

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

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

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



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

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

To our dear alma mater and the faculty, staff, and administrators that comprise your ranks: your esteemed reputation is indeed well-deserved. You are simply the best. Your consistent placement among the top performing schools and your track record of consistently graduating board top-notchers attest to the high quality of education and training you provide your students. We are extremely proud to count ourselves among your products and deem it an honor to be able to add to the rich tradition of excellence you have accumulated over the years through our performance in the most recent licensure examinations. We vow to uphold the spirit and the professionalism you have instilled in us throughout the duration of our term as your students. We have learned much from you. However, we know that there should never be an end to our

learning. We owe it to you and to our patients to ensure that, for as long as we practice our vocation, we continuously engage ourselves in ongoing education and continuous improvement and enhancement of the skills and talents you have developed in us. We will never be content with mediocrity and will always strive to uphold your name and the standard of excellence associated with it wherever we practice.

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

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

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

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

Tonight, we are one in our pride, our passion and in our desire to prove ourselves. Now, let us go out there and start making a difference. Let us all start making this world a better place. Thank you and good evening.