "assisting the financially challenged but deserving students" in screening the student grantees were considered in the selection by the COM's Scholarship and Academic Honors Committee. The committee pledged to solicit for more sponsors for student scholarships.

Only two qualified for the AFUSA Outstanding Residents' Award 2011 due to the strict criteria set by the UERM Selection Committee. Dr. Raymundo, AFUSA Committee Chair, suggested an increase in the percentage of involvement of the undergraduate students in the evaluation.

AFUSA will continue to support the *Community Medicine Service* projects with the COM: Multidisciplinary Urban Community Health Service Extension Program (MUCHSEP) in Barangay Doña Imelda, Quezon City, the Community Medicine Student Excellence and Service Awards for Clinical Clerks, and the community-based health program in Antipolo which will be transferred to Taytay within this school year.

The AFUSA Community Service Committee reiterated that AFUSA has no defined role in the development of the Green Building project of the UERM Alumni and Friends Foundation. AFUSA stated that the alumni are free to individually and voluntarily support this project, but not through AFUSA.

Dr. R. Querubin, AFUSA Chairman, mentioned the abolition of the "Wish Lists" auction effective this year, as requested by the UERM administration.

The Fund Raising Committee (FRC) reported on the activities of their committee including the contributions from the MAAA Alliance and Friends Foundation.

Dr. Elmer Gilo, AFUSA Treasurer, reported on the overall status of donations received by AFUSA from alumni and friends.

Dr. Gilo handed over to the Dean a check amounting to USD43,750.00 earmarked for AFUSA's continued support for the various programs and projects of the College of Medicine. He informed the body that donations per capita with at least 20 donors, Class '67 was top in the list followed by Class '73 and Class '63. The highest contributor to the AFUSA was Class '73 followed by Class '67.

The well-attended tri-celebration was ushered with a Welcome and Fellowship Night. Certificates of Appreciation from both the AFUSA and the COM were awarded to donors/sponsors who have given generous contributions to help the Medical Center achieve its mission and objectives.

Dean's Report . . . Continued from page 6

The theme of this year's Continuing Medical Education activity was "Obesity & Cardiometabolic Syndrome." It focused on the impact of obesity on the various cardiovascular risk factors and its association with co-morbidities, as well as therapeutic approaches in its management. Speakers were our alumni led by the well-renowned Dr. Emmanuel Bravo, Class '61.

Dr. Roger F. Lucas, Class '61 delivered the Dr. Jose M. Cuyekeng Memorial Lecture on "Coping with Cancer and Other Serious Illnesses: My Personal Experience." He expounded on the process of and fundamentals in coping with serious illnesses.

The Dean presented the Medical School Updates during the MAAA, Inc. General Assembly which was presided by their President, Dr. Susan Perez-Suntay. The presentation was based on the accomplishment of the COM's objectives in relation to faculty, students and facilities development; providing excellent and socially relevant academic program that is locally and globally competitive; sustaining to be among the top 3 preferred medical schools for aspiring physicians.

The Dean also reported on the status of MAAA donations for the programs/projects supported by the organization.

The Dean mentioned that the COM received an Award of Merit from the Professional Regulation Commission and the Board of Medicine as among the Top Performing Schools in the August 2010 Physician Licensure Examination (PLE). Dr. Donna Lea S. Pepito placed No. 10 in the February 2011 PLE.

Dr. A. Borromeo also showed pictures in his report during the general meetings of AFUSA and MAAAI on Updates in Infrastructure Development in the Medical Center. It included the ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of the BSPO building.

The awarding of commemorative medallions by the Dean, assisted by Dr. Suntay, for the golden, ruby and silver jubilarians was held

by Dr. Suntay, for the golden, ruby and silver ubilarians was held during the Jubilarian Night..

The Convention and Reunion was highlighted by the Gala Night. The Inspirational Message was delivered by the Dean. This was followed by the Candlelighting Ceremonies of the silver jubilarians.

Dr. Ma. Felicidad Soto, Class '71 also represented her class and the UERM College of Medicine Alumni Association.

The 24th National Convention and Reunion will be hosted by the MAAA-Northern California Chapter in San Francisco, California on July 4-8, 2012.

On behalf of the Medical Center community, Dean Reyes and Dr. Borromeo sincerely thank the UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc., AFUSA, Inc. and MAAA-Midwest Chapter for inviting them to this event and for MAAA's support for the dean's trip, which have strengthened our linkages with the alumni.

Our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our alumni, friends and benefactors for their unrelenting support and significant contributions to help our Alma Mater achieve our shared goals.

The Dean visited the affiliated institutions, the St. John's Episcopal Hospital-South Shore (SJEH) in New York and the Affiliated Institute for Medical Education (AIME) in Chicago where our current clinical clerks are doing some core clinical clerkship rotations. She was introduced to Mr. Nelson Toebe, the new CEO of SJEH by Dr. Gilbert Makabali, Chair, Department of Surgery, SJEH and our Associate Clinical faculty member. The Dean together with Dr. Suntay, met the fourth year students to get feedback regarding their clinical electives in the USA.

On behalf of Dr. Borromeo, the Dean also expresses her heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the administration for its assistance in making this trip possible and for their full support in continuously providing excellent quality education and health care services in the Medical Center.

AFUSA Scholars and Faculty Awardees for 2011-2012

Academic Excellence (Top Ten)

First Year (Descending Order) - Darell C. Wuisan, Vincent F. Castillo, Jeryl T. Yu, Marrion U. Abong, Katrina T. Roberto, Charles L. Rivera, Kea T. Capiro, Erika U. Reyes, Janine C. Macaspac, Rolando I. Rabot, Jr.

Second Year - Christian N. Tan, Giancarlo T. Cusi, Maria Fe F. Bautista, Juan M. Gonzales, Dennis L. Naval, Maria Angela M. Matabang, Nikko R. Cablao, Nonia R. Samson, Ted R. Dumo, Stephanie A. Jordan

Third Year - Randall F. Tan, Maria Regina C. Santos, Dale B. Dizon, Charli T. Mella, Katrina L. Ventura, Maria Ricci S. Relente,

Reinald C. Cunanan & Terence L. Burgo, Marielle M. Manuel, Maria Len A. Camaclang, Cris P. Jacoba.

Best Teachers

Basic Sciences - Drs. Araceli P. Jacoba, Ramon M. Javier, Ronaldo G. Macaraig, Floro B. Madarcos, Milagros B. Rabe, Alfareta T. Reyes, Natividad A. Salazar, Rochelle C. Valera, Ma. Petrina X. Zotomayor, Ma. Cristina E. Zulueta.

Clinical Sciences - Drs. Andres D. Borromeo, Alberto T. Chua, Jose G. De Grano, Maribeth T. De Los Santos, Ernan C. Fandalian, Isauro Q. Guiang, Jr., Marietta C. Olaiivar, Ma. Felicidad A. Soto, Norberto Lingling D. Uy, Ricardo C. Zotomayor.

The UERMMMC College of Medicine is now accepting applications for the freshman class of 2013-2014. The application form can be downloaded from www.uerm.edu.ph. For more information, please contact the Registrar's Office at 011-632-713-3315 or registrar@uerm.edu or imeldadelosreyes@yahoo.com. In addition to academic and documentary requirements, applicants must take the NMAT (National Medical Admission Test) administered in Manila or Los Angeles and submit to an interview. Foreign students are encouraged to apply early and complete their application by January 15, 2013. Names of successful applicants will be posted online.

Mailbag

Dear UERM Batch '72 & AFUSA Members,

Greetings! I am Roberta Eimille De Joya, one of your past scholars from UERM Batch 2009. I would like to share with you all some updates regarding myself and my medical endeavors so far.

I am currently living in San Dimas, California with my husband and I am hoping to get into a residency program in the upcoming match. I have passed all 3 required USMLEs and have been certified by the ECFMG. I have also obtained my PTAL from the Medical Board of California. In the past 3 weeks, I have been shadowing a cardiologist in Beverly Hills. It has been a truly enriching experience for me. I am also looking forward to starting a volunteer position at Cedars Sinai Medical Center so that I can be more exposed to patients and also to clinical lab research.

Whenever I reflect on how far I have come since Day 1 of medical school, I always remember those who have stood by me all through those years. Aside from my family who have been so patient and so giving, I feel that the support I received from all of you paved the way for my dreams coming true. It has been a long journey but patience and hard work truly pays off.

I will keep you updated and hopefully the next time I write to you, I will be bringing you good news about my residency.

Thank you so much & God bless!

Sincerely

Roberta De Joya-De Keyser, M.D.,
Class '09 mimay_de_joya@yahoo.com

Doctor-Politician is Cuyegkeng lecturer

For the first time ever, this year's Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial lecturer is a doctor-politician. His choice by the alumni association leadership and convention organizers is a very significant and timely one. Not only is it relevant in the Philippines but also equally important here.



For one, the current socioeconomic conditions on both sides of the Pacific, in so far as health care delivery and vital statistics are concerned, point to dwindling resources and rising disparities in wellness. This climate calls for a fresh way of solving these seemingly intractable problems. It must involve a change of heart and this means a new kind of leadership.

Dr. Eduardo Firmalo, Class '76, exemplifies this hopeful trend. First and last, he is a physician in the best traditions of Hippocrates, Dr. Jose Rizal and of our *alma mater*. From his humble beginnings in Odiongan, Romblon, to the formulation of his humanitarian ideals and honing of his skills as an obstetrician & gynecologist at UERMMMC and UP-PGH, and to his steady rise in professional and civic involvement, Dr. Firmalo heeded the late Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng's admonition to excellence, humility, and service.

His people embraced his ideas and found strength in his character when they elected him for a term in Congress as their lone representative. They recognized that he is a man of his word when they voted him twice as governor of Romblon. His governing platform of HEART emphasizes health, education, agricultural and economic upliftment and good governance.

Yet he finds time for family. He and his wife, Leoncia of Class '77, raised 4 children. In 2008, he was honored with the prestigious *Ulirang Ama* Award. He continues to immerse himself in the public delivery of health services personally leading local medical missions in his province. As a well-grounded doctor, he is uniquely suited to implement the health care programs of the government especially after the devolution act of the early 90's. He is also presented with the opportunity to help in the Aquino administration's expansion of PhilHealth, a low-cost health insurance program.

The former prime minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir, said yesterday that doctors make not only good but better leaders. Dr. Firmalo's political journey validates that. We can say that as UERM graduates such desire to serve partly comes from lessons we learned a long time ago in the halls of our school.

It is in that kindred spirit that we welcome Dr. Ed Firmalo!



Aesculapius Ex

Newsletter of the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation,
U.S.A., Inc.

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Advisers: Elected officers of the Board of Trustees.

UERMMMCMAAAI

UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association in America, Inc.



Northern California
Chapter



*We cordially
invite you to the
celebration of
this memorable
event in the
City by the Bay!
- Carmen A. Agcaoili,
M.D., President*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 5, 2012 - THURSDAY

Golf Tournament, 7am - 4pm

6:00 am Assembly at Hotel Lobby

Contact : Dr. Emmanuel Cepe (408)823-6915

Mr. Dino Africa(925)470-0303

Registration, 11am - 5pm

Registration Desk at the North Ballroom

UERMMMCFAUSA, Inc. Annual Meeting, 12 - 5pm
(The Foundation Meeting is open to the membership.)

Lunch tickets required

Yerba Buena, Salon 5 & 6

Exhibits & Alliance Silent Auction, 10am - 5pm

Nob Hill A & B

Welcome & Fellowship Night, 6pm - 12.01am

Dinner/Dance (Tickets required)

(Theme: Mardi Gras)

Attire: Business Casual or Mardi Gras costume

Yerba Buena, Salon 8

JULY 6, 2012 - FRIDAY

Last day of Registration, 7am - 1pm

Registration Desk at North Ballroom

Exhibits & Alliance Silent Auction, 7am - 4pm

Nob Hill A & B

Continental Breakfast for CME Attendees, 7am - 9am

Yerba Buena (Tickets Required), Salon 7

CME (See page 11), 7:30am - 4:30pm

Yerba Buena, Salon 7

Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture, 12n - 1pm

“Relevance of Politics to Healthcare in the Philippines”

Keynote Speaker: Gov. Eduardo C. Firmalo, M.D. ‘76

Yerba Buena, Salon 8

Jubilarians’ Nite, 6pm-12:01am

Dinner/Dance (Tickets Required), Yerba Buena, Salon 8

JULY 7, 2012 - SATURDAY

“Mentoring the Next Generation,” 7am - 8:30am

Sponsored by the MarVADC Chapter

with Continental Breakfast – Hosted by MAAA, Inc

Yerba Buena, Salon 7

Exhibits and Alliance Auction, 8am - 12n

Nob Hill A & B

8:40 -11am

UERMMMCMAAAI General Meeting & Election, 8:40am - 11am

*ALL Alumni Members are requested to attend. Lifetime members and annual members registered & paid by June 7, 2012 are eligible to vote. Election ends at 10am. Election winners will be announced at the end of the general meeting.

“School’s Wish List”

Yerba Buena, Salon 7 (Election in Salon 6)

Open Forum with Dean Alfaretta Luisa T. Reyes, 11am - 12n

Yerba Buena, Salon 7

Free Time, 12n - 6pm

“Legacy Keepers” Luncheon, 12:15pm - 1:30pm

Tickets Required, Yerba Buena, Salon 4 & 5

Officers & Board of Directors’ Meeting, 2 - 5pm

Yerba Buena, Salon 4 & 5

Gala Dinner/Dance, 6pm - 12:01

Tickets required. Attire Formal, Barong or Black Tie

Yerba Buena, Salon 7 & 8

JULY 8, 2012 - SUNDAY

Masses at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12:15pm & 5:15pm

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church (next to the SF Marriott)

Checkout Time, 12n

Thanks to all and God bless your trip!

CME: "REJUVENATION - ADDING YEARS TO YOUR LIFE AND LIFE TO YOUR YEARS"

COURSE DIRECTOR : **Agnes Y. Alikpala, M.D.** Pediatrician, Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation and the California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, CA.
DESCRIPTION OF CONFERENCE:

The highest population growth is in the elderly. In the 20th Century, the population growth for under 65 years old tripled while the over 65 years old increased by a factor of 11. By 2030, one out of 5 Americans will be senior citizens. The conference will focus on diseases that are prevalent in the elderly and what can be done to prevent them as well as modify the morbidity in this age group.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Internists, family practitioners, psychiatrists, and surgeons.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase knowledge on the scientific basis for the aging process.
2. To increase awareness of the prevalence of disease associated with advancing age.
3. To emphasize the problems specific to these conditions in the elderly.
4. To discuss the modalities available to promote a healthier, happier, and more independent life among the elderly population.

ACCREDITATION:

This clinical conference is jointly sponsored with the Philippine Medical Association in Chicago which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This program meets the criteria for 8.0 hours in Category 1 of the Physicians Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The UERMMMCAAAL is very grateful to the PMA in Chicago, to the MAAAL-No.CA Chapter, to our entire Faculty, Speakers, Staff, and Volunteers who helped make this event a success.

CME PROGRAM SCHEDULE – JULY 6, 2012

San Francisco Marriott Marquis –
Yerba Buena Salon 7

Morning Session: Moderator: Roger Espiritu, M.D.

7:00 – 7:50 am Registration, Exhibits and Continental Breakfast
to 9:30 am (tickets required)

7:50 - 8:00 am **Welcome and Introductions, Agnes Y. Alikpala, M.D.**

8:00 - 8:40 am **The Heart of the Matter**

Ernesto Chua, M.D.

8:40 – 9:20 am **Current Trends in Hormonal Therapy, with Emphasis on Osteoporosis**

Hedy J. K. Mountbatten- Windsor, M.D.

9:20- 10:00 am **Optimal Preservation and Rejuvenation of Urologic Aspects of Men's Health**

Peter Bretan, M.D.

10:00-10:15 am **Coffee Break and Exhibits**

10:15-10:55 am **Telomere Length, Stress, Aging, and Spirituality: Is There a Gene-Spiritual Connection?**

Albert Gaw, M.D.

10:55-11:35 am **Alzheimer's Disease – An Update**

Bhagwan Moorjani, M.D.

11:35 –12:15pm **Evaluation and Management of Scoliosis in the Adult Population**

Rolando Puno, M.D.

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. **LUNCHEON**

Dr. Jose Cuyekeng Memorial Lecture: "The Relevance of Politics to Healthcare in the Philippines".

Keynote Speaker - Governor Eduardo C. Firmalo, M.D.'76

Moderator: Benjamin Rigor '62,

Afternoon Session: Moderator: Agnes Y. Alikpala, M.D.

1:45 - 2:25 pm **Aging Skin: Myth and Science**

Ida Tiongco, M.D.

2:25 - 3:15 pm **The Recent Advances in Cerebral Protection / Resuscitation from Ischemia**

Benjamin Rigor, M.D.

3:15 - 3:30 pm **Coffee Break and Viewing of Exhibits**

3:30 - 5:00 pm **Young Alumni Development Program Grant Recipients**

Sponsored by the MarVADC Chapter

5:00 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

Thank you so much Northern California!

Abad Santos Quasha Ma. Isabel, Abalos- Galito Marietta, Abarquez- Agcaoili Carmencita, Abarquez- Escuadro Catharine, Abella- Abellera Nilda Agnes, Abella-Columna Elma, Abunto Maria Vanessa, Adrineda Miriam, Alikpala Agnes, Alindogan- Echols Mina, Amay- Celli Teresita, Amores Augusto Jr Cesar, Andal Galicano, Aquino Efren , Aramburo Jose Jr., Baclig Venancia, Bago Nelia, Balderama Manrico, Ballesteros Jose, Baltazar Ed, Bautista-Dassah Norma, Brizueta- Bach Victorina, Bruel Brian, Buenviaje Milagros, Bunyi-Teopengco Maria Elena, Cabalfin- Kaw Cristeta, Cabebe Abraham, Cacho Alvin, Cadaing- Sugay Abigail, Cajator Pedro, Calastro Edna, Carbonell Vicente, Carpio Francisco Jr. Cauilan- Pagmanua Cynthia, Cepe Emmanuel, Chan William Henry, Chung William Stephen, Comilang Carolyn Cabansag, Corpuz Jr Alfonso, Cortes Robert, Cruz- Brenneman Karen Yballe, Cu Joseph Elmer, Cua Ernesto, Cua-Lee Sonia,

Dag Edward James, De Gamu Teresita, De la Paz Regalado, De Leon- Tallman Maria Theresa, De Vera Joseph Elmer, Dugaduga- Acenas Maria Antoinette, Escay Mari, Espiritu Roger, Espiritu Rogelio, Estrera, Jr. Luis, Fermin Ramon, Fernandez MaryAnn, Ferrer Ramon, Franco Jon Galoso-Tagle Amanda, Galvez Geraldine, Garcia- Agtarap Cynthia, Gascon Diana, Gaw Albert, Genato Edgar, Golbinez Lilibeth, Hernandez Rogelio Manalo, Ignacio Elmer, Ilem-Killen Lourdes, Jimenez-Bago Nelia, Kennedy-Fontila Barbara Arcilla, Kian Majd Aurora, Kong-Sibal Jeannette, Lardizabal-Carnazzo Araceli Valdez, Layug Elizabeth, Le Guyader Yannick Marie, Lee Benjamin Yun, Leyba Mauro, Jr., Lin Jimmy Jing, Lopez Alberto, Lumas-Urbano Julia, Manalo Erlinda Daos, Manimtim Danilo, Mendoza Joseph, Minh Le William, Montano- Othman Marichelle, Morando Jr. Mario, Movido- Dalida Lilian, Nolasco Antonio, Orate Edgar Crisostomo,

Pabustan Cesar Cosme, Padilla Eva Sylvia, Paelmo- Valle Christina, Palmore David, Pamintuan- Manio Clementina, Pangilinan Arturo, Panlilio Froilan, Paraso- Zarate Ruena, Pardo- Harner Betina, Pe Jean, Perez- Hoffmann Victorina, Punzalan Raymundo, Ramos Jr. Emiliano, Retodo Albert Vincent, Reyes Raymond, Roco Carmelo, Roth Allan Carl, Rueda- Cu Joselli, Saddul Oscar, San Valentin-Caling Paura Maria, Santa Maria-Cepe Joanabel, SIBAL Jose Baltazar IV, Sinnaco Cesar Lopez, Siojo- Adorable Praxedes Soriano-Zapanta Lydia, Casuga Marthie, Sumayo-Castaneda Annabel, Tanpoco Antonio Jr., Tayag Cynthia, Teopengco Luis, Tinio- Buenviaje Milagros, Tolentino Arminda Samaniego, Tolentino Marife Rossana, Tolentino-Macaraeg Anita Samaniego Annie, Tsang William Cheng & Joyce William, Valen Ned Marling, Valencia Benito Orpiano Jr., Valencia- Wilson Vanessa, Vera Cruz- Quebec Lydia, Versales Gilda del Rosario, Victoria Rafaelito Sollesa, Victoria Rafael Sollesa Jr , Yee Randall Kelvin.



Hamor, Moorjani vie for president-elect

Two candidates have thrown their hats into the ring for president-elect: Dr. Bhagwan “Bob” Moorjani (above), a California pediatric neurologist belonging to the silver jubilarian Class of 1987 and Dr. Paul Hamor (see board photo) of Class ‘70, a Las Vegas internist-nephrologist and current president of the Nevada Chapter.

Both have served in various leadership capacities. Moorjani as CBL committee chair worked on the adoption of a streamlined CBL last year. Hamor steered his chapter toward greater participation with the national alumni organization. Bob wants to get younger alumni more involved while Paul as a new board member has provided fresh and sound ideas for the body.

The position of president-elect has become more vital as the new CBL abolished the position of vice-president and has given its functions to the president-elect. This means that the new president-elect will now be an active part of the president’s administration.

Do you have medicine samples to spare? Please put them in shoeboxes and drop them in *balikbayan* boxes at the alumni convention. Dr. Victoria Camacho, former AFUSA trustee, will take care of shipping them to PhilMedsCharity. Thanks!

Visit the UERMMMCA 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!

Introducing MAAAI’s Brand New Board of Directors



*Dr. Suntay
President*



*Dr. Manio
Vice-President
NC Commissioner*



*Dr. Flores
Secretary*



*Dr. Padilla
Secretary*



*Dr. Pastor
Southern California
Auditor*



*Dr. Magno
Midwest
Chairman*



*Dr. Agcaoili
Northern California
Executive Director*



*Dr. Gamiao
Michigan
Member*



*Dr. Hamor
Nevada
Member*



*Dr. Battad
MarVaDC
Member*



*Dr. Lucas
Northeast
Member*



Ballon-Reyes to stress unity

President-elect Dr. Neda Ballon-Reyes ‘71, an obstetrician-gynecologist from southern California will be inaugurated as the 12th president of the alumni association during the gala night at next month’s convention and reunion in San Francisco. In a phone interview with the editor, she listed unity at the top of her agenda. She aims to do this by empowering the chapters whose leaders will now sit as directors under the new CBL mandate for a governing board. She vowed to restore MAAAI’s close working relationship with the alumni foundation in pursuit of common goals for UERM. “I will rule by consensus and reach out to others especially those who have stayed away from alumni activities,” she added. Another goal she has set is “camaraderie first before money.” By this she meant to remove the barrier of cost that prevents more alumni from attending conventions. “I want them to come and experience the fun and joy of seeing schoolmates and former mentors. If they do, I am sure that they are going to become generous donors for alumni projects!” To avoid problems, she would “request alumni elders to be more proactive in giving advice.”

State of the Alumni Association

By Susan P. Suntay, M.D., President, 2010-2012

Greetings and blessings to all!

The state of our alumni association is **excellent, friendly, and peaceful.**

As the MAAAI President for 2010 – 2012, I am grateful to all the MAAAI Executive and Chapter Officers who assisted and fully cooperated with me and our management team in bringing back the warm camaraderie we have always known thru peace and unity.

I would also like to thank our Dean, Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, for all her advice, Dr. Renato Querubin and Dr. Vickie B. Casibang and the AFUSA Board of Trustees and Officers, for their advice, partnership, and continued support, Mrs. Esther Querubin and the Alliance & Friends, for their great support, and to all the peace-loving and cooperative fellow alumni & members who worked with our administrative team towards our return to a more unified alumni association.

We did it!

EVENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

July 1-4, 2010 : 22nd Annual Convention & Reunion at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel. Very successful! Hosted by the MAAAI – So. CA Chapter. Our thanks goes to Dr. Andy de la Llana, Convention Chairman and Dr. Neda Ballon-Reyes, Co-Chair & President-Elect, and to all the So. CA Chapter Officers & Members. Net Income : \$41, 263.87 . Newly elected (2010 – 2012) MAAAI Officers & Dr. Susan P. Suntay, as President were inducted into office.

July – August 2010: Covered the financial obligations for the programs benefiting the College of Medicine initiated by the previous administration of Dr. Irene I. Manalapaz with the re-issuance of checks for the total of \$45,000 to Dean Tan-Reyes (\$11,000 for initial settlement plus bank fees, \$1,000 a year for the \$30,000 Dr. Felipa Diaz Scholarship Fund directives, \$3,000 of which has already been distributed).

February 2011 – Celebrated the 1st Golden Jubilarians (Class 1961) and the Silver Jubilarians (Class'86) at the Century Hotel in Manila, Philippines. Sponsored by the MAA in Manila, PHL. Congratulations to Dr. Jed Inciong, President, MAA & Officers and Class'86! The MAAAI Executive Council made a decision to honor the \$30,000 Dra.Felipa Diaz Student & Faculty Scholarship Fund to be distributed at \$1,000 annually following Dra. Diaz' wishes.

March 2011 – Fully cooperated with the AFUSA Pre-Convention Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Also attended the successful Biennial Induction Dinner-Dance of the MarVADC Chapter. Congratulations to Dr. Orson Battad, President and thank you to Dr. Nanette Pasatiempo, as outgoing President & her administrative team for a job well done.

July 21-24, 2011 – 23rd Annual Convention & Reunion at the Chicago Downtown Marriott. Very successful and there was a return to peace, unity and camaraderie with all the attending alumni officers and members. Great celebrations for the Golden (Class'61) & the Silver (Class'86) Jubilarians. Celebrated the (30th

Year Anniversary of the UERM-AFUSA, Inc. Our heartfelt thanks to our Co-Host, the MAAAI – Midwest Chapter and to Dr. Zosimo Herrera, Convention Chairman and President, the Midwest Chapter for a job well done. Net Income: \$53,032.17 . The 2011 CBL was approved and ratified. Our thanks to the excellent work of the 2011 CBL Committee and Dr. Bob Moorjani, Chairman-CBL Committee.

January 29, 2012 – MAAAI thru its President, Dr. Susan P. Suntay gave the MML Investment distribution of \$25,000 to Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes for the UERM Student & Faculty Scholarship Grants. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by the Dean, Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, Dr. Neda Ballon-Reyes, and Dr. Suntay. MAAAI also donated \$5,000 to the UERM Iligan City Medical Mission after it was devastated by “Typhoon Sendong”.

May 12, 2012 – MAAAI Executive Council First Pre-Convention Meeting held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel in Chicago, IL. The Council formed the first MAAAI Board of Directors (BOD) according to the 2011 CBL which is comprised of all the Chapter Presidents, and they elected Dr. Fausto O. Magno, President of the Midwest Chapter as its first Chairman of the BOD.

Discussion of preparations for the 24th Annual Convention & Reunion at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel on July 5-8, 2012 and the 2012 Election of Officers Rules and Procedures occurred. Our heartfelt thanks to our Co-Host, the No. CA Chapter and Dr. Carmen A. Agcaoil, Convention Chair & President, No. CA Chapter for all their hard work for the upcoming convention & reunion.

May 12, 2012 – Inducted the newly elected President, Dr. Fausto O. Magno and the Officers of the MAAAI-Midwest Chapter at their Induction Dinner-Dance at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel.

JULY 7, 2012 – ELECTION OF THE MAAAI Executive Officers. Chairman of the Nomination & Election Committee: Dr. Edgar Banez. Co-Chairman : Dr. Neda Ballon-Reyes, President-Elect.

CANDIDATES: **President-Elect:** Dr. Policarpio (Paul) Hamor '70 and Dr. Bhagwan (Bob) Moorjani '87; **Secretary:** Dr. Irene R. Igual '76; **Treasurer:** Dr. Eva Padilla-Wright '86 **Auditor :** Dr. Ma.Teresa (Teri) Pastor '78.

PERTINENT ELECTION RULES according to the 2011 CBL: Lifetime and registered and paid members 30 days prior to election can vote. No Absentee ballots or proxy votes are allowed. Election is on Saturday, July 7, 2012 from 8 to 10 am only.

We hope to see you all in San Francisco on July 5 - 8. To register, go to www.SignUpMaster.com/uerm or www.uermmmc.org or contact Dr. Carmen Agcaoil or Dr. Tina Manio or any officers for further information.

God bless everyone and safe travels.

At your service, Susan.

You're the sunshine in our winter

By Ernesto L. Chua, M.D., Class '62



Speech delivered on behalf of the Golden Jubilarians at the Convocation Honoring the Golden and Silver Jubilarians during the 2012 Alumni Homecoming at UERMMMC, Feb, 7, 2012.

Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Hon. Wilson Young, UERMMMC President Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, College of Medicine Dean Dr. Alfareta Tan, Alumni Association President Dr. Jesus Inciong, honored guest speaker and esteemed classmate and colleague Dr. Joven Cuanang, respected faculty members, distinguished guests, fellow jubilarians, fellow alumni, fellow students ladies and gentlemen.

This heart-warming and uplifting ceremony, punctuated by words and actions of recognition and appreciation, highlighted by the pronouncements and wisdom of our guest speaker, honored by the presence of distinguished men and women in medicine and in the community, organized and supported by people of dedication and expertise, fueled by the experience of the old and inspired by the promise of the young, has opened the floodgates of emotions, reinforced if not revived memories, and once again brought out the youth in us, strengthening our belief, if not hope, that each additional year we live is not necessarily a measure of how near we are to the end but how far we are from the beginning. At the same time however, the seemingly eternal hope of youthful feeling has to be tempered by the reality that no one lives forever. Therefore, before I expound on the emotions and memories, allow me first to deplore the risk of procrastination and encourage all alumni to participate as much as possible in matters relating to our alma mater and alumni, be it social, service, academics or economics.

The poem entitled Tomorrow, written with anonymity, drives home this point, in a much better way that I can express. It goes: "Tomorrow I'm going to take the trip, the one I've always planned. Tomorrow I'll put my money down, on that special piece of land. Tomorrow I'm going fishing and be out in the sun. Tomorrow is going to be the day, the day that I have fun. Yet as the weeks fade into months, and quickly into years, and gladness turns to memories and some of it to tears, suddenly tomorrow is lost to yesterday. So if there is going to be tomorrow, it had better be today!"

Let us then be not be too busy making a living that we forget

how to live; let us then not be too busy focused on keeping material things that we forget how to share.

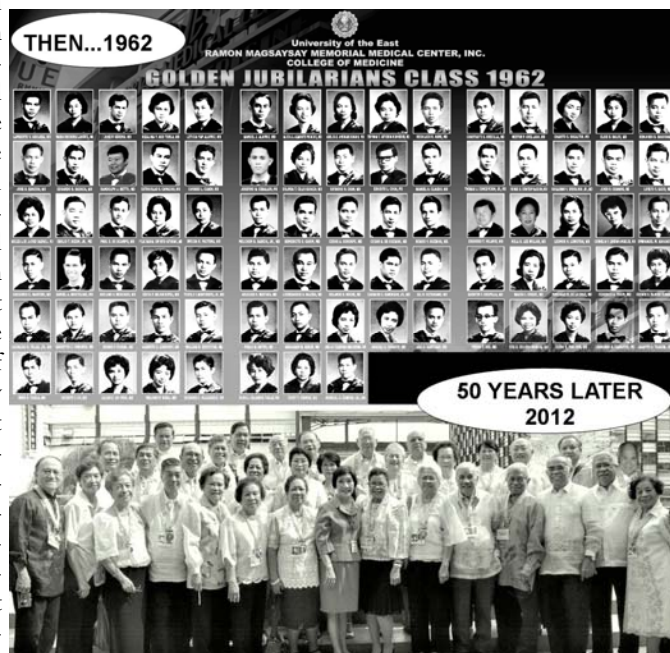
So what kinds of emotions are rushing through the floodgates? To name a few: pride, sense of accomplishment, feeling of belonging, contentment and gratitude. We are grateful to the Lord for allowing us to live long enough to enjoy our golden jubilee and along the way offering us many opportunities to help our fellow men and raise our families. We are grateful to our Alma Mater and its faculty members for giving us the basic medical know-how, arming us with the skills of coping, instilling in us to seek more knowledge and skills, and nurturing in us a culture of service. We are grateful to the administration, our Alma Mater and the alumni association for myriads of things, specially for making all the events of these two weeks happen in grand fashion. We are grateful to our classmates and their families for all the memorably enjoyable reunions we have had. One other

emotion, I want to highlight is happiness which we are immeasurably enjoying and reminds me of one of my favorite passages in Florante at Laura: "Nag babalik man din, parang hinahanap, dito ang panahon masayang lumipas. Na kung maliligo sa tubig aagap, ng huwag abutin ng tabsing sa dagat."

And memories? With quantity comes class statistics, with quality comes the medical knowledge that we learned which is a given and need not be discussed and the lessons in the art of medicine and the philosophy of life that I will share with you momentarily. First the statistics such as 230 freshmen, 141 sophomores, 104 juniors, 87 seniors, 87 in-

terns, and 83 graduates; 83% went abroad, and 6% came back mainly to teach. In the areas of practice, 22% have been in anesthesiology, 14% in surgery, 14% in medicine, 12% in family practice, 10% in pediatrics, 6% in cardiology, 2.4% in pulmonology, 1.2% each in hematology, gastroenterology, OB-GYN, pathology and rehabilitation. Of course there are overlaps between practice specialty and practice environment in the case of 7.2% who are in academic medicine and 3.6% in military medicine. Another set of numbers tells us that 19% have passed away, 54% have retired, 27% are still in practice, 5% of whom are full time. But enough of statistics.

What about the lessons in humanism in medicine and philosophy in life that we learned from the teachings and behavior of



You're the sunshine . . . From page 14

mentors who tremendously helped us through more than 5 decades? To name a few: Dean Jose Cuyegkeng admonished us from the outset, that once one has chosen the medical profession, he is a student forever. He inculcated in us discipline and the love for studying if not the fear of what would happen if we did not study. Dean and Secretary of Health Juan Salcedo shared his wisdom like a sage and was like a father to us. Medicine Professor Edward Fang would end our physical diagnosis sessions with humility in these words: "comfort always, ameliorate sometimes, cure never". Dr. Alejandra Paz Garcia in History of Medicine would emphasize spirituality by quoting: "I treat, God cures". Dr. Romulo Guevarra Senior of Pharmacology trained us to be articulate, succinct and speak with substance. Whenever we tried to cover unpreparedness with loquaciousness he cut us down and said: "sit down, you are having diarrhea of words and constipation of ideas". Dr. Romeo Atienza of Preventive Medicine emphasized readiness with his 5Ps: namely, Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. When I was a young instructor in preventive medicine, worried about forgetting clinical medicine by being in basic science, Acting Dean Catalino Daroy encouraged me when I sought his advice, to take night calls with the internal medicine residents saying that "as long as you bear the title Doctor of Medicine, people would expect you to promote health and know how to care for the sick."

As members of the second batch we have had the unique opportunity to witness and be active participants of history in the making as University President Francisco Dalupan embarked on his non-profit, non-stock philanthropic approach to education, as President Carlos Garcia and Mrs. Ramon Magsaysay graced and honored the ceremonies at which the UE College of Medicine was renamed UERMMM, and as the science building and hospital were being built, to name a few. As founding editor of the *Aesculapian* in 1959, I was able to chronicle many of the milestones in the genesis and metamorphosis of this great institution during its early years, through the eyes of a student, through the eyes of innocence, through the eyes of awe, through the eyes of respect, expectations and anticipation. As former editor of the *Alumni Newsletter* in the US and as erstwhile president of the Northern California Chapter of our alumni association, I continued this task with more degree of maturity through the eyes of gratitude, through the eyes of love, through the eyes of understanding, through the eyes of hope, through the eyes of concern and sometimes lamentably through the eyes of fear for our Alma Mater. In the last several years however, during visits and sometimes giving lectures here, reading publications, interacting with students, faculty and administration, working with fellow alumni in the United States, attending the lecture series at UERMMM last week, and learning about the UERM new research division, I have realized that reality is here and that UERMMM in my mind and in my heart, is and will be as effective, as focused and as precise as laser. Permit me then to coin the acronym LASER for UERMMM which stands for Leadership, Accountability, Service, Education and Research!

We truly are basking in the sunshine that all of you have kindly and lovingly brought to the winter of our lives. For this and many, many more, and on behalf of Class 1962, I thank you all, from the four chambers of my heart.

UERM loves Iligan From page 16

TRAVEL FROM CAGAYAN DE ORO AIRPORT TO ILIGAN CITY TOOK MORE THAN TWO HOURS BY LAND. WE PROCEEDED TO ILIGAN CITY HALL WHERE WE PAID A COURTESY CALL TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR LAWRENCE CRUZ.

AFTER CHECKING INTO OUR HOTEL, DR. YANEZ'S DOZEN CLASSMATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL PROVIDED US WITH THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION AND THEN REAL WORK BEGAN.

FIRST STOP WAS BARANGAY STA. FILOMENA. THERE WERE 375 TENTS WITH TWO TO THREE FAMILIES LIVING IN EACH. WE SAW MORE THAN 700 PATIENTS THERE. WE PROVIDED FREE MEDICINES, BALLOONS AND CHOCOLATES. ONE PATIENT ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL, HIS BLOOD PRESSURE WAS 260/160 MM HG.

NEXT WAS BARANGAY LUINAB. IT WAS RAINING ON AND OFF, IT WAS STILL WARM AND HUMID. THE MISSION WENT ON AS SCHEDULED. WE SAW PATIENTS UNDER THE MANGO TREES WITH WOODEN BENCHES AND TABLES BUT NOBODY CARED. WE LISTENED TO THEIR COMPLAINTS, GAVE FREE MEDICINES. WE HEARD THEIR HEARTBREAKING STORIES OF SURVIVAL, THE PAIN AND SUFFERING FROM LOSING THEIR LOVED ONES AND THE MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM THE FLOODS AND SURE DEATH.

"I WAS ABOUT TO DROWN" ONE GENTLEMAN SAID " A BOAT SUDDENLY APPEARED AND I GOT ON IT. THERE WAS NOBODY THERE, ONLY A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT. I JUMPED OUT WHEN IT WAS NEAR THE SHORE AND I WAS SAVED."

A WOMAN WAS COMPLAINING OF CHEST PAIN, SHE WAS 35 YEARS OLD. I TOLD HER SHE IS TOO YOUNG TO HAVE A HEART PROBLEM, SHE SUDDENLY STARTED CRYING. " I LOST EVERYTHING, I HAD THREE CHILDREN, I FOUND ONE DEAD, THE OTHER TWO ARE STILL MISSING."

WE SAW MORE PATIENTS IN OTHER TENT AREAS INCLUDING 75 FAMILIES FROM THE ORCHID SUBDIVISION TOTALLY WIPED OUT BY THE FLOODS. SAME COMPLAINTS, SAME STORIES. IT WAS RAINING.

WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE RELIEF GOODS TO 500 FAMILIES. WE GAVE AWAY SCHOOL BAGS, RICE, PLATES, BOWLS, GLASSES, SPOONS, FORKS AND DRY NOODLES. WE KNEW IT WAS NOT ENOUGH BUT WE HOPED WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE A RAY OF HOPE TO THE VICTIMS WHO HAVE LOST ALMOST EVERYTHING.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS; UERM MAAI, UERM MAASC, PMASC, MAHARLIKA LIONS CLUB, USA HOME HEALTH, HALIGI NG BATA, TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION, PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, NABISCO, TANDUAY, ALLIED BANK, ASIA BREWERY AND GMA FOUNDATION (CHANNEL 7) AND MANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL DONORS FOR THEIR LOVE AND INVALUABLE SUPPORT IN THE LOVE ILIGAN MEDICAL MISSION ON VALENTINES WEEK.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY BROTHER, ART, FOR ACCOMPANYING ME IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

UERMM loves Iligan

By Edgar Banez, M.D., Past President Southern California Chapter & National MAAAI

ILIGAN, A CITY DEVASTATED BY TYPHOON SENDONG IN DECEMBER 2011, WHERE ABOUT 1,500 PEOPLE PERISHED AND MORE THAN 700 STILL MISSING, RECEIVED A DIFFERENT KIND OF LOVE THIS VALENTINE SEASON.

A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, NINETEEN FROM THE USA AND ELEVEN FROM UERM JOINED TOGETHER ON A ONE-AND-A-HALF HOUR FLIGHT TO CAGAYAN DE ORO RIGHT AFTER THE UERM GALA NIGHT WITH A 50% AIR FARE DISCOUNT COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE AIR LINES.

THE GROUP INCLUDED FORMER DEAN DR. GING PAREDES AND PEDIATRICS CHAIRMAN DR. MILA BAUTISTA. ALSO INCLUDED WERE ILIGAN NATIVES DR. HENRY YANEZ AND DR. AMADO SAN LUIS. DERMA KING DR. EFREN PALABYAB AND THREE RESIDENTS EACH FROM PEDIATRICS AND INTERNAL MEDICINE COMPLETED THE LOCAL UERM CONTINGENT.

THE US GROUP CAME MOSTLY FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE CHAPTER DR. BOY DIAZ, DR. CITA SAN DIEGO, DR. MARIVIC BENDEBEL, DR. CALINICA SEMENSE, MR. PEDRO RAMIREZ OF HALIGI NG BATA AND DR. ORSON BATTAD FROM VIRGINIA AND NURSES FROM HEALTH CARE SERVICES INTERNATIONAL COMPLETED THE US VOLUNTEERS. *Continued on page 15*



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