



Aesculapius Ex

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Plano, Texas, U.S.A.

Newsletter of the UERMMM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

Year XXXII, July 8, 2014

Welcome to Vegas!



The new Nevada Chapter rolls out the red carpet for all especially the celebrating classes led by '89 (silver) and '64 (gold). Savvy hosts as they are, their third at bat in the past decade, the Nevadans led by Dr. Tess Melecoton have pulled all the stops to give us a memorable weekend.

Indulge yourselves at three successive nights of parties (*Aloha* welcome reception, *Gatsby*-themed jubilarian night and, the *Gold & Silver* gala).

For the knowledge-hungry, have your fill at the two-day 8-hour category 1 CME on *Healthcare - The Law, The Delivery and the Advances*. For the weary, be inspired by AFUSA's first Wilmer Heceta Memorial Lecture on day 1, the Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture on day 2, and a mass on departure day.

For the politically and socially driven, there are meetings galore: alumni foundation, alumni association general assembly, elections and lively class meetings. And if the spirit moves you, support alumni programs that help students and faculty at UERM. So come! Reconnect, reminisce, recommit!

What is good in Vegas, does not stay in Vegas. Happy reunion!

Details of pages 10 - 11.

First Dr. Wilmer G. Heceta Memorial Lecture slated

The alumni foundation launches the Dr. Wilmer G. Heceta Memorial Lecture with Dr. Estherbelle A. Heceta, the late Dr. Heceta's widow, also of the Pioneer Class '61, as its inaugural speaker at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 17 at the Venetian. The program to be co-sponsored by Class '73 and the foundation kicks off the weekend-long 26th Alumni Convention and Reunion.



Dr. Estherbelle Heceta, *Ate Belle* to many of us, hails from Bacolod City, Negros Occidental in Western Visayas. She graduated *cum laude* from Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental where she met *Kuya* Wilmer. From then on, they became not only classmates but soulmates for life. Both topped the first batch of medicine at UERMMM, *cum laude*. They got married in 1962 and came to the U.S. She became an anesthesiologist, taught briefly at University of Tennessee at Memphis, practiced in the Ohio Valley area and Wheeling, West Virginia until 2000. She held leadership positions in various professional and ethnic organizations. She has three daughters who are all professionals and seven grandchildren, one of whom is a pre-med student at West Virginia University. After her husband's death, she moved from Wheeling, West Virginia to Orlando, Florida where she now lives with her oldest daughter Cris and oldest granddaughter Danielle.

She will speak on the legacy of her husband. Since his passing on January 23, 2012, she has continued his advocacy for UERMMM as the honorary chairperson of the Heceta Endowment Fund formerly known as the 333 Endowment Fund. As originally conceived by *Kuya Wilmer*, the fund seeks to raise \$1 million which will be kept in perpetuity. Only its earnings could be used for program activities designated by the Board of Trustees. The fund so far has 148 donors who have contributed \$90,000. The Fundraising Committee of AFUSA is making a concerted effort to rally support for the fund.

The luncheon lecture is open to all alumni. For reservations please contact the foundation secretary, Dr. Ruby Reyes (606-320-8215, rreyes.uerm78@gmail.com).

The Board invites all of you to the 1st Heceta Memorial Lecture



The new Board of Trustees with 4 Chairmen Emeriti, Dean Reyes & Dr. Andy Borromeo

Welcome to the new trustees

Jacqueline Gamiao, M.D.

Dr. Gamiao, Class '87, is an internist-endocrinologist in Livonia, Michigan. She served as the Michigan Chapter president and member of the alumni association board of trustees.

Clementina Manio, M.D.

Dr. Manio, Class '75, is currently co-chair of the AFUSA Strategic Planning Committee, a past executive vice-president, national convention commissioner, and Northern California Chapter president of the alumni association. She is a pediatrician in South San Francisco.

Leandro Maranan, M.D.

Dr. Maranan belongs to Class '76, trained in EENT at UERMMH, served as junior faculty at UERMMMC College of Medicine while practicing ophthalmology in the Philippines. He became an ophthalmology and interventional cardiology researcher in the U.S.

Elma Pascual, B.S.N.

Mrs. Pascual, nursing Class '70, has an extensive experience as a surgical nurse and nursing administrator both in the U.S. and the Philippines. She served as board member, chief fundraiser and treasurer of the UERMMMC College of Nursing Alumni USA Foundation.

Ruby Mae B. Ong, D.M.D.

Dr. Ong earned her dental degree at Centro Escolar University in Manila in 1986 then specialized in orthodontics and restorative dentistry. She practiced in the Philippines for more than 25 years, received the Most Outstanding Dentist Award in 1990. She was involved in several dental missions there.

Trustees for the 2011 - 2014 term



Dr. Manio



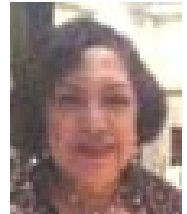
*Dr. Pasatiempo
Vice-President*



Mr. Suguitan

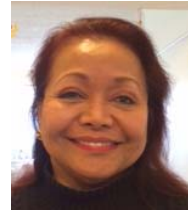


Dr. Valen



Dr. Windsor

Trustees for the 2012 - 2015 term



*Dr. Casibang
Chairwoman*



Dr. Gamiao



*Dr. Maranan
Assistant Treasurer*



Dr. Raymundo



Dr. Torres

Trustees for the 2013 - 2016 term



Dr. Battad



*Dr. Gilo
President*



Dr. Guevara



Dr. Ong



Mrs. Pascual

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*Dr. Ruby Reyes
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UERMMM
C
College of
Medicine*



Dr. Ballon-Reyes, MAAAI President



*Dr. Hamor,
MAAAI,
President-Elect*

AFUSA Snapshot

Years in operation
33

Board chairmen
7

Total donors, percentage of donations
31 corporate (19%), 924 individuals (81%)

Current total assets
\$851,095

Latest annual donations
\$27,670 (49% of total income)

Latest annual investment income
\$28,732 (51% of total income)

Current budget allocations
Total \$98,526 - 71% for project programs (scholarships 65%, faculty development 19%, awards & lectures 12%, community service 3%, library 1%), 29% administration and fund raising

Current scholarship awards
Special honors 20, gold 43 silver 7, partial tuition (bronze) 15, book 30, academic excellence 30, clinical honor roll 10, financial aid 1, College of P.T. 2, PT book scholarship 1

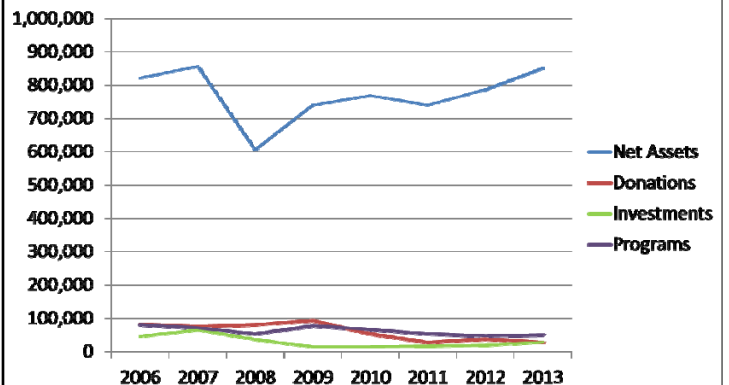
Total scholarship recipients to date
1,143

Total faculty development awards to date
407

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.

AFUSA Finances at a glance



Board Actions



Since the last annual meeting in Washington D.C., the alumni foundation's board of trustees held two teleconferences.

The major actions taken at the annual meeting were: (1) hearing the **reports** of officers and standing committees; (2) **reelection** of trustees Drs. Orson Battad, Elmer Gilo, and Marita Guevara and the **election** of new trustees Dr. Ruby Mae Barnachea-Ong, D.M.D. and Elma Damasco Pascual, B.S.N., R.N.; (3) presentation of the **budget** for fiscal year 2013-2014 allocating \$70,050 (71%) for program activities and \$28,476 (29%) for administration including fundraising. See details in the *AFUSA Snapshot*.

The first teleconference approved the budget as proposed by the FBI Committee. The second one dealt primarily with **disaster relief** in the wake of super typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) that devastated Leyte, Samar, northern Cebu and eastern Iloilo. An *Ad Hoc* Committee formed for this purpose has put forward a 3-point proposal to be taken up in a special teleconference before the annual meeting. Details on page 7 (*CSC*).



Post-DC Convention Message

By Isabelita Barnachea-Casibang, M.D.
Chairwoman, UERMMMCAAFUSA, Inc., 2013-2015

TO MEMBERS OF THE BOT, OFFICERS, EMERITI MEMBERS, ADVISERS, STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, LIAISONS, & UERMMMCI OFFICIALS:

I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Trustees, foundation officers, emeriti members, advisers, community volunteers, special guest speaker, liaison and UERMMMCI officials who attended the 2013 Annual Convention at the Renaissance Hotel. For those who reported and kept their reports as concise as possible per request of the Office of the Chairman, thank you. Without your cooperation we would not have finished on time.

To our special guest speaker, I'd like to convey my deepest gratitude for taking time to speak before our group, to inspire us, and lend a helping hand in our campaign to reach the goal of the Dr. Wilmer Heceta's '333' Fund by agreeing to be the Honorary Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee.

To the UERMMMCI officials that rendered their reports to the Board of Trustees, thank you so very much for the enlightening report about the school improvements, faculty achievements, and the quality of students entering our Alma Mater. I would like to apologize for not having the proper AV to show all

that provided the necessary AVs. Our lack of AV was a decision I had to make because of the heavy expense that we would have incurred for its use. I believe that such amount could be better used to support our projects instead. So, the buck stopped with me.

We elected two new Board Members: Mrs. Elma Pascual, R.N., a member of the SFAC (Scholarship & Financial Aid Committee) since last year and also a member and former officer of the Nursing Foundation, USA; second is Ruby Mae Ong, DMD, a graduate of the UERM College of Dentistry, who has retired after practicing for 28 years in the Philippines, and came to the US. We re-elected current BOT members Dr. Orson Battad, Dr. Elmer Gilo and Dr. Marita Guevarra. Congratulations and, to the new members, welcome to AFUSA.

Again, thank you to everyone,

Vickie

ISABELITA BARNACHEA-CASIBANG, M.D.

Chairman & Member of the Board of Trustees
UERMAFUSA, INC.

6303 West Vein Road, Bowie, MD 20720-4646

www.uermafusa.org (301) 655 0572

The UERMMMCI College of Medicine is now accepting applications for the freshman class of 2015-2016. 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, 2015. Names of successful applicants will be posted online.

UERMMMMC scholarship explained

by Lily Sia-Vargas, M.D., '72
Chair, UERMMMMC Committee on Scholarship



(Editor's Note: *This is originally an appeal for scholarship support recently written by Dr. Vargas to her classmates. It has been edited for publication with her permission.*)

I am writing this letter to clarify certain issues about scholarships. We are requesting sponsors because we only have few left especially for the gold and the silver scholarships. This year we gave the remaining gold scholarship of Dr. Lydia Cohan to a second year student and one silver from Dr. Benching Tan. We only have two available silver scholarships left, one from Dr. Carlos Gotardo, another from Dr. Dick San Pedro. Tuition per semester is now P128 thousands.

For SY 2014-2015, we have **351** student applicants (from SY 2013-2014; 1st year to 3rd year only):

Purely academic honor applicant	- - -	292
Academic and GIA applicant	- - - -	54
Grants-in-aid applicant only	- - - -	35

Grants given: 3 gold and 8 silver; bronze (\$500) 15; book award (\$250) 28; grants-in-aid (tuition fee discount for 1 year in percentage) - 10.3 full tuition

Entrance scholars:

1. University scholars (free tuition and labs + miscellaneous fees) - 36 students
2. President. Dalupan full (free tuition and labs) - 2 students
3. President Dalupan partial (50 % tuition and lab discount) - 15 students
4. Special Honors award (AFUSA - \$400) - 20 students

We also have **Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc.** Continuing Scholarship - 2 students (1 first yr and 1 4th year)

- from Mr. Lucio Tan , from UE Recto , cum laude grad or better, free tuition, lab and miscellaneous + free uniform and allowance.

Academic excellence (1st yr to 3rd yr)

Full scholarship (GWA of 1.75 or better , no grades

lower than 2.5) - 41 students

Partial scholarship (GWA of 2 or better , no grades lower than 2.5) - 99 students

Total expenditures for all of the above according to the UERMMMMC VP for Budget is P16 M/semester or P32 M per year.

We would like to invite you to come and visit the medical center.

1. The Medical, Pediatric, ENT and Ophthalmology departments/wards were renovated last Feb.
2. Renovations at the OB-GYN and Surgery wards rare almost complete.
3. OPD is new.. Operating Room and DR Pay have been renovated.
4. Laboratory, pharmacy and rehab undergoing renovations. The hospital stairway has been renovated.
5. Anatomy will be transferred to its new home - at the old PT department across the street.
6. PT & the new Prosthetics program are. now housed in a new building along Kapiligan St.
7. A new course at UERM is Med Tech.. To follow will be Pharmacy.

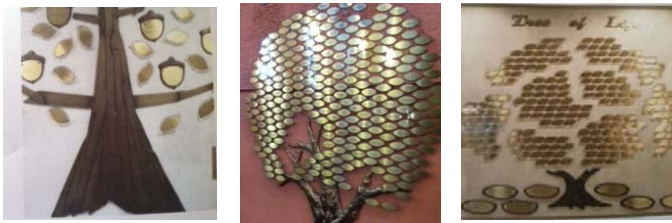
There are a lot of changes happening in the hospital. Our old ER had been renovated too.

Hope to see you soon. Thank you.

(Editor's Post-Note: *Dr. Vargas wrote me saying: "We will be grateful if we can get more donations considering that the tuition in the college is going up . . . and students wanted more grants." Then shares this story about their class scholar: "BTW, our (Class '72) first gold scholar wrote a letter to Chuck Gotardo with her update. Leony Bermejo—she just finished her residency in neurology from Oklahoma and expressed her gratitude again to the class (boldface mine). How nice di ba?" Indeed, Lily, indeed!*)

Standing Committee & Program Activities

Fundraising (FRC) - The committee has proposed a **333 Club** to recognize those who have fulfilled their pledges to donate \$333 each year for three years to the Heceta Endowment Fund. Furthermore, with the help of Dr. Estherbelle A. Heceta as honorary chair of the endowment fund, a renewed effort at contacting alumni donors is underway. It also plans to launch a **Tree of Philanthropy** to “acknowledge the philanthropic spirit of alumni and friends” and to “generate continuing support for the medical center.” It plans to display a tree made of bronze at a designated wall in the UERM campus with brass leaves, bronze roots and fruits made of plaques all bearing the names of donors. Donations will range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. See samples here.



Faculty Development (FDC) - Following are the 2013 recipients of the best teachers award funded by AFUSA:

Dean Esperanza C. Lansang Best Teacher Award for Basic Sciences – Drs. *Luis Emmanuel Esguerra, Araceli Jacoba, Ronaldo Marcelo Macarraig, Floro Madarcos, Adelia Quijano, Milagros Rabe, Alfaretta Luisa Tan-Reyes, Natividad Salazar, Januario Sia-Cunco, Rochelle Valera, Maria Petrina Zotomayor, Ma. Cristina Elma-Zulueta*

Dean Joven R. Cuanang Best Teacher Award for Clinical Sciences - *Milagros Bautista, Andres Borromeo, Ryan Capitulo, Josefina Carlos, Albert Chua, Romeo Divinagracia, Erman Fandialan, Clarissa Angela Layusa, Marietta Olainar, Jose Quebral, Maria Felicidad Soto, Daniel Tan, Norbert Lingling Uy*



EPPE Training Program (May 21-23, 2012, View Park Hotel, Tagaytay City)



10th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (January 16-20, 2013, National University of Singapore, Singapore)

Residents' Awards (RAC) - In the absence of a specific committee on research grants, special mention is made here of the recognition given to AFUSA by the UERMMMC Research Institute of Health Sciences (RIHS) for its continuing funding of awards at the annual research forum held each February. To spur more interest and quality output, an increase in cash prizes is being requested by the RIHS and will be looked into by the AFUSA board.



Faculty awardees (top) and poster presenters (below) with Drs. Sanchez, Jr. and Ampil, II. See list of winning papers presented at the forum next page.



Standing Committee & Program Activities

Finance, Budget & Investment (FBI) - See general outline of budget in *AFUSA Snapshot* and *Board Actions* on **page 3**.

Scholarship & Financial Aid (SFAC) - The College of Nursing Scholarship is a new addition to the program. Details of the scholarship program are found in the Reports page of the website. The following is the list of alumni scholars for the 2013-2014 school year provided by the Dean's Office:

Deans's List (Top Ten)

First Year - Jerald Pelayo, Khris Dy, Jonathan Jamito, James Lingad, Arianned Reyes, Jose Asuncion, Lori Belle Lofranco, Catherine Icalabis, Renan James Lim, Carolyn Legaspi, Kenosis Romblon.

Second Year - Darell Wuisan, Vincent Castillo, Kea Capio, Christine Cocos, Rohana Rollan, Erika Reyes, Rolando Rabot, Katrina Robeerto, Marrion Abong, Melissa Guillermo.

Third Year - Antonio Quiambao, Maria Fe Bautista, Nonia Samson, Nico Dimal, Christine Tan, Nikko Cablao, Stephanie Jordanm Arnold Pascual, Sherida Edding, Maria Matabang, Dennis Naval, Juan Gonzales.

Gold Scholarship (Includes Non-AFUSA Scholar)

Second Year - Diana Dimayuga (UERMMM Class '73)

Third Year - Ferguz Alastra (NTAPP)

Silver Scholarship (Includes Non-AFUSA Scholars)

Second Year - Gerald Boy (UERMMM Class '73), Precious Grace Cabuang (MAAAD), Aleya Lopez (MAAAD), Rachelle Ramilo (UERMMM Class '72).

Third Year - Maria Corazon del Mundo (UERMMM Class '85), Wilbur Dimafiles (Vicente Ames, M.D.), Maria Elaine Lopez (UER Medical Foundation), Jestine Faith Regudo (UERMMM Class '85), Charles Rivera (Dr. Chito Salud, Class '85), Raymond Romulo (UERMMM Class '73).

Fourth Year - Juan Gonzales (UERMMM Class '85)

Bronze Scholarship

Second Year - Stephanie, Espallardo, Erin Fernandez, Charize Galan, Marie Pagaddu, Venus Rojas, Janine Verdejo, Cheyene Violanta.

Third Year - Sofia Bustamante, Diana Calaunan, Mariz Kaye Sales, Vhina Sison, Mariane Tejano, Christine Zambales.

Fourth Year - Katrina Cordova, Maria Anna Isaac-Lim.

Book Awards

Second Year - Krizza-Almond Aguilar, Elaine Buan, Vincent de la Penas, Hazel Fajardo, Bea Lacambra, Frederick Leyson, Andrea Pera, Cielo Pereyra, Laurice Ramos, Ella Ravanera, Ma. Luz Reyes, Roxanne Ruiz, Franz Josef Salucop, Sarah Samalda, Pio Savaitnisagon, Jenny Sevilla, Rodante Sinena

Third Year - Reuben Chiu, Chris Go, Julius Juen, Reynald Reyes, Miguel Sabillena, Lyn Silang, Catherine Vioria, Kimberly Yu.

Fourth Year - Xaviera-Jihan Bautista, Sherida Edding, Michael Joseph Ramos.

Special Honors Award

Danica Gabon, Angela Racoma, Mary Pasciolco, Loraine Yap, Karen Rodil, Kristelie Tilla-In, Carol Yu, Mark Ramos, Maria Lavare, Jan Hiwatig, Katrina Santos, Tyrone Cammayo, Paulino Zamesa, Marielle Llamas, Dale Sy, Reneife Calingo, Santanina Mendez, Jeremy Go, Esviel Payte, Aura Gonzales.

Community Service (CSC) - In 2012, the foundation provided monetary assistance to UERM's rehabilitation following Typhoon Ondoy. Last year in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), the board considered options on how to help. Because of the frequency of natural calamities in the Philippines, the board appointed an *Ad Hoc Committee on Disaster Relief* to explore ways to respond to them. The panel composed of Drs. Conrado Miranda, IV, Roy Baldomero, Paul Hamor, Ned Valen, Jackie Gamiai, Amuerfina Castro, M.A., B.S.N., and Ernie Suguitan, B.S.N., R.N., has submitted for final board action a 3-part report recommending: (1) an executive committee resolution authorizing disbursement of funds for disaster relief specific for Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda); (2) review and revision of Community Service Committee Policy & Procedure to incorporate disaster relief with full compliance with applicable IRS regulations.; and (3) amendment to the Constitution & ByLaws enshrining disaster relief. A preconvention teleconference on this matter has been called by board chair Dr. Isabelita B. Casibang.

Dean Fernando S. Sanchez, Jr. Research and Publication Awards (Oral Presentations)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): Profiles of Female Victims, Contributing Factors, Life Experiences and Sexually Transmitted Infections by **Ryan B. Capitulo, M.D., FPOGS**

A Better View: Comparison of Laryngoscopic View and Ease of Intubation With The Use of Truview EVO2 system (Truphatek®), and Macintosh Blade in Adult Patients With Predicted Difficult Intubation by **Olivia C. Flores, M.D.**

Development, Validation and Standardization of Quality of Life of Filipino Elderly with Alzheimer Induced Dementia by **Cely D. Magpantay, Ph.D.**

Empathy Among Medical Students by **Marivic A. Villamor, M.D., MPHEd.**

Effects of Auricular Acupressure in Smoking Cessation Among Young Adults by **Estella Grace M. Viguilla, PTRP, MSAHP**

A Multi-Phase Study on the Impact of a Psychiatry Learning Module on Knowledge About Common Psychiatric Disorders and Their Treatment for Residents Under Training at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc. by **Melissa V. Mariano, M.D.**

Comparison of Oxycodone IV and Fentanyl IV in the Attenuation of Sympathetic Responses to Tracheal Intubation: A Randomized Controlled Trial by **May J.R. Sanvictores, M.D.**

EEG Findings in Infarcts and Hemorrhagic Post-stroke Seizure: A Cross Sectional Study by **Ma. Katrina Margarita A. Zialcita, M.D.**

UERM Board Passing Rate vs. National



News from the Dean's Office

UERMMMCC bags 3rd excellence award from PRC

The UERMMMCC College of Medicine received the Award of Excellence for Exemplary Performance in the Philippine physician licensure exams for the third year in a row since 2011. This is given by the Board of Medicine of the Professional Regulation Commission to medical schools whose performance is above 90% passing rate and have fielded at least 50 examinees. The above graph is based on August board examination performance. UERM graduates scored 96.04% passing rate in 2011, 96.67% in 2012, and 98.26% in 2013. With the February, 2014 candidates getting 89.47%, the school is well on its way to reclaiming its old place in the top 3 board performers in the Philippines. The sharp drop in the graph is being attributed mainly to the classes under the problem-based learning curriculum initiated in 1998 but abandoned in 2004.

School rankings last year have stirred comments from alumni. Some pined for the 100% passing rate of the "old days." Others see these results as a call to action in support of scholarship and faculty development at UERMMMCC. The up and coming schools challenging UERM include Pamantasan Ng Lungsod Ng Maynila, Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle, St. Louis University in Baguio, West Visayas State University in La Paz, Iloilo and Davao Medical School. Plus the old rivals UP, UST, CIM, and FEU.

UERM clerks rule CPC contest

A hard-charging team of clinical clerks (4th year medical

students now called junior interns) won first place in the 41st Interscholastic Clinico-Pathological Conference competition held at the U.P. College of Medicine last March. The ICPC champions are: Nico Paulo Dimal (Best Speaker in ICPC), Maria Fe Bautista, Antonio Lorenzo Quiambao, and Christian Lloyd Tan. All graduated last April.

53rd graduation held

UERMMMCC conferred the degree of doctor of medicine to its 53rd batch of graduates last April 22, 2014 at the Philippine International Convention Center. The new doctors were led by Dr. Christian Lloyd Tan, *cum laude*, class valedictorian and Dr. Nikko Paolo Cablaog, class salutatorian and immediate past president of the APMC Student Network

Know your department heads, 2013-2014

Drs. Luis Emmanuel O. Esguerra, **anatomy**; Maria Milagros U. Magat, **biochemistry**; Milagros B. Rabe, **physiology**; Grace H. Encelan-Brizuela, **preventive & community medicine**; Ma. Angeles G. Marbella, **pharmacology**; Disraeli V. Europa, **microbiology & parasitology**; Araceli P. Jacoba, **pathology**; Natividad A. Salazar, **medical humanities**; Norbert Lingling D. Uy, **medicine**; Napoleon B. Alcedo, Jr., **surgery**; Aida E. Salud, **OB-GYN**; Milagros S. Bautista, **pediatrics**; Jose Luis G. De Grano, **ophthalmology**; Lily L. Sia-Vargas, **otolaryngology**; Erman C. Fandialan, **clinical neurosciences**; Marian Portia V. Luspo, **psychiatry**; Olivia C. Flores, **anesthesiology**; Arnel V. Malaya, **physical medicine & rehab.**



UERMMMCAAAI

UERMMMCAAAI Medical Alumni Association in America, Inc.

The Nevada Chapter



With Drs. Neda Ballon-Reyes & Susan Suntay. Officers are - Drs. Teresita Lu Melocoton, president; Arnold De Belen, vice-president; Ernie Chua, secretary; Lisa Muyot, treasurer; Roberto Chuapoco, auditor; Nimfa Aguila, PRO; and Joe Gonzalez, executive director.

After helping host 2 UERMMMCAAAI conventions in Las Vegas, the last one in 2006, the medical alumni of Nevada, spearheaded by Teresita Melocoton who became its first executive director, organized themselves into a formal chapter in 2010 and elected Jesus Hernandez as its first president. In 2012, Paul Hamor became the second president and on December, 21, 2013, Tess Melocoton was elected the third president for the 2014 - 2016 term.

Not shy about involvement in the national arena, the chapter is hosting the 2014 convention and reunion which will be held in Las Vegas, at the Venetian-Palazzo Hotel and Resort, July 17 to 20. National President-Elect Paul Hamor will be inducted as the new President along with other national officers. With membership ranging from the youngest to the oldest alumni, the group is characterized by flexibility, camaraderie, and creativity. It has organized a CME program themed as *Health Care: The Law, the Delivery and the Advances* covering timely topics from Neonatology to Geriatrics, and the recent health care reform. The group is also in the process of negotiating affiliation between the Univer-

Youngest Chapter Comes of Age

By Ernesto L. Chua, M.D.

sity Medical Center in Las Vegas and UERMMMCAAAI regarding clinical clerkship rotation for senior medical students. This will be discussed further among the chapter, UMC and the President and Dean of UERMMMCAAAI when the latter are in town this month for the convention. To highlight all these events, the chapter has come up with an inspiring theme for the convention, namely: **“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success.”**

The current officers of the organization are: President, Teresita Melocoton; Vice President, Arnold De Belen; Secretary, Ernesto Chua; Treasurer, Lisa Muyot; Auditor, Roberto Chuapoco; PRO, Nimfa Aguila; Executive Director, Joe Gonzalez; Board Members: Paul Hamor, Jesus Hernandez, Shane Flaviano, Vicente Narciso, Ric Alfafara and Ronald Kong. Once again, the chapter is extending its hands of invitation and welcome to all medical alumni and their families, to attend the convention/reunion and savor the unique atmosphere and attractions of Las Vegas. The youngest chapter looks forward to a long and productive existence. After all, many miracles have happened in the desert.

Nimfa Aguila, Ricardo Alfafara, Ernesto Shemrock Cordova, Arnold De Belen, Flocefida Duenas, Shane Flaviano, Jose Gonzales, Paul

Ron Kong, Roberto Martinez, Teresita Melocoton, Lisa Muyot, Vicente Narciso, Evelyn Padre, Elmer Palitang, Luis Panuncialman, Paul Parcon, Ed Pasimio, Dan Pimentel, Imelda Pimentel, Ellaine Pingol, Maria Emelina Quisumbing, Dana Reyes, Carmelo Rillera, Sofronio Soriano, Arthur Tayengco, Marianito Alaan, Erlinda Arizona-Reyes, Julian Amado, Jr., Marilou Grace Co, Antonio Dai, Lydia Estanislao, Priscilla Francisco-David, Karen Gonzales, Dan Laredo, Aurora Maldonado, Benjamin Maldonado, Deogracias Martinez, Jr., Marissa Medina, Renee Ngo, Luis Ortega, Laurena Padre-Cadavona, Jane Punsalang, Adelaida Resnelo, Ma. Teresita Santos, Edgardo Sarino, Concepcion Singson, Antonio Tanpoco, Leonel Torres.

Thank you very much Nevada!

Chua, Roberto Chuapoco, Luzminda Concepcion, De Jesus, Doris De Leon- Hernandez, Danilo Hamor, Jesus Hernandez, Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz,

26th Alumni Convention & Reunion

The Venetian, Las Vegas, Nevada

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 26, 2014 - WEDNESDAY

**Pre-Convention Meetings & Orientation, 3pm - 5pm,
TBA
MAAAI, MAANC Officers & AFUSA Board**

JULY 27, 2014 - THURSDAY

Onsite Registration, 11:30am - 5pm
Marco Polo Room 701

**UERMMMC AFUSA, Inc. Annual Meeting, 11:30am -
4:30pm**

(The Foundation Meeting is open to all alumni mem-
bers.)

Inaugural Lecture, Dr. Wilmer Heceta Memorial Lecture

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Estherbelle Aguilar Heceta, '61
Sponsored by UERMMMC Class '73

Lunch tickets required. RSVP Dr. Ruby Reyes, 609-320-
8215

Marco Polo Rooms 702 - 704

**Exhibits, Alliance & Friends Silent Auction, 11:30am -
5pm**

Marco Polo Room 801

Welcome & Fellowship Night, 6pm - 12:01am

Dinner/Dance (Tickets required)
(Theme: Hawaiian Aloha)

Attire: Nice Casual or Hawaiian beach shirt & long
pants

Marco Polo Ballroom 705

JULY 18, 2014 - FRIDAY

Last day of Registration, 7am - 12 noon

Registration Desk at Marco Polo Room 701

Exhibits, Alliance & Friends Silent Auction, 7am - 4pm

Marco Polo Room 801

Continental Breakfast for CME Attendees, 7am - 9:30am

Marco Polo Rooms 705 (Tickets Required)

Category 1 CME, Day 1 (See page 11), 7:30am - 11:45am

Marco Polo Rooms 705

Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture, 12 noon - 1:30pm

"Fifty Years in Healthcare, Glimpses of the Past,
Glimpses of the Future"

Keynote Speaker: Ernesto Chua, M.D. '62

Moderator, Paul Hamor, M.D., Convention Chairman

Marco Polo Rooms 702 - 704

**MAAAI General Meeting, See details next page, 1:40pm - 4:40pm
Marco Polo Rooms 703 - 706**

Jubilarians' Nite, 8pm - 12:01am
Dinner/Dance (Tickets Required)
Hosted by Silver Jubilarian Class '89
Theme: Gatsby, Attire: Roaring 20's
Marco Polo Ballroom 705

JULY 19, 2014 - SATURDAY

**Last Day for Exhibits & Alliance & Friends Auction, 7am -
8am**

Marco Polo Room 701

Continental Breakfast, 7am - 8:30am

Marco Polo Rooms 703 - 706

Election of MAAAI Officers for 2014 - 2016, 8am - 10am
All alumni voters must pay the required membership &
registration fees. No absentee votes allowed. Winners an-
nounced at 11:35am
Marco Polo Rooms 704 - 706

Category 1 CME, Day 2, 8:15am - 12 noon

Marco Polo Rooms 703 - 706

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

MAAAI Board & Officers' Meeting, 12:15pm - 4pm
Dr Neda Ballon-Reyes, '71, President for 2012 - 2014 pre-
siding
Marco Polo Room 804

Gala Dinner/Dance, 6pm - 12:01

Theme: Gold & Silver in 2014
Tickets required. Attire: Formal, Barong or Black Tie
(Optional)
Lido Ballroom A - D, Third Floor

JULY 20, 2014 - SUNDAY, 9:00-10:00 AM

**Sunday Mass (MP 801-802)
Non-Denominational Church Service (MP 702)**

Checkout Time, 11am

Thanks to all and God bless your trip!

See you all in Dallas, Texas next July!

CME PROGRAM SCHEDULE

"Health Care – The Law, the Delivery, and the Advances"

DAY 1 FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2014, Marco Polo (MP) 705
Dr. Ernesto Chua '62 & Dr. Teresita Melocoton '78, CME Co-Chairs, Course Directors, Moderators

7:00-7:45 AM Registration and Viewing of Exhibits, MP 701/801
 7:00-9:00 AM Continental Breakfast (Tickets required), CME, MP 705
 7:45-8:00 AM Welcome, **Dr. Neda Ballon-Reyes**, President
 Announcements and Introduction of Speakers, **Moderators**
 8:00-8:45 AM "Health Care Reform – How Will It Affect Your Practice," **Charles Tramont**, CEO of Meridian Medical Practice Solutions
 8:45-9:30AM "Pre-term Birth Screening and Prevention: How far have we come?" **Antonette T. Dulay, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.**

9:30-9:45AM ... **Break & View Exhibits, MP 801**

9:45-10:30 AM "Infectious Disease in Children – An Update.,"
Monica N. Kempf, M.D., F.A.A.P., Class 1989
 10:30-11:15 AM "Advances in Total Joint Replacement Arthroplasty"
Mari Escay, M.D., F.A.C.S., Class 1972
 11:15-11:45 AM **Open Forum**

12:00-1:30 PM Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture, MP 702 Lunch (Tickets required)

"Fifty Two Years in Health Care: Glances at the Past and Glimpses of the Future"

Keynote Speaker - **Ernesto L. Chua, M.D., F.A.C.C, F.A.C.P, F.P.C.P., Class 1962**

Introduction – **Benjamin Rigor, M.D., L.L.D., Class 1962**
Paul L. Hamor, M.D., Class 1970, Moderator

1:30-4:00 PM UERMMMCM-MAAAI General Meeting, MP 705
 All alumni requested to attend. **Neda Ballon-Reyes, M.D., President**

DAY 2 SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014, MP 705

Teresita Melocoton, M.D. and Ernesto Chua, M.D., Moderators

7:00-8:15 AM Viewing of Exhibits, MP 801
 7:00-9:00 AM Continental Breakfast (Tickets required), CME, MP 705
 7:30-10:00AM MAAAI Election, MP 702
 8:15-8:30 AM Announcements and Introductions, **Moderators**
 8:30-9:15 AM "Locum Tenens: Is This the Right Practice You?"
Ireneo P. Pantangco, Jr. M.D., M.B.A., F.A.A.O., F.A.C.S., '67
 9:15-10:00 AM "ElderCare – Rational Approach to the Care of the Elderly"

Benjamin M. Rigor, M.D., L.L.D., Class 1962

10:00-10:15AM ... **Break & View Exhibit**

10:15-11:00 AM "Brain Circuitry in Religious and Non-Religious Belief." **Albert C. Gaw, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A., Class 1964**
 11:00-11:45 AM "Histopathologic Grading of Anaplasia for Retinoblastoma," **Pia Mendoza, M.D. '06 – Young Alumni Travel Grant Winner Sponsored by the MARVADC Chapter**

11:45-12:15 PM **Open Forum**

***Election Result Announcement & Oath Taking - Hedy J. Windsor, M.D. '71, Chair, Election Committee**

12:15-2:00 PM UERM Legacy Keepers - "Preserving Your Wealth" - Feltz Wealth Plan, MP 803

2:00-4:00 PM MAAAI Officers' Meeting, MP 804

(LUNCH ON YOUR OWN)

Hamor seeks new members, Herrera next president-elect



In a far-reaching phone interview with the editor on July 1st, incoming president Dr. Paul Hamor of Class '70 laid out his vision for his administration, putting membership at the top of his agenda. He would like to see more alumni coming to conventions. Toward this goal, he said that he is mulling over policy options that he would present to the MAAAI board of trustees upon assuming office.

He stressed that he would reach out not only to the currently practicing alumni but also to the "retired ones and those just out of medical school." He added that for some years now, he has listened to complaints from alumni about the cost of attending national reunions. "We have to make it easier for alumni to come" by reducing the cost, he explained. The two big ideas he has in mind are holding such meetings in the early part of the week and reducing them to two days only. His reasons? Two-fold, he emphasized: "Airlines and hotel rates are cheaper!" And "This will enable us to lower fees for registration, gala, etc." "A lot of people will be happier and will be able to donate," he continued. Exuding optimism, he predicted "I think it is workable. I am willing to make a calculated risk to make the change. We have to adopt. We cannot expect to see different results with the same things we have been doing!" He hoped to implement these changes in 2015 if he could get board approval.

Dr. Hamor is an internist and ER physician in Las Vegas. He just finished serving as Nevada Chapter president last December.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Nominations & Elections led by Executive Director, Dr. Hedy J. Windsor, released the final official list of candidates for the July 19 election. All are unopposed: Drs. Zosimo Herrera, Class '73, former Midwest Chapter president and national convention chairman at the 2010 Chicago convention, president-elect; Orson R. Battad, Class '78, currently AFUSA trustee and MARVADC Chapter president, as secretary; Raul A. Moran, treasurer; and Leandro Maranan, Class '76, currently AFUSA trustee, as auditor. They will be formally voted in on the 2nd day of CME and sworn in on the final CME day. They assume office on January 1, 2015.

Dr. Herrera when contacted by phone expressed his thanks to alumni for the opportunity to serve as president in two years after the term of Dr. Hamor. He said he will work to support the faculty development and scholarship programs of the UERMMMCM College of Medicine currently led by Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes whose term has just been extended for another two years.





Inaugural Address: A new beginning

By Dr. Neda Ballon-Reyes, MAAAI President
Delivered July 8, 2012 in San Francisco

Two years ago, I was overwhelmed and humbled by the trust and confidence you bestowed on me that brought me up here today, to serve as President of our alumni association for the next two years.

Most of us were wondering where our association was leading to then, I am here because we all cared, you cared and I cared to turn a new page in our association's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence for the future.

It is surely a tough act to follow the outgoing President, Susan Suntay, as far as having the time the dedication and perseverance she had over the past 2 years. But there is one thing for sure that we share, that is love for our Alma mater, our associations, our families, our classmates, and friends that keep us coming and giving. I would like to impart to all alumni this love for the unity, friendship, and camaraderie, to be able to attain the purpose of our association in the pursuit of the goals for the mission and vision of UERM Medical Center.

Let us accept the fact that UERMMMCM Medical School changed our lives forever.

Youth fades and life slows down, yet we must keep setting goals and making them happen. Leaving a legacy, the memory of what we were like, not just our personalities but our characters and our faith as well.

We needed our school many moons ago, but today our school needs us. We today must take the first step by acknowledging the past, a glorious past indeed, and may lay claim to a future that embraces all alumni, then and now.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve, and mutual responsibility.

Our challenge for the future is to cross that bridge, close the gap between old and new. This is the core of this partnership. Let us entice our fellow alumni especially the younger ones to attend and join in this yearly conventions, make them feel the sense of belonging, and welcome them to the UERM family

Technology has revolutionized the practice of medicine today. We as alumni can contribute and support in many ways to provide the foundation for technology and research in our hospital and our medical school. A rich and experienced teaching staff is also important in this objective so that grants for a faculty advancement program must be wedded to technology.

Let's get our house in order, let us all give for one purpose - making UERMMMCM the best medical school not just along Aurora Boulevard.

Let us explore what values unite us instead of belaboring the problems that divide us

To those of us who never thought much about growing older and to those of us who are now older, I simply have a message to you all, let us learn to grow older with grace and find the guidance to finish well, finishing well with a legacy of giving back to our beloved UERMMMCM.

And as we are about to conclude this rejuvenation week, let us seize the day, let it not become a moment of sentimental reflection. Remember it is not sentiment that makes history, it is one's actions that make history.

I thank you all. God bless UERMMMCM and its Alumni!

UERMMMCM MAAAI President's Report 2014

As we look forward to another alumni convention and reunion, July 17-20 in Las Vegas, Nevada, I would like to thank all of you for your unwavering commitment, loyalty, dedication and financial support to our alumni association here in America.

This year, Cl '64 will celebrate their 50th, Cl '89 their 25th, with the rest of the Jubilarians, Cl '69, '74, '79 and '84. We wish you all the best and congratulations!

We will be honored by the presence of President Romeo Divinagracia, Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, CMAAI President Paul Sunga and liaison officer Andres Boromeo as part of the Philippine

delegation. Our Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial lecturer is Dr. Ernie Chua Cl '63 from our host chapter. The first Wilmer Heceta Cl '61 Memorial Lecture will be held on Thursday noon, July 17 and the first speaker is Dr. Estherbelle Heceta Cl '61.

Last July 2013 in Washington, DC, during the MAAAI Executive Meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously voted that the \$250,000 investment with Mass. Mutual Funds be continued and retained. The yearly earnings of this investment is where we are mainly getting the funds we are able to donate to UERMMMCMCI.

The last two years earnings (2012-2013)

of approximately \$50,000 were distributed as follows:

1. \$17,000 to UERMMMCMCI to cover the balance incurred in the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Surgical Missions conducted at UERM Mem Hosp under then Executive Director Irene Manlapaz and the now defunct Northeast Chapter of the MAAAI. This was incurred when MAAAI was still a 501C6 status;

2 \$11,000 to UERMMMCM MAASC for their share as cohost from the income of the 2006 annual convention in Las Vegas;

3. \$9,144.77 (Balance owed of \$7,185) to UERMMMCM *Continued next page*

President's Report 2014

... Continued from
previous page

Northern CA Chapter for the 2012 convention;

4. \$5,650 balance to the Midwest chapter for hosting the 2011 convention;

5. \$10,364 to the MarVaDC chapter for the 2013 convention.

Hopefully, after all these are settled, we will be able to donate the usual \$20,000-25,000 donation to UERMMMCI. Last year, the dean reported on where and how the last \$25,000 donation was used.

I am proud to tell you of the overwhelming response to our appeal for the Dean's Scholarship Fund. We were able to hand in a total of \$9,000 to our dean. Thanks to all your donations and solicitations. Dean Retta expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the initiation of the Dean's Scholarship Fund and she stated that this is one of the aspect to be boosted so the college remains competitive with other schools, to support the academically deserving but financially challenged students. Your donation and/or solicitation of \$100 or more per year can help sustain this endeavour and keep you in the dean's list year after year. The Board of Directors of the MAAAI also unanimously voted the allotment of \$5,000 annually for this program.

Once again, my sincerest gratitude to all who supported the MAAAI goals towards the vision and mission of our medical center. It is not just monetary donations that count, your service and commitment behind the scenes are priceless and most of all the friendship and camaraderie, the jubilation as well as the rejuvenation acquired during these reunions are lifetime memories.

God bless us all and our UERMMMCI family.

Neda Ballon-Reyes, M.D., Class '71

We must adopt to survive!

By Paul L. Hamor, Jr., M.D., MAAAI President, 2015-2016

This year, 2014, we are celebrating our 26th medical alumni association annual convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is also the year I will be sworn in as president of our medical alumni association. As president comes responsibilities. Even before I take office, I have been asked many times what my plans are and the direction I would like to take our medical alumni association for the next 2 years. What steps must I take to achieve my plans and goals? These are tough questions to answer and I would try to answer them as plausible as I can.

As everybody knows, there have been a lot of changes in the playing field, so to speak, in the arena in which we operate, and also the players in the field. This means I cannot single-handedly carry out my plans. They have to be presented to the board and approved by the majority before they could be implemented. The members of the board and their characters also change. This is one major change.

Another is the economic environment in which medical alumni practice their beloved profession especially the younger generations. Why so? Because they have family to raise, children in school or college, and, the rigor and pressure of their practices to meet financial obligations. The third is the social media explosion. With the internet, we can now easily connect with our loved ones, friends and classmates anywhere in the world, anytime of the day, or any season of the year. We no longer desire, if possible, to fly or go to a destination to meet and socialize. We try to avoid expensive rendezvous.

I truly think that these three factors affect the way we raise funds as a non-profit organization. We are an organization that is supported by members only. To survive, we have to adopt. To adopt to very rapidly changing and dynamic world, we have to be creative, innovative, and, must try different ways to achieve our goals to fulfill our missions. Tradition is beautiful and important like the annual conventions, our only fund-raising event, which we have held for the past quarter century. If we continue our tradition, do we expect different or better results? I don't know the answer but one can draw his or her conclusion by observation.

Having said that, I would like to try, with the help of the board, a different approach. Why don't we cut down the fees we charge for the entire convention and shorten the number of days we celebrate this annual event, hoping to attract more members to attend. As they say, there is strength in numbers. We can also hold the convention in the early or middle part of the week instead of Fridays or weekends. Hotel rates and airline fares go up at the end of the week. Another thing is the number of dinners and lunches we serve during conventions. Food makes the affair very expensive and adds to the overall cost. These may be risky but if successful, the reward is high. All these have to be considered and incorporated in the master plan. But as I have said in the beginning, I cannot single-handedly implement these changes without board approval.

I am optimistic that I would have a great working relationship with the governing body, in particular, and, the membership in general. Division and splintering is something I do not particularly want to see. This is not healthy and helpful. As the saying goes: "When elephants fight, the grass suffers!" For sure, this is one thing I do not want to see or encounter during my term.

Once, a classmate and very good friend told me, "It is lonely at the top." I cannot agree more and I may add, "This job is pressure packed, ruthless, demanding and consuming!" It is enough to question if it is all worth it. If anybody would like to disagree, he or she is welcome to take my place anytime and I would consider that as an honor.

I would like to give my sincere thanks and gratitude to my colleagues and members of the Nevada Chapter who have helped and given their tireless efforts, time and money to make this convention successful and memorable. My sincere gratitude also goes to our excellent and understanding out-going president, Dr. Neda Ballon. Same goes to Dr. Susan Suntay, our everlasting, hard-working, and quintessential convention commissioner. Once again, thank you all my friends and colleagues for putting up with me in good times and bad.

God bless and see you all in Las Vegas!

MAAAI Finance, Budget & Investment Committee Report

Thank you for a memorable 12 years!



By Susan P. Suntay, M.D., '77

2013 INCOME STATEMENT

2008 Beginning Deposit	----	\$280,000.00
REVENUE (2013 Increase in Mass Mutual Investment Funds):		
Prime Fund Capital	-----	\$ 80,468.51
Facebook Stocks	-----	9,824.00
Odyssey Fund	-----	254,746.61
TOTAL	-----	\$345,057.12

EXPENSES:

Balance owed to UERMMH for		
2003 surgical mission	-----	\$ 17,000.00
Dean's Scholarship Fund	-----	9,000.00
Nov. 2013 to CMAA Typhoon		
Haiyan Assistance & Emergency Fund	-----	10,000.00
USA Kananga, Leyte Typhoon Med Mission & medical supplies	---	20,000.00
TOTAL	-----	\$ 56,000.00

2013 NET BALANCE ----- \$289,057.12
(The Fund's 5-year average growth is 21%)

2014 Convention Grants Awards paid to Co-Host Chapters:

2011 Chicago Convention	----	\$ 15,606.00
2012 San Francisco Convention	\$	7,185.00
2013 Washington DC Convention		\$11,364.00

Submitted by: Susan Perez-Suntay, M.D.
Chair – FBI Committee

Drs. Neda Ballon-Reyes, Eva Padilla-Wright, Edgar Banez, and Zosimo Herrera, members

As the National Convention Commissioner for 10 years and as the MAAAI-President (2010-2012) for 2 years, I am grateful and honored for the humbling opportunity and great privilege you have all afforded and given me. I saw our annual convention attendance grow from about 100 to 600 annually. And, it's now time to give others the great opportunity to become the next (NC) National Convention Commissioner.

God has given each one of us a unique blessing to become a doctor, which comes with good paying jobs after residency training, or in administrative and or management fields. But with it also comes great responsibilities in God's plan for all of us. And, when we follow and do God's plans, life becomes quite rewarding.

MDs are a select group in any society or country. We are esteemed and respected by our families and communities. Realizing the value of my title as an M.D., I was able to navigate this world whether I was in hospitals, academic institutions, or the business world with an edge and "a sense of entitlement" because people treated us with respect for the title we carry. For that, I am very grateful to our *alma mater*, the UERMMMC. It is not only "the best medical school" in Aurora Boulevard, Q.C. as we jokingly say, but it truly is the best when we her graduates do our "best" in everything especially in how we treat people around us everyday.

As I served in different official capacities in the MAAA, Inc. and the AFUSA, Inc. either as the National Convention Commissioner, the MAAAI President (2010-2012), Chairperson of the Finance, Budget & Investment Committee (2004-2014) and as Co-Chair of the AFUSA-Fund Raising Committee, etc., in each of this voluntary task, I considered it a joy and a privilege to serve. I have been inspired by the long-service and dedications of other mentors and elder alumni like: Drs. Wilmer & Estherbelle Heceta '61, Dr. Ben & Mrs. Fe Lumicao '61, Dr. Renato & Mrs. Esther Querubin '67, Dr. Benjamin & Mrs. Letty Rigor '62, Dr. Manuel & Mrs. Odette Blas '67, Mr. Ernie & Dr. Eden Suguitan, Dr. Vickie Casibang '71, Drs. Elmer & Belen Gilo '73, Dr. Neda Ballon Reyes '71, Drs. Samuel & Nena Piga '73, Drs. Zosimo & Maria Herrera '73, and Dr. Edgar Banez '76. They have helped pave the path for me and many of our officers to volunteer and serve through the MAAAI and/or the AFUSA for a short or a long time in order to "give back for the benefit" of our *alma mater*, the UERMMMC, our motherland and our local communities.

None of our efforts would have succeeded had it not been for all the support, "big or small," that each one of you, all the Officers that served with me, our Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes '73, our fellow alumni and our families have given or done over these past years. Hence, my heartfelt THANKS to each one of you! May God bless you all, your families and UERM!

Lucena City, a different experience

By Edgar Banez, M.D., Class '76, Southern California Chapter



A year ago, three musketeers from Class 1971, Dr. Ed Corpus, Dr Hedy Windsor, and MAAI President-Elect Dr. Neda Ballon Reyes spent Valentine's Day in Lucena City under the invitation of Mayor Ruby Talaga. They performed multiple major and minor surgeries and played cupid to many patients, providing medical care and giving away free medicines.

This year, the trio went back to Lucena bringing with them the UERM MAASC contingent. The group was invited by the Most Reverend Emilio Marquez, the Archbishop of Lucena. It was headed by Chapter President Dr. Teri Pastor and included MAASC President-Elect Dr. Boy Diaz, Dr. Cita San Diego, Dr. Tina Verder (a Lucena original), Dr. Marivic Bendebel, Dr. Dave Mungcal, Drs. Remigio and Lily Jacob, and Dr. Simon Keushkerian. Nurses from Health Care Services International were Dale and Pat Hoerth, Tony Garrett, Fely Nicolas, Pacita Lovely and Mark Tomaneng who religiously documented the mission with hundred of pictures taken with his Nikon and Canon cameras. Dr. Corpus' wife Rachel, Dr. Hedy's sister Marita Waugh, Marivic's brother Braulio, my two brothers Jun and Art and my nephew Ivan completed the list of missionaries.

Dr. Frondoza, the medical director of the local city health department was instrumental in preparing the patients for major and minor surgeries. Lucena MD's working at Mt. Carmel Archdiocese Hospital headed by Medical Director Dr. Delta Canela, provided us with the help we needed. With the clout of the Most Reverend Marquez on Governor Jayjay Suarez and

Mayor Talaga, the mission was so well organized that seeing 1,700 patients and doing 14 major and 70 minor surgeries went so smoothly without any glitches.

Local students and nurses, social workers, pharmacists and paramedical personnel were in abundance and with the bishop's eagle eyes monitoring, you were embarrassed not to do your best.

The group was rewarded with sumptuous meals every time, entertained with songs from an award-winning choral group and danced with DP's in the city plaza on Valentine's Night with live bands playing all night to our hearts' delight.

A tour of multiple churches including the Church in Tayabas the one with the longest aisle in the Philippines (135 steps from the front to the altar), a trip to a Lukban factory famous for its *longanisa* and unforgettable *merienda* with the original *pancit* habhab were just a few of the extraordinary hospitality the bishop provided us.

And, as we bade goodbye, we also said "We are coming back!"

(Editor's Note: Visit the Alumni page for more articles.)

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.

Aesculapius Ex

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

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Advisers: Elected officers of the Board of Trustees.



Editorial

Of reunions and legacies

My class (1973) celebrated its 40th anniversary last year. With us in the Philippines for the occasion were the '63 golden jubilarians and the '88 silver. We stayed at Robbinsdale Hotel next door to the campus along with many of the gold celebrants. We got to know them, heard their words of wisdom in the process and appreciated their sense of accomplishment in a profession that called upon them to serve in the many corners of the globe. There was forthrightness in their acceptance of the scars they bore. I saw that even after 50 years they have remained cohesive and happy.

I witnessed the spirit of camaraderie come alive in the silver jubilarian class, the same feeling I experienced at that stage 15 years ago. Taking a pause at age 50 when you mark the 25th year of your graduation makes you realize how fast time flies, how many more you want to do in life, what more you can do to make a difference. All the same, you bask in the joy of seeing classmates, feel grateful for the education you have received, and rededicate yourself to the task that lies ahead.

Thus, at reunions, we raise our glasses to our milestones and applaud each other for having arrived here together tempered by nostalgia about the fallen in our classes and our dear mentors.

What are we to do about after-reunions? Some of us may still harbor some bitterness about some hurt of yore. Others may choose to bury the past and move on, completely satisfied with self-sufficiency and personal triumphs and choose not to care. Yet others remain bothered by the stirring of the soul for a meaningful life, a life that does not stop giving, a life of empathy and sacrifice. Or what some of us call a life well-lived.

Dr. Antonio Palacio of Class '63 at their February 2013 convocation at UERM (full text in the website's Alumni page) spoke of the unique qualities of gold befitting a doctor who has been around for 50 years: tough, untarnished, lustrous yet malleable into something spectacular and unforgettable.

As I looked at my classmates and the other jubilarians, I thought of the day when we also become golden celebrants. A warm feeling comes at the mere thought of it. More so, I get excited at the prospect of sharing in their wisdom, humility, compassion and generosity. Such are the legacies of our elders in the alumni family.

When I ponder the question of how would I like to be remembered, I think of Dr. Wilmer Heceta who set his love for our school and for all of us. I remember Dr. Vince Casibang who led the association at an important juncture so that our reunions would endure. I will never forget Dr. Romulo Guevara, Jr., truly a godfather figure to me, who taught me so many things that have made me who I am. Drs. Greg Patacsil, Ben Policarpio, Linda Valdellon, Benjie Rigor, El Castro, Rene Querubin, Rene Buenvenida and many more who are still with us or who may have gone, who have woven their good examples into the tapestry of who we are as physicians from UERM.

So at reunions, we come home and accept one another as kindred. We do not go our separate ways anymore but walk in tandem for now we are firmly bound by the values that have been handed down to us.

The legacy of our *alma mater* is the nobility of the profession we all share. Such will be our legacy to those who come after us.

UERMMMC ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC.

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

All gifts are tax-deductible.

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Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____ payable to: **UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.**
 Charge the amount of \$ _____ to my VISA/MASTERCARD # _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature as shown on the credit card _____

You can now donate directly online or schedule a donation at www.uermfusa.com. There is a convenience fee for a credit card transaction. None for a bank draft.

My gift will be used for:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference & Memorial Lectures | <input type="checkbox"/> College of Nursing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residency Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigent Patient Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publication/Research Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Heceta Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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