

Congratulations and best wishes to Class 2003!



The Alumni Newsletter

Convention Issue

Plano, Texas

May, 2003

Live from New York: Rebuilding the Spirit!



The UERMMMCAA, Inc. Northeast Chapter welcomes all of you to the Big Apple!

After more than a year of brainstorming, planning, staffing, negotiating, and implementing, the Northeast Chapter is now ready to welcome you to the 15th alumni convention and reunion in New York on July 31st to August 2nd. Under Alex Bobila's leadership, our hosts have pulled all the stops, gone out of their way and left no stone unturned to assure you of an enjoyable, worthwhile, safe, and memorable stay. They have a committee for every bit of thing run by your fellow alumni whose zeal for UERM is visibly infectious. Come, see for yourself. Let them roll out the red carpet for you!

The New York convention brings a few firsts into our alumni gatherings. This is the first time we are doing it in two hotel venues, the Ritz Carlton Hotel Battery Park at 2 West St. and Regent Wall Street at 55 Wall St., the first time we are having a CME program accredited by Columbia University, the first time we are honoring classes enthusiastically celebrating their 15th and 20th anniversaries (tin jubilarian Class '88 and crystal jubilarian Class '83, respectively), the first time our diehard golfers will be satiated with two golf outings, and the first time perhaps we are seeing our main honorees, the silver jubilarian Class '78, celebrating their batch night away from our hotel headquarters. And, for the first time, Madison Avenue savvy is being used in marketing the social activities with such terms as "Latin Carribean Night" for the welcome reception and

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Class '77 pledges \$100,000 for scholarship

The 32nd alumni homecoming held on December 16-21, 2002 began with the celebrating silver jubilarian Class '77's trip to Tagaytay and ended with the same class' get together at Henry's Barn in Calamba. In between was a flurry of activities that included the annual research forum early in the week featuring student, resident, and faculty papers; grand alumni reception for all 3 colleges' graduates at the quadrangle; traditional convocation for silvr jubilarians; scientific meeting anchored by the Baccay Memorial Lecture; and the

alumni fellowship night which feted outstanding alumni and the jubilarians.

Eighty-three silver jubilarians, 14 of whom are from the States came, donned their togas on convocation day once again, and received their honorary medals from a welcoming *Alma Mater*. In between serious moments of homilies and speeches were tearful cheers for "the good old days" and the almost forgotten "old faces" of classmates.

A symposium on

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Tiongco to deliver Cuyegkeng lecture

Dr. Ida Tiongco, a Class '68 jubilarian, an associate professor of dermatology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and a well-respected educator both in the U.S. and abroad, will deliver this year's Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture at the August convention.

She brings to the luncheon lecture on August 1st a wealth of experience not just in New York but more so in the Philippines where she elevated the dermatology training program at UERMMMC to the top tier in the country.

From 1995-2002, she had conducted twice yearly local dermatology medical missions at the UERMMH Dermatology Clinic, bringing in equipment and medical supplies benefiting patients, students and residents alike. She organized and directed 7 annual postgraduate courses and workshops in dermatology that gave a high visibility to UERM. She also gave lectures at UP-PGH Dermatology Clinic and sponsored a Philippine Dermatological Society meeting to introduce the UERM dermatology program in the Philippines. Among the innovations she taught at the seminars and workshops at UERM were: basic cutaneous surgery, cryosurgery and sclerotherapy, hair transplantation, micro and mini

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'01 bets raise board passing to 75%

Sixty-five of the 87 UERMMMC examinees passed the physician licensure examinations given by the Board of Medicine of the Professional Regulation Commission on February 18. They were among the 807 of 1,415 candidates nationwide who hurdled the tests given on the same day in Manila and Cebu. The results were published in the internet edition of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on February 20, 2003. The new doctors took their oath of profession at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on March 4th.

The Dean's Office confirmed the 75% passing rate, up from the 66% scored by Class 2001 in the August boards. The result seemed to have hit the campus with a whimper as the school instead focused on the work at hand: breaking in the new 2004 junior intern class,

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Live from New York . . . from page 1

fellowship party on Thursday, July 31st, "Mid Summer Night Swing at the Ritz" for the roaring 20's party on August 1st being hosted by the pearl jubilarian Twin Class '73 for all other classes, and the ultimate "Some Enchanted Evening at the Regent" for the black tie gala on August 2nd toasting the silver jubilarian Class '78!

Punctuating the fun will be the serious business of raising funds for our *Alma Mater* spearheaded by our twin alumni organizations, UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. and UERMMMCAFUSA, Inc., aided by our ever caring auxiliary UERMMMC Alliance & Friends, Inc. The national and host chapter alumni association leadership aims to raise \$50,000 for the charity hospital at UERM not only to serve indigent patients in our suffering country but to provide our eager students with enough patients to learn good medicine from. As in past conventions, we will sit down and listen to what our visiting school officials have to say about our school so we will know how to help her.

The busy week starts with the alumni foundation pre-convention leadership training, business meeting and elections in Elizabeth, New Jersey's Marriott Courtyard on Wednesday, July 30, followed by next day's second golf outing and night's reception, CME and Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture at the Ritz on day 2, and ends on August 2nd's general membership assembly, association executive council, foundation board, and auxiliary meetings, and the glorious gala that night. In between are lots of free time to explore downtown Manhattan, reconnect with classmates and friends, and savor New York. You have all the ideas you can use in this issue. Just read on.

The host committee expects more than two hundred delegates from all over the country and a handful from the Philippines. To meet this influx, 150 rooms in all have been reserved at both hotels.



Dr. Debbie A. Bobila & NEC welcome you!



Majesty of The Regent Wall Street Hotel

As of press time, the *Newsletter* got an update from chapter first lady, Dr. Debbie Ames-Bobila that nearly half of them have been booked. The organizers assured that they are prepared to negotiate for more rooms if necessary. In mid-April, they also got word from a Ritz official that UERM's special rate has been extended up to August 5th to accommodate those wanting to stay longer. No such word from the Regent has so far been received. A complimentary shuttle service between the Ritz Carlton Hotel and South Street Seaport which is only 2 blocks from the Regent Wall Street is still being worked out at press time.

In addition to those of the golf tournaments, generous prizes await the winners of the welcome night's talent contests. To keep you glued to your seats at the CME and gala, exciting gifts will be raffled away: 2 roundtrip tickets to Las Vegas, a Dell laptop computer, palm pilot, tickets to Broadway, spa/massage/beauty treatment to name a few. To join the talent contests, see page 21 for more details. So with golfers, please turn in your registrations so you can match irons with your fellow *aficionados*.

Just to let you know how your alumni officers operate, amidst their busy practices and many other commitments like the rest of us, they are in constant touch with one another by phone, email, and in person to bring about this meetings for all of us. Even as we speak, the 2004 Chicago convention committee chaired by our President-Elect and Midwest Chapter President, Dr. Manuel Blas, along with our Vice-President Dr. Susan Perez-Suntay have begun to scout for hotels and put together the group that will host next year's meeting. For 2005's Houston convention, our overall chairman is Tom Lumicao, M.D. '75. The executive council will decide the 2006 site at its August 2 afternoon's meeting. Interested chapters or alumni groups, please submit your bids to the council.

So what else is lacking after all of the above? It's your presence! Come then to the Big Apple!

Castro plans active retirement

Dr. El Castro, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the alumni foundation (UERMMMCAFUSA, Inc.), in a far-reaching conversation with the editor in early April, said that he intends to step down as chairman when his term expires this August.

After 6 years at the helm, he expressed satisfaction at the firm footing the foundation finds itself in today. He also took pride on the completion of all necessary documents, policies, procedures, guidelines and operations manuals needed for the smooth and effective management of the foundation and the implementation of its project programs. "I've accomplished everything I set out to do. I have written everything down so that anyone serving after me has everything in place," he added.

No, he does not intend to fade away, he continued. Instead, he plans on being active in matters of problem analysis and fundraising. He intends to aggressively seek other charitable foundations' support and funding.

He listed two areas where alumni donations can make the most impact on UERMMMC: (1) scholarship which *must* emphasize higher rate of graduation, higher rate of passing in the country's licensure exams, and higher rate of successful employment; and (2) faculty development that will turn out the best teachers. While the foundation is yet unable to provide full scholarship which at present costs \$2,500 per **continued next page**

Rastrollo clarifies vision

Alumni President Joseph Rastrollo identified recruitment of younger alumni, charity ward support, and medical missions as the top priorities of his administration.

Since his inauguration in Hawaii last year, he has clarified his policies in several ways. First, he wisely appointed younger alumni to various committees assigning them to understudy positions to help them mature into their future roles. Second, he detailed his term's 2-year goals during the leadership workshop in December.

Realizing that ample charity admissions at UERM's teaching hospital will enhance the diagnostic and therapeutic acumen of students and residents and help attract topnotch medical school applicants, Rastrollo called for \$50,000 each to be raised in this and next years' conventions to subsidize charity patients' drug and laboratory bills. The Northeast Chapter has already appropriately packaged this concept in marketing the New York Convention. In his report to alumni membership upon his return from a medical mission in Northern Luzon last February, he affirmed this commitment after visiting UERM and conferring with top officials. He noted the **continued next page**

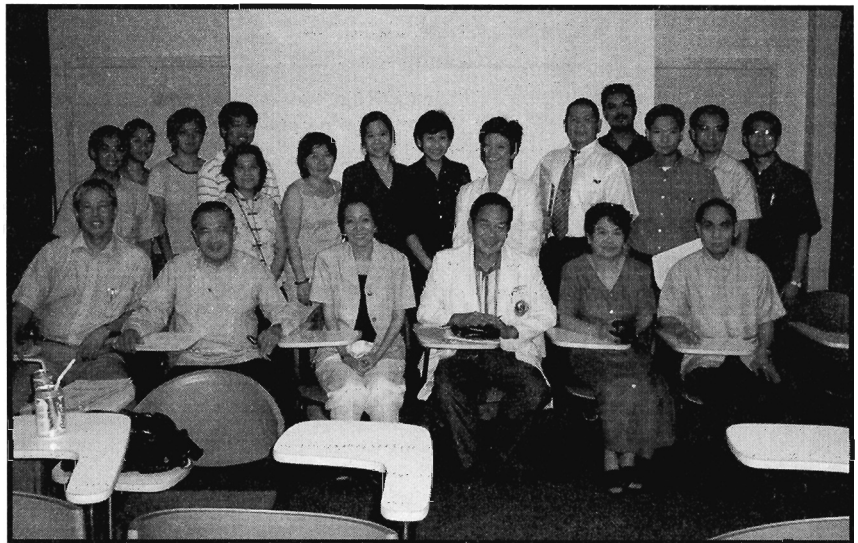
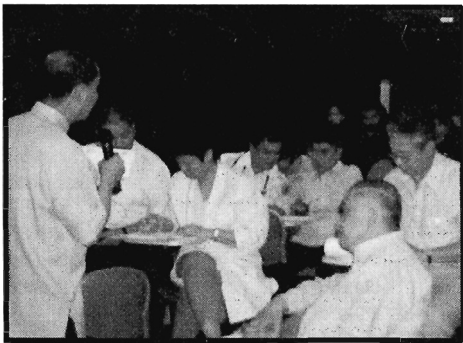
per student each year, he took credit for the recent expansion of the book award benefiting more needy but deserving students.

He is also called for the formation of a speakers' bureau under the joint auspices of the alumni foundation and the medical school that he hopes will encourage alumni in America to take two-week sabbaticals to teach students and other trainees at UERM and augment the faculty's capability.

He wants to part with this pearl: "A mediocre teacher tells. A good teacher teaches. An superior teacher explains. An excellent teacher inspires."

He has indeed inspired many of us.

*"A mediocre teacher tells
A superior teacher explains.
An excellent teacher inspires."*



Workshop participants with Dr. El Castro & Mrs. Amuerfina Castro

Foundation workshop held

Dr. El Castro conducted a two-hour workshop at the Cyberlab Conference Room, April 30, on the procedures of funding request, acknowledgement, implementation and evaluation. The session was attended by all department heads of the 3 colleges of the medical center. Assisted by his wife, Amuerfina T. Castro, also the alumni foundation board secretary, Dr. Castro walked the participants through the prescribed manner by which recipients of federally recognized charities in the United States would obtain funding.

He undertook the effort because of deficiencies in many departments which have prevented the foundation from awarding already budgeted funds for their stated projects. Participants hoped to be able to receive their monies from the foundation from now on.

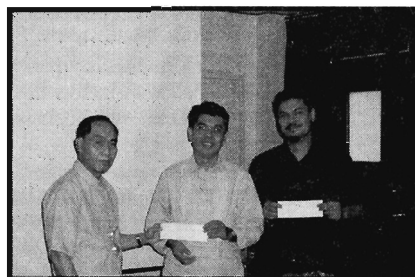
At the conclusion of the workshop, Castro awarded checks to the medical center officers that have satisfied the documentation requirements for funding, namely, Dr. Arnel Malaya, Dean of the College of Physical Therapy and Dean Valdellon and College Secretary Estrada, College of Medicine. The latter received \$5,000 as first installment for the dean's information technology initiative.

In another topic, Dr. Castro held a marathon meeting with Dean Valdellon, College Secretary Estrada, and alumni liaison Dr. Manuel Ramos at the Dean's Office on April 28 covering issues that concern alumni foremost of which was the desire of U.S. alumni to foster a more positive learning environment at the medical school that is expected to result in a more generous alumni giving. They were later joined in the meeting by Dr. Divinagracia.

the 10-60% occupancy rate of the charity floors and vowed to campaign hard in the U.S. for alumni support for its improvement.

Aside from the convention fundraiser, he presented another alumni plan to generate money for indigent patient care called the Tree of Donors. This calls for the installation of a donor tree diagram in a designated hospital wall to recognized donor contributions. The alumni foundation has already begun the campaign with a solicitation published in the foundation newsletter in March. Rastrollo won the "enthusiastic support" of school officials led by Dr. Divinagracia.

On medical missions, he reiterated that he would continue to serve in them personally and urged other alumni to do so. He awaits the development of a plan for medical missions by a committee headed by Dr. Rolando Mendoza, past executive director. In his trip, he also secured the "full support" of Mr. P.O. Domingo, UERMMMC board chairman in this project.



College of P.T Dean Arnel Malaya and Staff



Dean Valdellon & College Secretary Estrada

Tiongco to deliver . . . continued from page 1

grafting procedures, dermabrasion and collagen implantation.

In addition, she found time to lead dermatology medical missions in the provinces, 4 times in Bohol (1994, 1996, 1998, and recently early this year), once in Banawe among the famed rice terraces in January 2002, treating hundreds of patients and exposing her residents and young associates to a wide variety of cases and opening their eyes to the great need for their specialty in the hinterlands of the country. Also, in the '70s while going through her training in dermatology, she joined exile and opposition groups in New York working to bring down the Marcos dictatorship and restore democracy in the Philippines.

For her contribution to Philippine dermatology, Dr. Tiongco was recognized by the Philippine Dermatological Society at the Asia/Australasia Regional Congress of Dermatology meeting in Manila in November 2001 and made her an honorary member. Also, in December, 2001, she was named by the New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center as its "best teacher of the year" in dermatology.

In January this year, she resigned her position as visiting professor of dermatology at UERMMMMC over policy differences about which she laments: "I really miss my students but I had to have a stand." She continues to practice and teach her field in New York.



Dr Ida Tiongco

'01 bets raise board . . . continued from page 1

letting go of the graduating class of 2003, selecting applicants for the freshman class of 2008, preparing the senior intern class of 2002 for the August boards, and getting the faculty ready for the school year 2004-2005.

The college, however, took stock of its academic record as the Dean's Office released a study of graduates' board exam performances done by the Registrar's Office (regsaf_uerm@mailcity.com). Dr. Florina Estrada, College Secretary, told the *Newsletter*, that 6 classes made perfect 100% passing scores (both summer and winter examinations), 9 got 100% in either tests, 4 were in the less than 65% to 75% range, 8 in the 75% to 85%, the rest in the 85% to 99% bracket.

The top scoring classes are 1963, 1964, 1965, 1969, 1972, and 1992. Those with 100% passing in either of the year's exams are: 1961, 1967, 1968, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1986, 1993, and 1995. Only these seven classes have placed bets in the top ten of the boards: 1971 (no. 1), 1984 (no. 1 and no. 2), 1985 (no. 9), 1986 (no. 5 and no. 10), 1993 (no. 5), 1994 (no. 3), 1998 (no. 6) and 2000 (no. 6).

MARVADC chapter induction ball

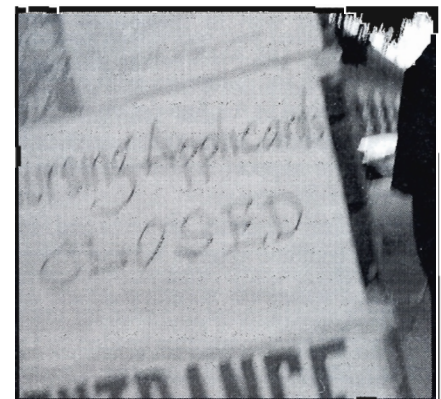


The MARVADC chapter swore in its new officers at an induction ball last Saturday, May 3 at the Sheraton International Hotel in Baltimore. Dr. Joseph Rastrollo, national alumni president administered the oath of office to Drs. Renato "Ric" Flores, president; Abner Pasatiempo, vice-president; Ana Maria Guanlao-Pasatiempo, secretary; Myrna Ortega Flores, treasurer; Florentino Loya, PRO; Raul Moran and Armando Real, business managers. Except for the Pasatiempos, all of them belong to Class '79, next year's silver jubilarians.

Supporting the fundraising project were the alumni chapters of U.P. and U.S.T. and an assortment of drug and medical supply companies. Present also were Drs. Alex and Debbie Bobila, Northeast Chapter leaders who took the opportunity to tout the upcoming convention and reunion in New York this summer.

In his inaugural message, Ric Flores spelled out the top priorities of his term: charity patient support and more journals for the medical school library. The evening echoed with memories of the school years gone by poignantly expressed by Dr. Antolin Trinidad, '83, in his essay published in the affair's souvenir program:

Two years ago, I visited UERM. It looked mothballed in time. The buildings never changed, a sad shade of gray declaring their dignity as they face Aurora Boulevard; the hospital had a thin patina of smog coating its exterior and the medical students milling around looked as harried, as underfed and overworked as I did then. It's like watching a beloved parent age, wrinkles and all. I now understand why we make so much effort, why we take so much time from our arrived lives to look back and do something good for the school in which we all started.



Sign of the times? "Nursing applicants closed."

Dateline Philippines**Emails to remember**

The UERMMMC has a new official website emailed Rene Punsalan, '77, Department of Clinical Neurosciences chairman: www.uerm.ph. It is still "under construction," he said. Nevertheless, we encourage everyone to visit it and maybe leave some comments or suggestions that can help the webmasters improve it. Other important addresses to remember are: Dean's Office (evymd@i-manila.com.ph) and Alumni Office (uermmaa@i-next.net).

New Philippine alumni officers

The new inductees to the board of directors are: Lily Pine-Taneco, president; Jesus Tamesis, Jr., vice-president; Raul Quillamor, secretary; Janet Lim-Dy, treasurer; and Jesus Adelo Inciong, Ignacio Rivera, Luis Salvador, and immediate past president Ed Firmalo, members.

Retooling for ethics and service

This is the subject of Dr. Rene Edgar Mendoza's editorial in the 1st quarter issue of the administration newsletter *Mediscope*. In it, Mendoza bemoans the lack of emphasis on the ethical and service standards of the medical profession in the programs of the Philippine Medical Association which he opines as a reason for the sick in the country to "go to wherever and whoever makes them feel like their whole being is being treated, as opposed to only the physical part." We strongly agree. This challenge to the profession is true everywhere, Rene!

Dateline USA**Medicare cuts averted**

Lobbying by the AMA and other physician organizations across the country averted a 4.4% cut in Medicare physician payments scheduled for March 1st. Instead, the new law signed by President Bush in February will give doctors a 1.6% increase in 2003 reimbursements. The catch? A likely cut in 2004. As a result, 52% of doctors surveyed by a management association said that they will limit the number of Medicare patients in their practices.

Keep up the pressure on tort reform

Vickie Casibang urges us to contact our senators to pass the House-approved medical liability reform bill that caps non-economic damages at \$250,000, limits attorneys' fees, and allocates defendant's portion of a claim. The Senate faces a filibuster on the issue.



The Class of '77 at the Grand Alumni Fellowship Gala, December 19, 2002

Class '77 pledges . . . continued from page 1

medical malpractice, Philippine medicine's burning issue of the day, held on December 17th showed the uphill fight that doctors at home must wage against the medical malpractice bill now pending in Congress. The bill seeks to criminalize medical malpractice. Dr. Susan Perez-Suntay, silver jubilarian and UERMMMCMAAA vice-president, warned her local colleagues that unless they "lobby harder for tort reform" and against the said proposal, the elements of the "perfect storm" in health crisis plaguing the U.S. would come to the Philippines.

After the Baccay Lecture on hypertension by Dr. Vicente Tanseco, '74, hospital administrator on December 18 following the convocation, two other silver jubilarians spoke at the CME session. Dr. Clarita Odvina of Dallas, Texas' Southwestern Medical School talked about the prevalence of osteoporosis in the Philippines and Asia due to the ironic lack of calcium borne out by the widespread use of umbrella blocking the sunlight necessary for calcium metabolism. Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Randy Puno of the University of Louisville Medical School in Kentucky again cautioned against doing too much for low back pain emphasizing once more that "the natural history of most low back pain is spontaneous remission."

The fellowship night at Westin Philippine Plaza on Thursday, December 19 honored the jubilarian classes '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, and 2002. Top awards were also given to Drs. Joven Cuanang '62, most outstanding medical alumnus; Erlinda Valdellon '63, outstanding alumnus in medical education; Emmanuel Bravo '61, *in absentia*, outstanding alumnus in research; Gov. Parouk Hussin Moh '66, outstanding alumnus in community service; Bernardita Javier '66 and Brigido Carandang '68, leadership. A posthumous award was given to the late Dr. Jorge Peralta '61 a former professor of pathology.

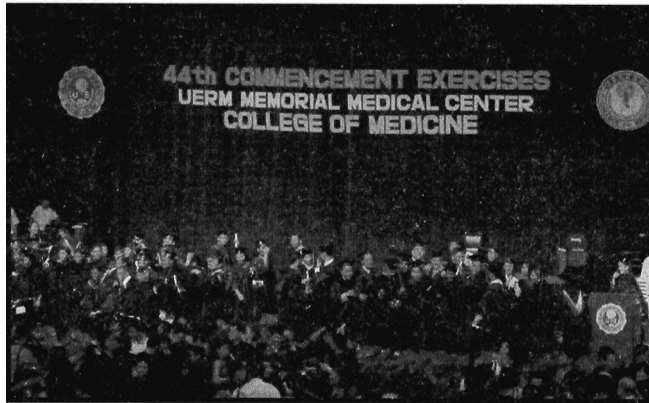
Class '77 capped their celebration with a commitment to raise \$100,000 in four years for scholarship, aiming to help UERMMMC ensnare topnotch medical school applicants. They started already with Randy Puno's \$10,000 and Susan Perez-Suntay's \$5,000 pledges. Suntay had already begun working with the alumni foundation on the mechanics of donation and award.

Having forged unity and closeness, the class vowed to see each other often starting with a "second chance 25th reunion" they have already planned for this summer's convention in New York. The spirit of the class was aptly captured by Dr. Stephen Medel's essay published in the homecoming souvenir program:

In UERM, we learned beyond the masses of medical terms the virtue of perseverance and beyond the penchants of the self, the need of valuing people around us. And as we recall the difficult circumstances wherein we had to face the harshness of exams, extend self-determination to super human levels because of the requirements, force the self to deal with strict doctors who were also our teachers and superiors and to heave the will when we cannot see the abstract significance of the hard tasks that robbed us of most of our sleep we thank all of these especially now, for they have molded us into a self that is most adept for the trials of medicine and of life that lie ahead.

44th commencement graduates 2nd PBL batch

Two hundred eighty-eight graduates received their diplomas at the 44th commencement exercises of the UERMMMCC College of Medicine held for the second year in a row at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. Among them were 20 foreign students, 13 from the U.S., 4 from Taiwan, 2 from Nepal, and one from Indonesia. A dozen of the successful candidates were alumni children. The 2003 batch, the second to



graduate under the new PBL curriculum, is the second largest class in UERMMMCC history. It also boasts of two *cum laudes* in its ranks.

Dr. Marita Reyes, UP Class '64, Chancellor of U.P. Manila, former Dean of the U.P. College of Medicine and former UERMMMCC Professor of Biochemistry, gave the commencement address. In her trademark emphatic and motherly teaching style, Dr. Reyes advised the new graduates to "cure and care for the sick," "maintain the health of the people," "prevent premature death," and "pursue a peaceful or dignified death."

UERMMMCC President Romeo Divinagracia conferred the degree of doctor of medicine on

the jubilant graduates to the cheerful applause of the audience composed mostly of immediate families. Assisting him in the distribution of diplomas were Dean Erlinda Valdellon, College Secretary Florina Estrada, and Dr. Fernando Sanchez, Jr., UERMMMCC Vice-President and former dean. The traditional hooding and investiture by parents and faculty took the most time in the four-hour long ceremony.

Topping the class were Karen Nielsen, *cum laude*, valedictorian, B.S., University of Sussex, Brighton, England, best in academic excellence, and Cari Mele Medina, *cum laude*, salutatorian, B.S. Nursing, UERMMMCC '98, and best in clinical excellence. Other awardees were: May

Sabando and her group, best in community medicine; Ena Lynn Ang, Lian Cruz, Ma. Lisa Ann Famador, and Ray Garcia, four-year Dean's List; Rhodney Niera and Marichelle Que, 3-year Dean's List; Demuel Berto, Anna Bravo, Jomer Pinzon, 2-year Dean's List; and Marvin Diaz, Lesley Ng, and Irma Rajagukguk, one-year Dean's List.

In her valedictory, Dr. Nielsen reflected on the four years of rigorous training at UERM and spoke for her entire class as she summed up all the emotions of their triumph: "when I think of all the hardships and struggles of the past four years, particularly the last one,

and ponder the question has it been worth it, seeing all my classmates in a day like this, I say yes, it is all worth it!"

A solemn baccalaureate mass was celebrated earlier in the day at the hospital quadrangle for the graduates, their families, faculty, and staff. In his homily, Rev. Romeo Intengan, SJ, himself a surgeon and graduate of UP-PGH, reminded the young doctors to always cultivate humility in the service of others, in the unending search for knowledge, and in the promotion of public policies that ultimately enhance the health of the country's teeming masses. As their choir sang, Class 2003 implored God's light as they "place our lives in the palms of Your hands."

Message to the Graduates

By Joseph Rastrollo, M.D. '73
President, UERMMMCCMAAA, Inc.

Congratulations on your graduation. Your long years of hard work and study have finally won you the coveted degree of doctor of medicine. I am pleased that you are graduating from UERMMMCC, my Alma Mater

I know that you all have the same dreams, desires, dedication, devotion and determination to be doctors. Without these traits you would not be where you are today.

As you rejoice in this occasion, join me also in thanking this unique school and her faculty. It is your Alma Mater now as it is to all the nearly 8,623 of us who have passed this way for almost 50 years. I ask you not to forget her. Support UERMMMCC in every way you can.

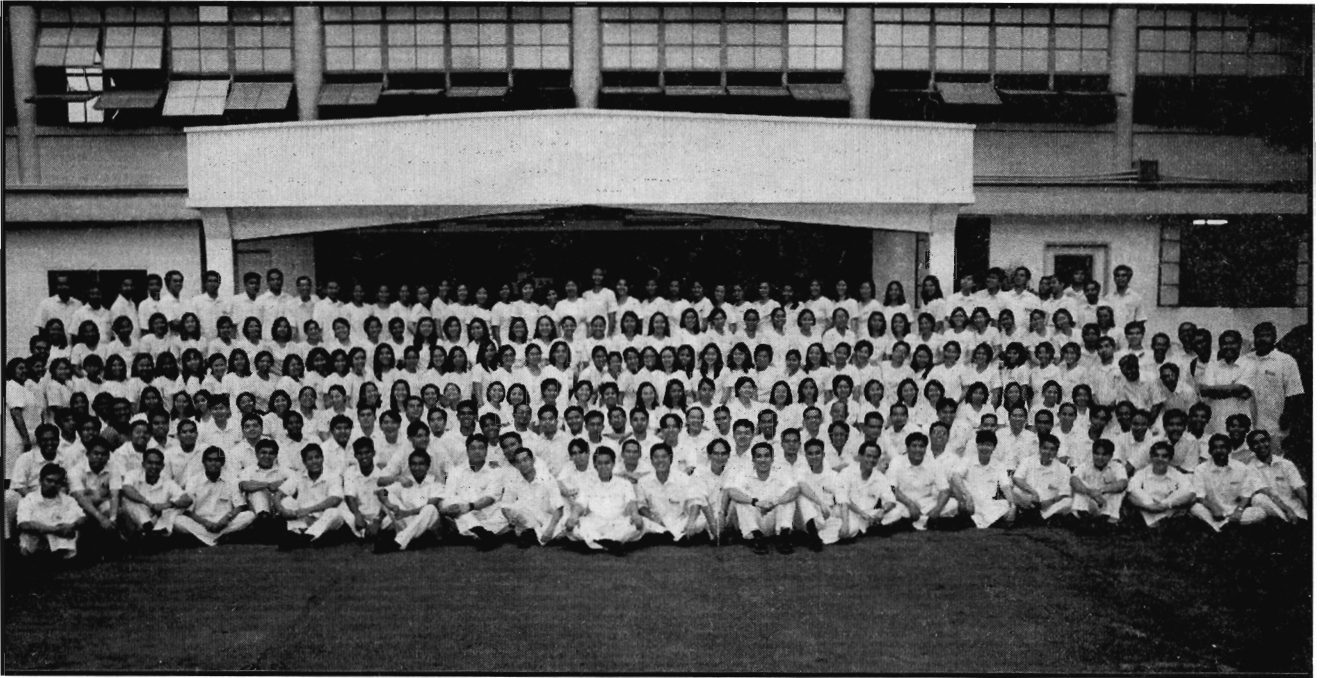
Again, congratulations to all of you. May your lives as doctors exceed your dreams and may your lives truly pass the test of time.

The Class of 2003

Genejane Adarlo, Eugenia Adraneda, Kristine Agbayani, Joe Ryan Agga, Ellaine Agraviador, Benedict Aguilar, Louis Gerard Agustin, Renato Alcaraz Jr., Glenn Paul Alcedo, Arcy James Alejandre, Ben Alilin, Precious Joy Katherine Alpano, Louanna Alvarado, Philip John Amanse, Christy Andaya, Ena Lyn Ang, Reina Lynn Antonio, Michelle Apostol, Alexander Omar Arabia, Eduardo Aro Jr., Sir Emmanuel Astudillo, Adolph Stephen Bagadiiong, Kathrina Victoria Baluyut, Anabelle Melissa Bannaria, Socrates Generoso Baquiran, Ferdinand Bautista, Lyn Princess Beley, Mark Joseph Bengson, Ruffy Anne Benitez, Aileen Bernales, Rochelle Bernardo, Demuel Dee Berto, Ellen May Biboso, Richelle Bismonte, Anna Catalina Bravo, Eugene Gerald Buenavaje, Rachel Bugaoisan, Joseph Cabantog, Verna Cabigas, Romel Caccam, Alexis Cadiz, Clifford Calara, Sharon Callejo, Anthony Carandang, Ria Veronica Carino, Cherrie Anne Casallo, Jo-Anna Castillo, Michelle Castro, Olga Nicole Cedro, Victoria Chato, Max Chen, Dennis Ching, Albert Chua, Jan Denton



Chua, Wilma Anthea Chua, Ceasario Benjamin Claveria, Giovanni Co, Abbegail Collantes, Athalie Collantes, Florida Cruz, Lian Cruz, Maureen Ann Cruz, Erwin Cruzado, Mary Eunice Cu, Jane Cuison, Jasper Dalawangbayan, Ma. Suzanne Datuin, Ma. Abigail David, Melinda David, Susan Dorinna David, Enrico De Belen, Jaynet De Castro, Anna Marie De Guzman, Charo Fionna De Guzman, Venn Homer De La Rosa, Richard De Leon, Ria Haya Aurora De Los Santos, Cynthia Cecilia De Ocampo, Ma. Aurora Rosana Del Castillo, Ma. Flordeliza Del Rosario, Raymund De La Cruz, Sheryl Anne De La Cruz, Margaux Duane Felicitas De La Merced, Mary Ann De Los Santos, Duane Diaz, Kyle Diaz, Marvin Diaz, Maritess Dimaano, Milette Divinagracia, Myra Doctor, Benilda Domingo, Anna Karen Doooc, Tahnia Grace Dulay-Villamora, Wilbur Don Duque, Jay Dy, Noah Ercillo, Liza Marie Escasa, Maria Kareena Espejo, Julie-Anne Espino, Christian Estanislao, Jennifer 'Estoque, Diwata Grace Fabros, Ma. Liza Ann Famador, Gerald Felicen, Adora Christine Felix, John Fermo, Therese Fermo, **continued on page 5**



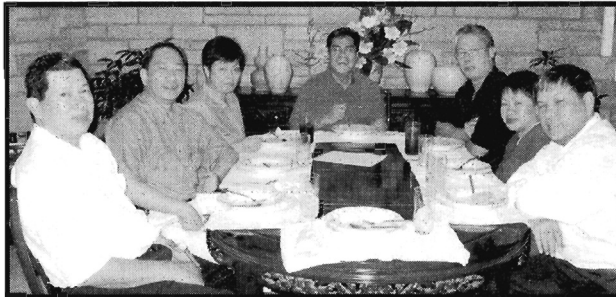
Ma. Mirame Fetiza, Haydee Flores, Ryan Karl Fontanilla, Benjamin Francisco, Jr., Jane Francisco, Sarah Carmelita Grace Gaerla, Al Gilbert Galindez, Jennifer Gapultos, Ferdiliza Dandah Garcia, Ray Jay Anthony Garcia, Yasmin Marie Antoinette Garcia, Marlene Geronimo, Candice Golez, Laarni Gonzalez, Christine Pauline Gonzalez, Ann Princess Grana, Vincent Jay Guab, Saran Gurung, Alexis Gutoc, Margarita Victoria Holgado, James Robert Honculada, Wilson Martin Hu, Leah-Mel Dennessa Icalla, Joseph Francis Ilaio, Amor Joana Indab, Mary Ann Jasa, Patrick Joseph Javier, Jeffrey Russel Jimenez, Katherine Lesly Jove, Raphael Angelo Jurilla, Catherine Kabling, Dexter Kaw, Dibas Koirala, Gene Paul Lacerna, Anne Marie Lagman, Jo Ann Lagman, Ronald Law, Clarissa Angela Layusa, Cheng-Lung Lee, Chun-Hui Lee, Anna Liza Lim, Kristine Ann Limjoco, Maria Theresa Liwanag, Jesus Lizardo II, Leo Lonzanida, Myra Dec Lopez, Vincent John Lu, Abdel Hussein Lucman, Alan Rey Mabbagu, Temujin Fidel Madrid, Elpidio Madrio, Jr., Mae Anne Malaluan, Jonathan Manalo, Maria Tricia Manlongat, Arnold Manuel, Delisa Dawn Manuel, Ryan Manuel, Marianito Mapue, Jr., Jason Marquez, Leandro Masanga, Jr., Cari Mele Medina, Roner Mendoza, Lean Mercado, Mia Grace Mercene, Paolo Joseph Miguel, Rophel Miguel, Anna Glenda Miranda, Amor Monsalud, Ma. Virginia Blanca Nadela, Rhodney Neira, Jerome Nepomuceno, Lesley Stuart Ng, Joy Nicolas, Karen Nielsen, Melanie Omar, Harold Anton Ortega, Adrian Oseda, Ramiro Thadeus Pablo, Jaime Padre, Meliah Padua, Janis Mae Pagtakhan, Lorelane Pagulayan, Gregory Palma, Mari Grace Pamatnat, Orville Jess Pandes, Amabelle Par, Homer Paras, Wesley Pascual, Nelson Pasia, Karen Paulate, Joan Payumo, Michael Arden Perdon, Ma. Rheinna Pereja, Joanne Perez, Lhea Perez, Marlon Gumby Perez, Souvenir Piay, Jonathan Piga, Jomer Dennis Pinzon, Robin Pinzon, Marijoliza Policarpio, Michael Posecion, Christine Purugganan, Kristine Grace Que, Marichelle Que, Reynaldo Quijano, Catherine Quilang, Gene Quintero, Irma Rajagukguk, Michelle Ramirez, Maria Christina Ramos, Jonelyn Ranjo, Angielyn Reyes, Keena Riobuya, Juan Rodriguez, Pamela Rona, Raymond Joseph Roque, Angeline Roxas, Maria Daphne Ruiz, Vanessa Rumbaoa, May Sabando, Leah Salido, Josephine Leiya Marie Salud, Mia Charina Saludares, Joanne Charisse Salvani, Ma. Hilda San Pedro, Anna Cecilia Sandejas, Dax Rinzi Sandoval, Ma. Moha Santilices, Stephanie Santiago, Jose Ramil Santos, Josephine Santos, Lourdes Marie Santos,

Sherryl Santos, Carlo Saul, Charmaine Silva, Jimmy Inocencio Sio, Ma. Tricia Subido, Roberto Alvaro Taguibao, R-Jay Ceasar Taguinod, Jason Tan, Lynne Fe Tan, Paul Adrian Tan, Cheryl Rose Tana, Jose Rodolfo Tecson, Sheila Tecson, Paolo Temporal, Victor Leo Tesoro, Kim Martin Tolentino, Peter Myror Jun Torres, Anthony Trinidad, Jui-Ju Tseng, Mitchell Tsunoda, Jasper Aldous Tuazon, Caroline Tulang, Sharon Rose Umandap, Celeste Usi, Laure Joy Valera, Redel Dionisio Valera, Carissa Jean Vea, Bernard Vega, Vita Veena Venturina, Claricel Villanueva, Maria Christina Villanueva, Zara Villanueva, Anna Liza Villegas, Yueh-I Wu, Carlomagno Yalung, Ruth Ann Yap, Mary Christine Yia, and Carlo Santino Yuson.

After the Baccalaureate Mass, these happy graduates pose at the Quadrangle, left to right: Lorelane Pagulayan, Jeff Jimenez, Jonathan Piga, John Fermo, Laarni Gonzalez, Jun Alcaraz, and P.J. Amanse. A day to say goodbye, even more to remember.



This bunch of happy new doctors got up to the stage after the graduation ceremony and savored some more the joy of the moment. One said "I can't believe I'm a doctor!"



MARVADC Chapter officers with Dr. Rastrollo



The Silver Jubilarian Class '78 groups in Manila and U.S.A.



NEC's Ber de la Merced, Danny Mangunay, & Jun Caguiait

The UERMMMC College of Medicine
is now accepting applications for the first year class of the
2004-2005 academic year. For further information, please call the Registrar's Office
at 011-632-713-3315, visit the school's website www.uerm.ph or
contact the newsletter.

In addition to academic and documentary requirements, applicants must take the
NMAT (National Medical College Admission Test) administered in Manila, New York, or
Los Angeles and arrange for interviews with any of the following: Drs. Chester
Kokseng (Florida, 813-963-2494), Rolando Mendoza (Florida, 305-569-1259), Ida
Tiongco (New York, 212-988-2634), Benjamin Rigor (Kentucky, 502-228-2798),
David Roble (Illinois, 708-584-9495), Samuel Piga (Texas, 972-596-8911), and
Neda Ballon-Reyes (California, 818-772-7696).



Student Corner



The road less traveled

by Caryl P. Guillermo, MS 2004

The road less traveled is often the hardest one to take in our journey through life. I know this because I chose this road when I decided to go to medical school at UERM. I guess I've always known that I was going to be a doctor since I was born. Ironically, twenty-eight years ago, I was born in the very hospital where I now spend countless hours listening, learning, studying, and soon even more countless hours as a junior intern. My life journey has been one of many obstacles, hard decisions, and most of all doubt. It was difficult when four years ago I uprooted myself from our home in Houston to pursue a career in medicine. I did not want to be a doctor at first. To tell you the truth, my heart just wasn't in it. After years of believing that I would become a doctor, I came to a crossroad and didn't know what to do anymore but I knew I didn't want to be one. My parents though disappointed were very supportive and encouraged me to search my heart and pray for God's guidance. After graduation from college, I took up a job at a local psychiatric hospital. But it didn't take me long to realize that I was missing something in my life. There was a tug at my heart which made me feel unfulfilled. At that point, my journey began.

During my three years at UERM, I often wondered if I made the right decision, if all the sacrifices I've made have been worth it. I now know that the answer to it is a resounding YES! I have met other Filipino-American students who share the same goal I have. We have all made similar sacrifices to pursue our hearts' passion.

Studying and living in the Philippines is very difficult. There are many cultural differences to overcome. Nevertheless, I have had wonderful and lasting memories. I have to say that there are many dedicated and knowledgeable teachers at our institution who tirelessly uphold the standards of UERM and give of their time and effort for us. The consultants truly teach for the love of their profession and of UERM. The most important lessons in life I have learned in the Philippines I got it from the friends I have made. I have learned to be stronger, more patient, open-minded, dedicated, and above all be more caring. Life has been manageable here because of my friends as well as my family. I don't know where I would be without their constant support, encouragement, and prayers. My family has been the bedrock of my life and identity.

As I approach junior internship, I am apprehensive, excited, and scared. But I know that this year will hew me into a good physician. I intend to face it with an open mind, patience, perseverance, and above all a compassionate heart for all patients. Whatever obstacles this year brings me will not deter me from the prize I seek. Come April, 2004, I will be a doctor. And having chosen the road less traveled, I hope to make my *Alma Mater* proud and be another successful UERM graduate.

Dear UERM Alumni,

Greetings! The Medicine Class 2004 of the UERMMMC will publish its yearbook *Aesculapius 2004*. Preparations for it are now underway. We would like to invite you to be a part of this collection of memories through our business pages which will contain, among others, your advertisement materials and congratulatory messages.

Knowing fully well that our yearbook will be an effective means by which you can reach hundreds of medical practitioners here and abroad, we hope you will see this as a valuable medium to relay your messages and product endorsements.

We would be very honored if you could be a part of the celebration that is our medical careers. This is our way of ensuring that you will be part of Class 2004 forever.

Thank you very much and God bless.

Sincerely yours,

Raquel T. Lim, Editor-in-Chief

Pia Victoria V. Velasco, Financial Director

ADVERTISEMENT PROPOSAL

1. Major Sponsors

a. For PhP 15,000 - benefits include 2-page ad or congratulatory message (two 11" x 8" pages); a copy of the yearbook; entitled to invite two guests to the launch party aside from the solicitor; allowed to promote products at the launch party.

b. PhP 10,000 - one page ad or congratulatory message (11" x 8" page); a copy of the yearbook for each of the solicitor and sponsor; entitled to invite one guest aside from the solicitor at the launch party.

2. Minor Sponsors

a. For PhP 7,000 - benefits include one-half (1/2) page ad or congratulatory message (5.5" x 8" page); a copy of the yearbook only for the solicitor; entitled to one guest aside from the solicitor at the launch party.

b. For PhP 4,000 - one-fourth (1/4) page ad or congratulatory message (5.5" x 4"); a copy of the yearbook only to the solicitor; solicitor's entrance to launch party is free.

3. Patron - for PhP 2,000, benefit is a one-eighth (1/8) page ad or congratulatory message (5.5" x 2").

For those interested in investing in the *Aesculapius 2004* or have further questions, please contact Caryl P. Guillermo, financial committee member, at carylguillermo@hotmail.com. Thank you for supporting Class 2004.

Spectre of malpractice law looms

In the November 2002 issue of the *Aesculapian*, students, resident physicians, junior and senior faculty members expressed opposition to a law now pending in the Philippine Congress to criminalize medical malpractice. The bill zeroes in on "illegal surgery" (removal of organs for profit without patient consent) and malpractice ("personal injury including death caused by negligent or wrongful act or omission of any medical practitioner" which includes a physician, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, medical and dental technician, nursing assistant and therapist) and prescribes a prison sentence of 6 to 12 years, cancellation of license to practice the said profession, and fine of P500,000 to P1 million.

The project: quite achievable **Class Notes**

by C.J.R. Miranda IV, M.D.
President, Alumni Foundation

The million-dollar project of the Alumni Foundation for its initial Endowment Fund might look like a huge undertaking at first glance. However, a second look will immediately tell us that this project is, in fact, quite achievable, and within a reasonable period of time.

The fund will be administered by our U.S.-based foundation. Only the interest will be used to underwrite projects. At first blast, human resource projects are preferred but there is a current lean towards infrastructure ones, if they are not so large and absolutely indispensable.

Dr. Wilmer Heceta, Class '61 and chairman emeritus of the foundation board of trustees, started this during his term, calling it then the 333 Fund. What it entailed was participating alumni would give \$1,000 in 3 installments of \$333 a year. If a thousand alumni did this, a million dollars would be raised. There are about 3 to 4 thousand alumni here in the United States.

At present, the 333 Fund has become part and parcel of the larger Endowment Fund. My class chose to support it by establishing the Class '67 Fund. Other classes may want to do the same.

By the same token, individual alumni may wish to fulfill this ambitious expectation by contributing more to the fund. For example, if we encourage willing alumni to contribute \$5,000 each, 200 of such pledges will make a million dollars. Or if 100 alumni pledge \$10,000 each, the million dollar mark could be reached in no time. Other like

combinations can be put together to achieve the same goal effectively.

The point of all of these is simple: true, the amount one contributes does matter, but in reality, one hundred percent participation is more important and a more reliable measure of how much we value our commitment to our *Alma Mater*. Some may have a legitimate beef about their treatment as medical students in the past but we can take the philosophical view that those were character-building blocks that made us who we are today and, thus, relegate those unpleasant episodes to experience ("chuck it to experience," so they say).

There are 3 character traits that can guide us to become a financial resource for appropriate projects for the Medical Center. They are: *commitment, commitment, and commitment!*

The Foundation earnestly solicits each of you to become one of its benefactors. Your cash, appreciated stocks, bonds, mutual funds, bequests, life insurance proceeds, and other monetary instruments will be most welcome. Revocable trusts are also a neat way to benefit the Foundation. Consider the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc. as a named beneficiary when you prepare your will(s). Consult your tax adviser for the best way to make your contributions.

The Word says it is better to give than to receive.

Advanced philosophy from '64

On the subject of individualism versus social conformity, in response to '68's Totoy Castrence's relentless search for *nirvana*, Nely Saturno Recano's existentialist visit with Albert Camus ends with the sublime clarity of Lao Tzu's ancient teaching: *Who knows others is perceptive. Who knows himself is wise. Who conquers others is forceful. Who conquers himself is strong. Who knows contentment is wealthy. Who strives hard succeeds. Who doesn't lose his place endures. Who doesn't perish lives on.*

A sad note from '66

Dr. Edsel Doreza died on March 19, 2003, 14 days after celebrating his 60th birthday. The Lake Geneva, Wisconsin internist was an active booster of the Midwest Chapter. He is remembered by our webmaster Dave Roble for the "good times away from our stresses" through the outings he had organized. We mourn with Dave as he eulogized Doreza in his website posting: "The Midwest Chapter lost a valued member. His patients lost a caring physician. His family lost an anchor. We lost a friend!"

A flash of fame '65 & '66 style

Jerry and Joji Alonso from '65 and '66, a husband and wife tango pair, were briefly seen in the Robert Duvall's film "Assassination Tango." In the scene, Jerry sports a goatee while Joji sits. See it on tape and slo mo so as not to miss them.

Another obit from '66

Dr. Dave Roble reports also that Dr. Eliseo (Boy) de los Santos '66 succumbed to a cardiac illness in mid-January, leaving behind a wife and a nine-year old son. He writes "when somebody we know well goes it brings into focus our own mortality and the fleeting nature of life. We will, as we all eventually do, rest in peace."

Long live jaded jedi '68!

Dr. Francis Talangbayan lived up to the high order of his class when he was chosen as one of the Presidential Awardees for Individuals and Organizations Overseas given in Malacanang last December for his work in "promoting the interests of Filipino communities abroad," a feat worthy of a seat in the Jedi Council. Congratulations and may the *Force* be always with you!

Pearls of '73

We salute Anavel "Bing" Carin for her service to the country. She is completing her tour of duty with Operation Iraqi Freedom. The New York psychiatrist expects to be home in time for her pearl reunion. She cochairs the programme and entertainment committee and had booked at the

Foundation meeting to kick off reunion week

The UERMMMC AFUSA, Inc., seizing the momentum generated in last December's leadership workshop, called for a mini-leadership workshop and pre-convention meeting of the board of trustees on Wednesday, July 30, 2002 at the Marriott Courtyard, Elizabeth, New Jersey, the same venue last time around. The event will be underwritten by American Express.

In a memo to officers, trustees, and committee members of the foundation, Dr. Conrad Miranda IV, president, divided the day's agenda into a training session and business meeting which will include the election of officers and trustees. The annual meeting scheduled for the afternoon of August 2 at the Regent Wall Street Hotel will essentially be a turnover session where newly elected officers will be installed and the new team oriented to the foundation's mission, objectives and plans. Expected to attend also are UERMMMC President Divinagracia, Dean Valdellon and new Philippine Alumni President Lily Pine-Tansec.

In mid-April, Miranda asked trustees to submit their letters of intent for reelection to another 3-year term and requested alumni chapters for nominations if any. A full-day leadership workshop is being talked about for future conventions starting with Chicago in 2004.

Leadership Training, Wednesday, July 30, 2003, Marriott Courtyard, NJ

10:00 AM—11:00 AM Registration and Coffee

11:00 AM Greetings, Conrad J.R. Miranda, IV, M.D., President

11:05 AM—11:00 AM The Benefits of Charitable Giving to the UERMMMC Foundation and Donors, Evasio Cagande, MBA, Financial Adviser, AMX

Continued on page 30

Class Notes

Silver Jubilarian Class of 1978

by Franklin De Guzman, M.D.

Ritz and Regent before she left. Her classmates and fellow NECers "are all very proud of her and praying for her safe return."

Better late than never, the class launched its egroup UERM73@yahoo.com not only to bolster attendance at its 30th jubilee but to fulfill their pledge 5 years ago to donate \$100,000 to the alumni foundation for projects earmarked by the class. They are only \$21,800 shy of their goal and leaders are confident that members will come through with their commitment. For particulars, contact Eli de Leon at erdmd@msn.com or (248) 1394. Please send your checks to Eric Pua at 2118 Wyeth Dr., Guntersville, AL 35976-2340. Thanks. Let's go Twin Class!

Non-stop 25th reunion for '77

Stricken with reunion fever, last years silver celebrants are doing it once more with feeling. "Second chance 25th reunion" has been set for August 1st at Rita's beach abode. Leaving nothing to chance, they are now talking about a "3rd chance '77 reunion" in Chicago for 2004. They also paused to remember and pray for Tita Sumbillo who passed on in early January. May she rest in peace!

MARVADC is '79's domain

Congratulations to the newly installed officers of the chapter: Renato Flores, president; Abner Pasatiempo, vice-president; Anna Maria Guanlao Pasatiempo, secretary; Myrna Ortega, treasurer; Florentina Loya, PRO; and Mandy Real and Raul Moran, business managers. Nearly all are '79 classmates who will be our silver honorees in Chicago in August 2004.

'80 please call home

Bien is looking for his classmate in the United States. Contact him at bien@mindspring.com. Your 25th anniversary is coming up in 2005 You will be the principal honorees at the alumni convention and reunion in early August, 2005 in Houston, Texas. Begin organizing your class now. Please contact any alumni officers for any help.

The future is now for '88

We admire this class. They are doing what previous batches have never done before, celebrating their 15th reunion instead of waiting for their 25th. So here it is mates: Agnes says "Please join us for our 15th year reunion in New York. We are planning a brunch and family activities on Saturday, August 2, 2003. Please contact me at agnesj@pol.net or (323) 857-2711 or Nathalie Bernabe-Quion at nbquion@pol.net or (703) 271-8800. Please spread this invitation and let's make this reunion a memorable one!" May you have more joyous reunion, '88!

It started in 1974 when about 270 of us were accepted into the College of Medicine. We were very envious of the upperclassmen who were wearing those all-white uniforms. At least we considered ourselves to be fortunate to be chosen from among the 2,800 applicants. We gladly assumed the role of freshmen in this "exclusive club" on Sta. Mesa Boulevard only to be referred to as "Advanced Pre-Med" during the inter-class basketball tournament. Class '78 won the championship in our freshman year! While we wanted to place those stethoscopes around our necks, we were required to officially pass our first year in order to earn the respect of our professors and the senior medical students. Approximately 200 members of our class made it to second year. Despite some obstacles, nothing prevented our graduation, internship and the subsequent passing of the medical board examinations.



There were about 20 Americans in our class. A few left to pursue their medical education in the United States. Some graduated with us in 1978. Our class has produced a past dean of a medical school, the medical director at the UERM Hospital, presidents of several medical societies in the Philippines, professors in the basic sciences, chairs of several departments, and practicing physicians here in the U.S.

We had no idea that almost 90 of us would practice medicine in America. We arrived at a time when it was very difficult to find a residency training position. About 6,000 to 7,000 foreign medical graduates competed each year for 1,500 leftover PGY-1 positions in the 1980's. Most members of our class have been board certified in their respective medical specialties.

Many class members will reach their 50th birthdays when we arrive in New York City for our 25th anniversary celebration. We must also remember three of our classmates who are no longer with us - Ramon Libarnes, Edwin Oca, and Melcarlo de Jesus.

Our class endured hardships in studying for examinations and applying our knowledge in the clinics. We truly believe that the quality of our medical education at UERM was superb. We really appreciate the help and training provided by our teachers and mentors. For this and so much more, we are profoundly grateful.



The core Class '78 organizers meeting at Joe Prudencio's place in the winter



Class '77 Homecoming Diary by Rene Punsalan, M.D.

OK guys. Finally got my computer running. Today is the **1st day of the homecoming**. It is Monday and tonight there should be a general welcome party at UERM for all alumni. Couldn't make it because my car broke down. Tomorrow, the departments of medicine and clinical-neurosciences will host a joint symposium on selected topics to be given by Class '62. Looks like a last-minute addition. Anyway, just found out today that I will be one of the moderators tomorrow. So I need to get some sleep now. Will try to post updates daily, hopefully with pictures. How many of you are left in the U.S.?

Today, December 17, 2002, is the **2nd day of homecoming week**. This a.m. there were 3 lectures by Class '62. Clarence Amayun was there. This afternoon was the symposium on medical malpractice. Susan was one of the speakers. I wasn't able to stay and listen to her 'coz I had to get my car from the shop.

Tomorrow is the convocation with Dr. Divinagracia as speaker. We are supposed to assemble outside the college auditorium and again don our togas. This ritual was introduced years ago. Perhaps it's some sort of re-enactment. For me it should be the high point of the celebration for the silver anniversary because we're back in our school as a class. I hope many would attend.

Wednesday, December 18, 2002. Today was really a full day. At 8 AM, 74 members of our class once again donned their togas as each one met each other for the first time in 25 years! Everyone went into *déjà vu* as I started to call the roll. Everyone was shouting with joy, it was so difficult to calm down the class as we entered the auditorium one by one to the wild applause of a token audience (which was us).

After a stirring rendition of the national anthem by the UERM Choir, the mass followed, officiated by Fr. Jerry Bongcawil, our former resident in internal medicine. We remembered our departed classmates. Fr. Bongcawil gave a

very touching sermon focusing on the importance of keeping family intact for the sake of the children. He also reminded us to find Christ in every patient that we treat ("You are all given the opportunity to serve the Lord on a daily basis.").

Dr. Valdellon gave the welcome address. Then each member was awarded a medallion by the college as his/her grad picture is flashed on the screen to the riotous appreciation of the class. Dr. Cabuquit exceeded the affair and added his British flair to the occasion. We fell into silence as the pictures of our deceased members were shown on the screen. Chit Lahoz as class valedictorian gave a short but meaningful response.

At lunchtime, each hungry soul took a plateful of food and sat down in groups, continued the gossip and "*kodakan*." At 1 PM, I whisked Clarence Amayun to the neuro office where he lectured residents and interns on syncope while the Baccay Memorial Lecture went on at the auditorium. The scientific program kicked off at 2 PM with Calla Odvina's lecture on osteoporosis followed by Randy Puno's on low back pain.

A short business meeting ensued at 5 PM, with barely no one listening. After a short *merienda* they all proceeded to Randy's place in Ayala Alabang for the class party. I had to do rounds in another hospital and could not make it there so I decided to go home and save my energies for tomorrow, the fellowship night!

4th day, gala night. OK guys, it's 10 minutes past 2 AM and I've settled down to write this update. The fellowship dinner at the Philippine Plaza was a resounding success. It was a sight to see classmates in resplendent suits and formal dresses. Attendance was good. Class '62 (Cuanang & Co.) was celebrating their 40th

on together. "Even if I've seen this a hundred times before, it was a sight to behold especially if you are involved. Dr. Cuanang led us in the ceremonial toast.

Class '78, next year's celebrants, gifted us with a well-executed dance number, then a Class '72 member belted out a perfect (flawless!) rendition of "New York, New York." Class '62 was next with a slow dance in parkinsonian cadence that made me remind our classmates to watch it closely because this is how we would perform 15 years from now. Then, our class gave a command performance (3 fast dances) as I watched in awe what a combination of sheer courage, *esprit d'corp*, and a little alcohol can do.

Our very own Lily Pine was elected president and Janet Lim a board member of the alumni association. "Kodakan" was endless. All that one needed to do was gather a group and the cameras would start to click. *Ganyan pala ang maging celebrity, ang sarap maski isang gabiling!*

Epilogue. Ruby suggested that I assume the task of class historian. No objections. Only thing is I'm not good at record keeping. An account of the Hawaii reunion should be included, we agreed. Pictures in CDs hopefully could be distributed soon. Chit and Susan's speeches would also be posted in the internet for the benefit of those who missed the convocation and gala.

My friend and high school classmate, Dr. Dwight David, has been telling Ruby his own exhilarating experience in their UST 25th anniversary homecoming. Then I realize that at the same time we were all celebrating, other classes who graduated in 1977 had also been doing the same thing. Which goes to show that as individuals, we belong to different groups. high school class, premed **continued on page 16**



← At the fellowship night gala
At the stairway to the auditorium →

year. I saw faces who were in the toga ceremony like Long Eduardo, Alma Fonte, Ysmael Trinidad, etc. Eggie Protacio delivered the invocation capped by a musical prayer. Oops! Someone forgot to turn off the video presentation so while Eggie was praying, pictures of Class 1977 drinking beer merrily were being shown on screen!

After a few speeches, each one was called into the center of the hall to light a candle one by one to the music "if we hold



Are you catching or telling? post-reunion thoughts

by Susan Perez-Suntay, M.D.



A small fishing village was surprised to see Joe Fisherman come back each day with a boat full of fish while all the other fishermen come back empty-handed. One day, the Fishing Industry Commission Inspector asked Joe how he does it. Joe replied, "Why don't you come with me to-

morrow and see for yourself?" The next day while out at sea, Joe takes out a stick of dynamite, lights it and throws it in the water. And shortly thereafter, hundreds of fish floated on the surface of the water. The officer was dumbstruck and furious. He ordered Joe to turn back to shore for his arrest. Just then, Joe lights another dynamite and throws it on the officer's lap and says to him, "It's up to you, are you telling or catching?"

Speaking at the 32nd UERMMMC Fellowship Night on Dec. 19, 2002 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, I spoke on the relevance and relation of this story to my desire to throw the "dynamite-spirit of enthusiasm" to garner more support for the two UERMMMC Medical Alumni Associations in Manila and the USA. As for me and my co-Silver Jubilarians, we "caught" it. But, unlike the officer and Joe, I hope that all UERMMMC Alumni throw their dynamite of enthusiasm and support of the Alumni Association then "tell" it to other Alumni they happen to be in contact with so that they too can "catch it"

Our wonderful and joyous experiences at the 32nd UERMMMC-MAA Homecoming in Manila and the 14th Annual UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. Convention and Reunion in Hawaii gave us better insights into our two alumni associations and our roles in them.

But first, in behalf of my Class '77, I would like to congratulate and thank all the officers, organizers and staff who gave their time and energy to give us a very successful convention and reunion. Special mention goes to Dr. Ed Firmalo '76, President and to my classmate, Dr. Lily Pine-Taneco, Overall Chair, Homecoming 2002. We also thank Dean Erlinda V. Valdellon and Dr. Romeo Divinagracia for their presence and support at our 25th Reunion Celebrations.

One attendance to a 25th reunion celebration is enough to rekindle our love for our *Alma Mater*, mentors and most importantly our classmates and friends. But, attending a homecoming at the very halls of our school brings about a sobering and eye-opening realization of the needs there and how we can help and give back to her. *Alma Mater* literally means "mother's arms" I felt those arms when I went back last December to attend our 25th reunion. I am sure that my classmates felt the same way too. All our old friends, classmates and even our mentors, received us with open arms and embraces. It really felt like *being* home especially for out-of-towners and *balikbayans*. I saw the joy of my classmates as they proudly received their medallions during the convocation as if they were saying, "Thank you UERMMMC for giving us the education and training to become good physicians and helping us be members of our communities where we can make a difference" Right now, the needs are still there and we can truly make a difference and effect some meaningful changes. Please allow me to name a few:

1) Educate graduates on future reunions. Our class realized that we should have met sooner and not wait 25 years later. We felt that so much was missed and lost in that long span of time. We vowed never again to wait that long. So we suggest that there should be an initial discussion of future reunions at the senior year of medical school. If possible expose them to a pre-25th reunion experience 5 or 10 years post-graduation.

2) Learn from our leaders. Because of our 25th reunion preparations, I have observed how our alumni association works and I'm grateful to serve our *Alma Mater* through the alumni assn. as vice-president together with a core of dedicated and loyal alumni who are all volunteers and are all very busy in their own rights. They are selfless with their time and energy preparing for annual conventions and reunions. These two alumni associations including our newsletter and editorial staff are owed our debts of gratitude. We can express this gratitude by our financial and physical support for them. But why the low percentage of support?

The No. 1 reason in my opinion is that we are still a young organization hence all of this is part of our "growing pains." But if we do our part to "catch and tell" other yet uninvolved alumni, perhaps we can double or even triple our membership in 3 years. Membership in any organization needs a "draw" or an answer to the typical egoistic question of, "What do I get out of it?" May I offer these answers? 1) The two MAA's can become our venues or lobbying voice which can address the dilemmas on current medical malpractice problems negatively impacting our profession. Both Executive Councils should speak for us before the PMA, AMA and the Congresses of both the Philippines and the USA. 2) The two MAA's can also be used as our channels for charitable donations which will also benefit our countrymen. Alumni can contribute to the association's Charity Ward Project. Our medical students have fewer patients to study because charity patients cannot afford the hospital fees at UERMMH. Also, less delivery of care to the needy which is part of our mission. 3) At the 32nd UERMMMC Alumni Fellowship Night in Manila, I bemoaned the existence of two structurally and operationally different alumni organizations. WHY? Are we not all alumni from one UERMMMC? Why can we not just have ONE. What I observed in Manila is not the alumni association at work but Silver Jubilarians in action. We need to revise this practice. I believe that the MAA in Manila should pattern itself after its American counterpart as far as homecomings are concerned. The association in the USA was visibly running the show. It clearly was the sponsor of the entire convention and it provided the much needed assistance and venue for the Jubilarians. In contrast, it was mainly the Silver Jubilarians who attended the activities at the Manila homecoming as if it was only their reunion celebration. Other jubilarians present seemed to act as separate groups and did not care to attend activities such as CMEs prepared for all attendees. I do not believe that the rest were only invited to attend the Fellowship Night. The entire homecoming was for all alumni. Perhaps, the association in America can help and assist in effecting changes that can encourage attendance and participation. I feel strongly about this because I missed the other jubilarians in our other activities. I also think that it is important to get to know and network with other fellow alumni.

Before I go, I know I speak for all my classmates when I say that we realized and vowed not to let another 25 years go by to reconnect with each other again. I am sure that this won't ever happen again. Now our class has more e-mail exchanges and phone calls than ever before. We have had more mini-reunions and parties for birthdays and visits to one another. We will not allow another classmate to pass on without our knowledge nor one of us to get very ill without being prayed for, helped and assisted by at least one or two of us. We have come to realize that God planted each one of us in the gardens of our lives to become part of us forever. And, it does not matter who we are now but who we were to each other sometime in the past in our dear UERMMMC's "sacred halls."



President's Report: Medical mission is a gift, try it!

by Joseph S. Rastrollo, M.D.



During the last week of January to the first week of February, several UERMMMC alumni joined a medical mission to the Philippines. The first week was in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, sponsored by the Southern California Chapter led by

Dr. Edgar Banez, the second week was in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, sponsored by Philippine Medical Association of Southern California under the leadership of our very own Dr. Alexander Abary. The collaboration of the national UERMMMCMAAA, its Southern California chapter, and the PMA of Southern California made this medical mission possible. The alumni who joined were Dr. Angeline Yatar-Ituriaga (Pediatrics), Dr. Goyet Vasquez (Anesthesia), Dr. Athena Lulette Angliongo (Ophthalmology), Dr. Alex Abary (Internal Medicine), Dr. Edgar Banez (Internal Medicine), Dr. Joseph Rastrollo (Anesthesia) and Al Estudillo (RN). All in all there were thirty members in the team. We were then divided into three groups, namely, surgical, medical team, and dental.

The primary goal was to reach and help needy people wherever they were, whatever their condition in life. This outreach project entailed a lot of sacrifice. While the duties were arduous and laborious, compounded by missed meals, inadequate sleep, and deprivation of city life, a chance to share what we have and know brought us a great sense of achievement. We felt that our individual experiences might help convey the importance of volunteering our professional skills to the least privileged of society.

I have been involved with medical missions in the past decade and have worked with nurses, surgeons and anesthesiologists mostly in the surgical management of goiter, hydrocele, hernia, cataracts, skin tumors and other disorders. I have had the best times of my life joining such surgical missions that's why I have continued to do so almost year after year. This has become one of the most valuable of my professional activities.

Working in a small hospital, poorly equipped by our standards, in a hot, humid, underdeveloped country where things are unfamiliar, can be trying and stressful. It requires months of advanced planning to be able to take off for two weeks and leave your work and family.

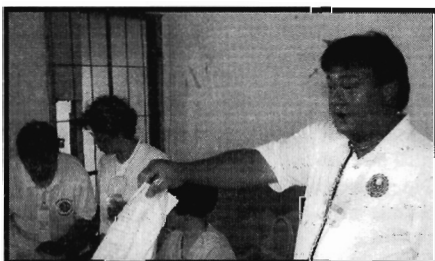
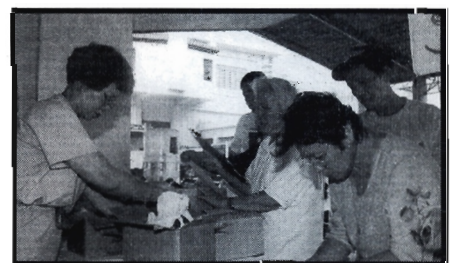
It is also important for a volunteer to be able to work with other volunteers. That is why this work should not be considered lightly. The medical

and surgical supplies that we bring (surgical, anesthetics, pharmaceuticals), usually around twenty balikbayan boxes in all, are all packaged and labeled. We pay for this extra load since flights to the Philippines are often full of such luggages. One time, our supplies were loaded in Los Angeles, CA but not our personal belongings which arrived in Manila two days later. Most of us were without fresh clothes, toiletries, etc. for a couple of days or so. Just another example of what could go wrong in a mission. The good part is that we were well supplied and cared for by our host families and we were able to do our medical work just the same.

Travel to the Philippines takes at least a full day. Board and lodging are usually with local families and hospital. On the first working day, we screen patients and schedule surgeries. Several hundred patients, some having traveled many miles and days to get to the hospital, already await us. They have been informed of our visit by various public announcements (local radio stations, flyers, streamers, etc.). Triage identifies the most urgent and worthwhile cases and avoids those which are beyond our capacity to safely accomplish.

In surgery, there are times when we run two cases simultaneously in one operating room. As patients continue to show up at the hospital more are added to the schedule as conditions allow. On the average, we do eight to ten surgical cases a day.

As you might expect, we would work hard but also have our share of fun along the way. Although I could tell you many stories, one stands out from my trips to the Philippines. An elderly woman with a huge disfiguring goiter came to the hospital one day and was put on a waiting status because of our hectic surgical schedule. This woman returned each day to wait, and each day we had no room for her. On the last full day of surgery, we squeezed her into the schedule and after an hour of surgery, made her look normal for the first time in her life, and no longer a social outcast. It was a small effort for us. The next day at rounds, she shed much tears of joy as she looked herself in the mirror and saw her friendly face, no longer the frightening one she used to have. The sight was indeed a great reward for all of us. No insurance authorization, no billing forms, nothing but the pure essence of what we all envisioned when we entered our profession.



UERMCMCAA, Inc.

(Incorporated on September 3, 1991, registered as a 501C6 charitable organization on April 30, 1993, Tax I.D. No. 52-1745846)

Email: uermmcmcaaa@yahoo.com

Website: www.uermalumni.org, uermmcmcaaa.org, uermmcmcaaa.org. Webmaster: David Roble, M.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D.

P.O. Box 13073, Alexandria, LA 71315-3073

Tel/Fax: (318) 445-5224 imanlapaz@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT

Joseph S. Rastrollo, M.D.

10835 Leolang Ave., Sunland, CA 91040

Tel: (818) 352-4345 rastjeph@aol.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Manuel Blas, M.D.

31 Regent Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521

Tel: O (708) 865-0200, H (708) 986-8283

MLBLASCAP@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Susan Perez-Suntay, M.D.

1322 S. Prairie Ave., # 1401, Chicago, IL 60605

Cellphone: (402) 201-8083 spsuntay@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Merlyn Asuncion, M.D.

12021 S. Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90059

Tel: (310) 668-4578 merloc2001@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D.

400 N. Front Street, Syracuse, IN 46567

Tel: (574) 457-2670, Fax: (574) 457-3559

srcicoddd@hotmail.com

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Ernesto L. Chua, M.D., 2021 Waterfall Court, Modesto, CA 95355 Tel. (209) 524-2567 celimar@juno.com; SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edgar C. Banez, M.D., 4867 Eagle Rock Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90041 Tel. (323) 254-6754, Fax (323) 257-5949, ECBanez@msn.com; MIDWEST Manuel Blas, M.D.; MARVADC Renato Flores, M.D., 8403 Adler Court, Millersville, MD 21108 Tel. (410) 518-6683, Ricflores@aol.com; NORTHEAST Alex Bobila, M.D., 732 Highwoods Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 Tel. (201) 891-2829, dbob2001@yahoo.com; FLORIDA Rolando Mendoza, M.D., 787 37th St., Suite E-210, Vero Beach, FL 32960 Tel. (561) 562-5232, GRGMendoza@aol.com.

PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY BOARD

Renato Querubin, M.D. (REQUE@aol.com), Benjamin Rigor, M.D. (bmrigo01@louisville.edu), Vincent Casibang, M.D. (ibcasibang@aol.com), Conrad J.R. Miranda, IV M.D. (Cmira4@aol.com), Bayani Elma, M.D. (bbelmamd@pcbank.net), Rogelio Sion, M.D. (boyston@msn.com), Benjamin Narrajos, M.D.

Please send membership dues

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UERMCMCAA, Inc.

Treasurer: Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D.

400 N. Front St., Syracuse, IN 46567

See ya'll in New York!

By Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D.

Executive Director



As the 15th Annual Convention & Reunion draws near, my e-mail traffic has become very busy with messages from enthusiastic alumni who are already infected by this year's convention theme "Rebuilding the Spirit" I am also encouraged by the participation of our young alumni particularly the class of 1998 who cannot wait for their Silver Jubilee and will be attending and celebrating their 15th reunion in New York. Around 50 Silver Jubilarians (class of 1978), will definitely be in attendance according to Franklin De Guzman, M.D. (pole500@supernet.com). The Honolulu's "Mighty 12" will be having another celebration together with 40 other classmates according to Susan Perez-Suntay, M.D. (spsuntay@yahoo.com). The Pearl Jubilarians (class of 1973) will be a big force and their group will be even larger (80 members or more) than when they celebrated their 25th reunion in San Francisco! The Class of 1973 will also sponsor the "Midsummer Night Swing at the Ritz", a swingin' party with "roaring 20's theme" on Friday, August 1, 2003 at Ritz-Carlton Hotel. All other classes are invited to join this fun celebration (For reservation please contact Danny Mangunay, mangdan@aol.com or Debbie Bobila, dbob2001@yahoo.com). So far the Ruby (class of 1963) and Jade (class of 1968) Jubilarians are planning their respective class participation quietly. Are we going to get another pleasant surprise like we had from the class of 1967?

I commend the great effort and sacrifice of the New York Convention Committee headed by its chairman, Alex Bobila, M.D. (ABOBILA46@hotmail.com). Each member of the different committees is trying to contribute his/her time so we could raise \$50,000 that will fund the Drug Assistance Program (DAP) of the UERM Hospital Charity Wards. As our Alumni Association President, Joseph Rastrollo, M.D. has mentioned at the Leadership Workshop in New York last December 14, 2002, the charity wards of the hospital have only 10-60% occupancy rate because of the high cost of medications and diagnostic procedures that patients could not afford. If the charity wards do not have patients, our medical students and residents would be lacking in developing their diagnostic skills. Let us all unite and work towards this goal of helping the less fortunate of our *kababayans* and at the same time making sure that our young and future colleagues get the same experiences and opportunities that we had.

Treasury Notes

by Dekiam Ong, M.D. for Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D.

Dr. De Kiam Ong, Chairman of the Audit Committee made the following report for Treasurer Dr. Sonia Rico-Todd who was in the Philippines at the time for her 25th year homecoming:

As of December 12, 2002; (1) the alumni association business checking account had been opened at Bank One NA in College, Indiana, Acct. # 640246302 (Teresa Covey, our private banker, 574-538-5810); (2) the checking account balance was \$31,978.09; (3) our accountant, Katz & Co., PA CPAs, 4641 Montgomery Ave., Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814, tel. (301) 951-8700, fax (301) 951-8461, email KATZCPA@aol.com, would have filed the 2001 tax return for fiscal year August 1, 2001-July 31, 2002 last December.

b. For business checks	\$	90.29
c. Refund to treasurer		25.00
d. For reunion residual cost		662.90
Cash Balance		\$ 31,953.09

Income Statement (As of December 10, 2002)

Income		
a. Total Investments (3 Certificate of Deposits)	\$	19,137.92
b. Transferred from Sun Trust Bank, Maryland		8,913.48
c. Treasurer's money to open account		25.00
d. Honolulu convention		79,170.31
e. Cash for NYC convention		10,000.00
f. Newsletter residual		1,547.34
TOTAL INCOME		\$118,299.05
Expenses		
a. NYC hotel deposits		10,000.00
b. Business checks		90.20
c. Refund to treasurer		25.00
d. Honolulu convention		54,522.84
e. Newsletter		2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		67,138.04
Net Income		\$ 51,091.01

Checking Account (Acct. # 640246302)

Deposits		
a. From Dr. Magpantay	\$	8,348.48
b. From Dr. Elizaga		25,310.37
Withdrawals		
a. For newsletter		952.66

Thirty years is a long time to vividly recall significant events that transpired during our medical school years. There was the martial law, the big floods; the obligatory rotations to rural areas to

help the medically underserved; and then the volunteer efforts organized by members of the class to help the needy during natural calamities. I am sure there were many more memorable events that punctuated those regimented years, each holding a special place in one's mind. I have woefully forgotten most if not all of them.

There were certain things I remember about Class '73. It is a class with a distinct soul and a vibrant spirit to go with it. It was made up of students with exceptional talents in their own rights. Not only did it have intellectual ability and unbridled discipline to face up to the rigors of long periods of studying but also it had a social conscience to match. One would not be surprised to find that there were those in the class early on in the undergraduate years who marched against the Vietnam War and "U.S. imperialism" in 1964. And during the martial law years, among us were brave souls who expressed and took action to mollify the adverse effects of life under martial law, always helping those most deeply affected by it with empathy.

Class '73 had a playful and wholesome

What I remember from 30 years ago

by Daniel Jimenez, M.D.



At their 25th year jubilee at the Manila Hotel in 1998



personality. It was fun-loving. Every rotation (be it inside or outside school grounds and the hospital) was an open game for adventure and camaraderie. We all had our little vignettes who did what to whom, where and during which rotation. Gifted with a strong personality, the class was not

bashful in its affection for faculty members whom it held in high esteem; nor did it hesitate to mock or caricature those whom it thought deserved every bit of it. For many good reasons, Class

'73 was extremely cohesive. Neither divisiveness nor polarization of ideas and thoughts surfaced in serious issues that mattered most. It was also gullible and naïve in its own charming way. Imagine the entire class' reaction when Dr. Cuanang pulled his infamous stunt during a neurology lecture (Dr. Carandang and Clarinda Soriano were the perfect co-conspirators for that brilliant ruse). It did not take that long for the class to recover from the initial shock but I suspect that that joke could have been the *raison d'être* behind the class' perpetual ribbing of J.C.

Like a good child to his parents, the class was focused, ambitious and determined to turn out good. Whether at home in the Philippines or here in the U.S., members of the class did exceedingly well. Some have gone to become department heads. Others have assumed high level positions in government. And for the most part, most of us are reaping the benefit of our efforts and passing on the mantle of our soul and spirit to our children.

Class '73 is still fun-loving, highly spirited, and remains cohesive. That was what I remembered then, it still is true to this day.

For the Ruby Class '63 only

by Victoria Camacho, M.D.

Forty years is a milestone, so come and enjoy each other at the Big Apple. Our tentative plan is a "Tour to Nowhere" on Friday, August 1, 2003. For more info, read this newsletter or call me at (607) 770-9078, Ramon Alcala at (201) 825-2343, or El Castro at (732) 463-0504. For options on accommodation, please refer to hotel.com, etc. Rates could be cheaper than the convention rates of Ritz-Carlton or Regency Hotel. However, it is very convenient to be where the action is. Please do come also to the December, 2003 celebration at our *Alma Mater* in the Philippines. Remember what fun it was 15 years ago at our Silver Jubilee! *THE OLDER THE BETTER!* Happy 40th, Class '63!

Homecoming diary continued from page 10

med school class, hospital group, department, or even specialty society. What differentiates our class group from say residency class is that we all belong to the same generation or age group. We experienced the same conditions during our particular time. That's why our bonding is almost magical!

But lest we forget, we are classmates because we went to the same school, our *Alma Mater*, without whom we would not be where we are today. Homecoming then is also PAYBACK time. It is in our interest to keep UERM strong. With our total alumni number, we cannot not just make UERMMM the best medical school, we should also make it the best place for medical care.

It was also nice learning from you all about the healthcare systems in which you operate, especially in the United States. I would have wanted to talk to you more about many things but there just wasn't enough time!

Kudos to those who put up this egroup (Merlyn?). Because of this technology, we are now connected. We realize now that we have stumbled upon the strongest support group we can ever find. So it you ever get stranded in Isabela, don't forget Rita Mariano is the provincial health officer there.

Bye for now. It's 7 PM Christmas Eve in the Philippines and in an hour, we will be going to the "midnight mass." After that the *noche buena*. Merry Christmas to all my classmates and I hope we all keep in touch AS THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.

Class 1968 History *by Bayani B. Elma, M.D.*

In a year dominated by tumultuous events the assassinations of Robert F Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., the Tet offensive and My Lai massacre in Vietnam the 130 plus (with few exceptions) freshly minted doctors marched on their exclusive graduation ceremonies at the U.E. Auditorium, Manila Campus at 5:30 P.M. on Friday, May 31, 1968 with presidential aspirant Raul Manglapus as the guest speaker. Full of ambition and energy, these survivors among 300 freshmen, with dogged determination and fortitude labored through five years of endless quizzes and final examinations to attain their ultimate holy grail, the much coveted Doctor of Medicine degree.

During the first two years, the classmates with the best note-taking skills and those fortunate to have their own microscopes and the abridged textbooks (i.e. from U.S.T.) were the most popular. In the next three years, newly-established friendships, amorous relationships and anything in-between were severely tested with long hours of studies and hospital duties at UE Hospital, Quezon Institute, Labor and Children's Hospitals. With such collection of different class '68 personalities and characters, it was (and still is) a source of amazement to me how our perennial class president, Artemio B. Sanchez, Jr. was able to keep his sanity while keeping every one focused and in check.

Looking back, after 35 years, the Class of 1968 can be proud of its achievements: 3 were in the top ten of the 1968 Philippine Board Exams (Refugio Andaya, Roberto S. Castrence, and Augusto C. Posadas); 2 were former heads of departments (Brigido L. Carandang, Neurosciences, and Edmee J. Young, Physiology); 2 were presidents of medical alumni associations (Brigido Carandang, Philippines and yours truly, US); two would be Dr. Jose M. Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecturers (Brigido L. Carandang, 1968, and this year's Ida M. Tiongco). The class valedictorian, Francis V. Talangbayan received a Pamana Award from President Gloria Arroyo last December, 2002. Through the untiring efforts of Ida Tiongco, the class also has its own circulating newsletter. To top it all, which class can claim the distinction of having produced a missionary doctor in the person of Antonio Ligot who labors day and night at the Good News Clinic and Hospital in Banaue, Ifugao?

Furthermore, with the braggadocio of Jaime J. Cebedo, the derring-do of Francisco Mallilin, the record holder of the most extra duties, Roberto Castrence aka Lolo Totoy, and the clinical syndrome-loaded front lobe of Rodolfo U. "Ulo" Pineda leading the pack, the class of 1968 occupies a special place in the pantheon of graduates at the UERMMMCC.

Become a lifetime member

Lamberto Abeleda, Amable Aguiluz, Nestor Alabarca, Manuel Alafritz, Ramon Alcalá, Jr., Agnes Alikpala, Roger Alilin, John Alipit, Eugenio Antonio, Glaicano Andal, Wilfredo Apostol, Rommel Aquino, Peter Aragones, Emelinda Rausa Arriola, Concepcion Santos Aspili, Edgardo Balde, Anita Calud Baldomero, Roy Baldomero, Alexis Bobila, Deobrah Ames Bobila, Nelson, Bocar, Leo Bonagna, Orsuville Cabatu, Victoria Camacho, Isabelita Barnachea Casibang, Vincent Casibang, Sonia Castaneda Velasco, El Castro, Florencio Ching, Zenaida Alderete Chugtai, Manuel Claudio, Evelyn Co, Emmanuel de la Cruz, Marjorie Chichay Desai, Antonio Diaz, Samuel Dona, Fortunato Elizaga, Bayani Elma, Simplicio Evangelista, Ronaldo Fernandez, Remo Gaudiel, Stuart Goodman, Carlos Gotardo, Cynthia Election Gregorio, Marile Narciso Hoffman, Angeline Ituriaga, Lilia Kane, Andres Lara, Rizalina Lavarro, Rolando Lavarro, Antonio Layug, Rosemary Libre, Apolonio Lirio, Jr., Patrick Litam, Roger Lucas, Nelly Mac, Cristeta Bustamante Magpantay, Jr., Wilma Ibanez Manlapaz, Buenmendoza, Primo Milan, Moran, Vicente Narciso, Nasser, Miguel Ollada, De Irineo Pantangco, Jr., Ruena Zarate Paraso, Linda Galang Pascual, Rafael Pascual, Rene Pecson, Nena Flor Cambare Piga, Samuel Piga, Roger Pine, Jose Prudencio, Jr., Quirino Pua, Rolando Puno, Renato Querubin, Dini Rada Hartono, Joseph Rastrollo, Renato Raymundo, Susan Raymundo, Benjamin Rigor, David Roble, Jon Santiago, Norma Maala Sarao, Aloma Penaranda Sevilla, Pedro Simon, Charito Dancel Sion, Roger Sion, Carlos Soriano, Eden Agustin Suguitan, Susan Perez Suntay, Virgilio Taduran, Evangeline Tan, Sonia Rico Todd, Emelinda Gorostiza Tolod, Jesus Valdez, Ned Valen, Rogelio Valencia, Zenaida Vasquez Pua, Sonia Velasco, Cesar Yu. **PARTIALLY PAID LIFETIME MEMBERS:** Neda Ballon, Paraluman Banaga, Rogelio Banaga, Jose de Leon, Eleazar Feliciano, Alicia Bering Layug, Salvacio Garin Lazatin, Aurora Cunanan Macapinlac Mariani, Arsenio Manlangit, Nora Natividad, Ben Ortega, Lambeto Tan, Rogelio Tapnio, James Uy, Dina Villaluz, Hedy Jimenez Windsor, Vicky Ybanes.



Lifetime members, please pick up your membership pins from the registration desk. Let us also know of any omissions in the list so we can include them in our official roster. We encourage all alumni to become lifetime members and help the alumni association become financially stronger and able to fund its programs at UERM. Send your one-time lifetime membership fee of \$500 payable to UERMMMCCMAAA, Inc. to Sonia Rico-Todd, M.D., Treasurer, 400 N. Front St., Syracuse, IN 46567.

Come to New York!

By Alex Bobila, M.D., President, UERMMCMAAA, Inc. Northeast Chapter



"The bottom of this city of cities may not possess the high fashion of 5th Ave., the glitter of Times Square or the uptown constellation of museums and concert halls. But Lower Manhattan with its rich history and hidden charms, is where to go, simple as that." ~Dan Barry, The New York Times

Dear fellow alumni, Alliance and Friends and the Jubilarian Classes '78, '63, '68, '73, '83, '88, '93, & '98, it is with great pleasure that your Alumni Foundation, Alumni Association, and its Northeast Chapter invite you

to experience the sights and sounds of "The City that Never Sleeps." Come see, feel, and walk New York at our 15th Annual Convention and Reunion on July 31-Aug. 2, 2003. Your Host Chapter, the Northeast Chapter is proud to have obtained for you two of the most prestigious hotels in Lower Manhattan: The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Battery Park, the only luxury waterfront hotel in Manhattan, site of the first two days of activities, and The Regent Wall Street Hotel which boasts of a beautiful ballroom second to none in the U.S., the venue for the 3rd day. While the cut-off date is the 1st week of July, blocked rooms are limited so do **reserve early!** Mention "UERM Group" to get discounted rates of \$199. Tel. # for Ritz-Carlton Hotel is (800) 241-3333, The Regent's (212) 845-8600.

Once again, **renew** old ties, **rebuild** your **spirit** and that of your *Alma Mater's*, at the same time help rebuild New York. The main beneficiary of this year's fundraising effort is the Drug Assistance Program (DAP) of the Charity Ward of UERMMMC Hospital. Please support UERM by joining the convention's various activities.

For the golf enthusiasts, for the first time this year, we are offering a double treat golf outing starting Wed., July 30 at The Bethpage Golf Course, in Long Island, N.Y., "Home of The U.S. Open 2002" and Thurs., July 31 at the beautiful Skyview Golf Course in scenic Sussex County N.J. Early Registration is encouraged so we could arrange hotel rooms and ample transportation beforehand. Tee times and prizes are detailed in page 19. For more info, contact Elmer Gilo (egilo@attglobal.net) and Andy Antonio (Depamiroge@aol.com).

At the welcome reception's "Latin Caribbean Night" on Thursday, July 31, we will have dance, singing, and other surprise contests plus lots of dancing. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners. Ladies, please come in casual and colorful outfit, gentlemen Tony Bahama-type shirt and Calypso pants or you may come as you like. Send in your entries before July 25th to Jun San Juan (seve444@aol.com), Bing Carin (an6cari@aol.com), and Ber de la Merced (bedm@mpi.com).

The 8-hour category 1 Columbia University-accredited CME on Fri., Aug. 1st at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel will feature alumni and other distinguished speakers. At the end of the CME, \$2,000 worth of medical equipment will be raffled to participants who are present. For more info contact Dr. Roger Lucas (rflucas@globalatt.net).

The Jubilarian Night that Friday will be a free night for individual classes. If you have no plans for your class, you are invited to join the "Mid-Summer Night Swing at The Ritz" with Roaring 20's theme hosted by the Pearl Jubilarians. Come in your Great Gatsby or Chicago (the movie) attire or you may come as you wish. We will have a fun-filled evening learning the Charleston, and other group dances and "dance till you drop!" For reservations contact Danny Mangunay (mangdam@aol.com), Eli de Leon (erdm008@aol.com), Jun San Juan (seve444@aol.com), or Debbie Bobila (dbob2001@yahoo.com). The Silver Jubilarians will have their Jubilarian Night at the Marriott Marquis Hotel.

On Saturday Aug. 2, all activities will be held at The Regent Wall Street Hotel. From 8 am till noon, there will be a General Alumni Meeting featuring the reports of Dean Valdellon, UERMMMC President Divinagracia, Alumni Foundation Chairman Castro, and others. The silent auction that starts Thursday afternoon will continue until Saturday noon. The Alumni Association Executive Council, Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Alliance and Friends will have their respective meetings in the afternoon. The rest of us have free time to go shopping at the "best kept secret" of Manhattan, the discount fashion department store, "Century 21", within walking distance of both hotels, have a leisure lunch in nerby Chinatown, Little Italy, Tribeca, Soho, South Street Seaport, tour the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island or the history-filled lower Manhattan, or hit the tony shops at 5th avenue before doling up to that evening's gala.

The gala, dubbed "Some Enchanted Evening at the Regent" honoring the Silver Jubilarian Class '78, will start with a cocktail hour followed by the introduction of the honorees and their families, a short program, then dinner and dance. For your entertainment and listening pleasure, we engaged an 18-piece Swing Orchestra. It will be a strictly **black tie** affair. **next page please**

What to see in New York

By Danny & Nora Mangunay, M.D.s

The Neighborhoods and Attractions of Lower Manhattan (Adapted from City Guide & Citidex)

SoHo "Named for the area South of Houston. It is known for art galleries, boutiques and coffeehouses. Formerly a large commercial area, a drive for cheaper, less run of the mill spaces turned this neighborhood into renovated loft style apts. And trendy bistros. Sights include the E.V Haughwout building, Greene Street and the Guggenheim Museum SoHo"

TriBeCa "TRiangle Below Canal. Formed by Canal St., Broadway and West Street is nouveau chic. Formerly known for warehouses and industrial spaces, this neighborhood has transformed into prime real estate with expansive, open-spaced, high-ceilinged apts. and some of the finest cuisine in the world, including Robert de Niro's Nobu and Tribeca Grill." TriBeCa is known for restaurants and retail food stores. Landmarks include the New York Mercantile Exchange, the Western Union Building, Harrison Street Row and Washington Market Park.

Little Italy "Little Italy is well known for its neighborhood shops and wonderful Italian restaurants. Landmarks include Old St. Patrick's Church, the Police Building, and Mulberry Street. Any foodie worth his sauce knows that no trip to NY is complete without a stroll down Mulberry St, between Spring and Canal. This little piece of Italy features Upscale restaurants, sidewalk cafes, cozy nooks, private gardens, cappuccino and gelato that you won't find outside of Italy itself."

Chinatown "Chinatown known for small shops. Chinese groceries, restaurants, sidewalk massage, reflexology. Authentic dimsum. Sights include the Edward Mooney House (the oldest surviving row house in Manhattan as seen in Gangs of New York), the Kim Lau Memorial and the Statue of Confucius" Be sure not to miss Meh Lai Wah (I am not kidding) restaurant, a favorite among Filipinos. Stand in line for their out of this world siopao that is better than Ma Mon Luk.

Lower East Side "Gritty bohemia is bound to attract young hipsters with its funky boutiques and all night vibe. Jewish delis which serve heaping portions of Pastrami on Rye. The Lower East Side is a landmark ethnic neighborhood. There are many small shops and open-air markets."

Bowery It is a small neighborhood within the lower east side. The area is hospitable and has many soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

Civic Center It encompasses City Hall, and the City Hall Park, and numerous city, county and federal buildings. Sights include Woolworth Bldg., St. Paul's Chapel, and Park Row. City Hall is a petite palace with a façade of arches and columns built between 1803 and 1812.

Two Bridges It is so named because it is bounded by entrances to the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges. This is a residential area of housing projects. Proudly standing over the East River, Brooklyn Bridge connects the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan. It is the first suspension bridge to use steel for its cable wire. It was completed in 1883 and was the longest suspension bridge at that time at 3,460 feet. It was the first bridge to use explosives in a dangerous underwater device called a Caisson. It is a National Civil Engineering landmark.

Battery Park City The ever growing downtown development built on 23 acres of land created by the more than one million cubic yards of earth excavated during the construction of the World Trade Center. Battery Park has a terrific waterfront strip of green. It is very suburban and has many

What to see in New York continued from page 18

ongoing, attractions including The Downtown River to River Festival which runs from May to September.

Battery Park is so named because of the battery of 28 cannons placed along its shore to fend off the British Troops in Colonial days. Visitors can walk, run, or bicycle around the park's 22 acres. The park's main structure is Castle Clinton National Monument. It is the take off point for ferries to Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty.

Financial District

Wall Street Arguably the most famous street in the world, the 1/3 mile long street is a vast, powerful financial center that clusters around the New York and American stock exchanges.

New York Stock Exchange The largest securities exchange in the world. It traces its origins to a founding agreement in 1792. This neighborhood is the "Capital Capital" of the world. It features glorious architecture, bustling business, restaurants for power lunches and top notch dinners. You can visit the third floor Interactive Center which has a self guided tour and a 15 minute film detailing the history of the stock exchange. Or you may just want to watch all the "crazy guys in funny jackets running around barking orders and throwing pieces of paper on the floor" at the NYSE.

National Museum of the American Indians Explore the diversity of the native people of the Americas and the strength and the continuity of their culture from the past to the present.

The Village The other side of town, a short walking distance from Lower Manhattan. North of Houston St. is known as the Village. It is divided into the East Village, NoHo, Greenwich Village and the West Village.

East Village The section of the East Village between Avenue A and Avenue D is known as "Alphabet City" It is also referred to as "Loisaida" by the Puerto Rican community that resides there. The East Village has a mix of residential areas, restaurants and shops that give it a "hometown" kind of feel. The stretch of 6th Street between First Avenue and Second Avenue is known as Little India. Sights include Tompkins Square, the St. Mark's Historic District and the St. Mark's in the Bowery Church.

West Village The West Village is bounded by West 14th Street on the north, West Houston Street on the South, Seventh Ave. South on the east and the Hudson River on the west. The West Village is known for having an active nightlife scene.

Greenwich Village Be warned. Greenwich Village was built before the rest of the city so it is not part of the city grid. The cobblestone streets, tiny green parks, can be a bit confusing as they wind around and come to sudden stops. It is well known for its row houses, intimate bistros, raucous bars, independent record and poster shops. Many music venues create a neighborhood full of rebelliousness and bohemian charm. Enjoy this haven for artists, musicians, poets, writers and free thinkers. Washington Square, West Eighth Street, Christopher Street and the Jefferson Market Library are among the interesting sights in Greenwich Village.

NoHo North of Houston is known for restaurants and bars. On Spring St. is the quaint *avant-garde* Filipino restaurant called Cendrillon, its owners/chef are from Bicol and **continued on page 28**

Why Lower Manhattan?

By Drs. Danilo Mangunay and Nora Mangunay

The 15th Annual Convention and reunion of the UERMMMC-MAAA, INC. and Alumni Foundation to be hosted by the Northeast Chapter is NOT without controversies. First of all, "why Lower Manhattan, what is in Lower Manhattan?", the cynics ask. Who wants to stare at the carnage that was and is now known as Ground Zero? Who wants to remember and spoil the party when we can hide off to the glitter of 5th Avenue, Broadway, and the hustle and bustle of Midtown?

Lower Manhattan for the unfamiliar NY guests was the Frontier Trading Post to the now America's Capital to the Center World of Commerce. It has both the oldest and the newest neighborhoods in New York. It is the area South of Houston St. It includes the neighborhoods of SoHo, Little Italy, The Lower East Side or Five Corners, the Bowery, Chinatown, Tribeca, the Civic Center, 2 Bridges, Battery Park City, Ground Zero and the Financial District (each will be described separately). Neighboring areas of walking distance include Greenwich Village, Chelsea and the University (NYU) belt. A token away is Midtown and Uptown by subways. The Path trains, Holland Tunnel and ferries will bring you to New Jersey in 15-20 minutes.

Why Lower Manhattan?

"Rather than retreat, many downtown denizens become drawn NOT to the horrors but to the possibilities," writes Susan Breslow Sardone of Getaways. "After the devastation of the 9-11 attacks, Lower Manhattan had no choice but to reinvent itself. The progress made by the area in a year has been nothing short of astounding. The budding renaissance was assisted by unprecedented cooperation of government, private industry, artists, and cultural organizations, retailers, restaurateurs, but most of all the creativity and resilience of New Yorkers themselves."

The venue is "too ostentatious, too expensive", the pundits whine. All I know is that no one whined when I attended my first ever convention in 1998 in San Francisco held at the pricey Palace Hotel where Jose Rizal once stayed. All that was left in memory was the rekindling of warm friendship, and being briefly transported back to the struggling and adventurous time of medical school. Dining under the incredulous massive stained glass ceiling and savoring a slice of the past, makes the present more precious and priceless. Watching the 1973 Silver Jubilarians and their families be presented to their peers and colleagues, and seemingly saying, we've come a long way was truly inspiring.

To our friends and colleagues, the Northeast Chapter will offer you only the best. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel with 298 rooms was the first New building to open after the attack. "It is the only waterfront hotel in the City. It offers the best vantage point on the island, bar none, from which to take in New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty" A 14th floor bar with terrace and wrap around views is where you will be welcomed and where the Pearl Jubilarians are hosting their get together.

The Regent Wall street, a 144 room boutique hotel. It is the Old Merchant's Exchange built in 1842. It retains the breathtaking Central Hall now used as the Ballroom, with several balconies and mezzanine for cocktails. This is the largest in the U.S. It will truly be a night to remember for the honorees. The committee has decided to entertain you with an 18 piece orchestra band.

Who would know that this was the Relief Center where the rescue workers and volunteers ate and slept for months. When the site was re-opened, this was the same place that hosted Liza Minelli's lavish million dollar wedding for her guests of 500. And such is the paradox of life. And for us to get this at discount prices with all the amenities, it is a real treat. To those on budget, call anyone in the convention committee, and we will assist you in whatever way we can.

Why Lower Manhattan?

It is a survivor, it is tough, it is gritty, it is a free thinker, it is artsy, it is folksy, it is ethnic, it is the seat of power, and the reminder of weakness. It has many possibilities, of failure, success and greatness. And because we dared to be different, that is why. It is just like you and me, a parody of Lower Manhattan.

Come to New York . . . continued from page 18

For you and your guests' convenience, we are negotiating for a tuxedo rental company to deliver and pick up tuxedos at the hotel premises. For more info, please contact Amy Antonio (depamiroge@aol.com), Jun San Juan (seve444@aol.com), Ric Arayata (ricardoarayata@aol.com), and Debbie Bobila (dbob2001@yahoo.com).

Finally, the Raffles and Prizes Committee led by Lita Layaoen will be giving away BIG prizes like a weekend package for 2 to Las Vegas, laptop computer, palm pilot, etc. starting from the reception to the gala night.

The NEC Planning Committee and the Alumni Association Executive Council are working at fever pitch to give you all the most enriching, fun-filled, and memorable convention and reunion to date. Let us all come, see and be seen, reminisce, and REBUILD THE SPIRIT! Most of all, let's have a blast! See you in New York!

Convention Announcements

Hotel Reservation

Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Battery Park

Code Name: UERM Group

Reservation Tel. No. (800) 241-3333 or
(212) 344-0800

The Regent Wall Street Hotel

Code Name: UERM Group

Reservation Tel. No. (212) 845-8600 or
(800) 545-4000

When you call the Regent's 800 number, the reservation desk will contact the hotel for you then just mention the group code to get the \$199 per night rate.

The rooms reserved for our group are **deluxe rooms** (\$199 a night plus tax for both hotels. We have blocked rooms for July 30-August 2, 2003. Both hotels will honor the same rate of \$199 per night for the preceding and/or succeeding 1-2 days of our blocked dates. Please make your reservations early so if we have to block more rooms for our group, the NY convention committee would be able to negotiate for the same rate.

For those wanting to experience the luxury of both hotels, the convention host are willing to transport those who want to stay at the Ritz from Wednesday to Friday to The Regent on Saturday morning up to Sunday

For those staying at the Ritz from Wednesday to Sunday, the hosts will provide transportation from the Ritz to The Regent for the gala night.

For those staying at The Regent from Wednesday to Sunday, it is an easy walk to the Ritz during the summer with the wind blowing in from the Hudson River

Online Or Fax Registration

We invite you to register online through our website: www.uermalumni.org (registration form is a uermalumni.org/registration.htm) or by fax to (973) 729-9523 then send your payment by check to Dr. Belen F. Gilo's address indicated in the form within one week. You can avail of the discount as long as we receive your registration by June 1st and your payment within one week after that. It's new. Try it! Thanks.

15th Annual Convention and Reunion UERMMCMAAA, INC. & UERMMMC ALUMNI FOUNDATION, USA, INC. New York, New York July 31, 2003-August 2, 2003

Events Registration Form (Fee per person)

NAME _____ Yr. of Graduation _____
 MAIDEN NAME (for married female alumni) _____
 ADDRESS _____ (Home or Office?) _____
 TEL. (H) _____ FAX _____
 (O) _____ FAX _____
 E-MAIL: (H) _____ (O) _____

REGISTRATION

- | | *On or before 6/1/2003 | After 6/1/2003 (On-Site Amount) |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Convention Registration (includes Welcome/Fellowship Party and Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture luncheon). All alumni are required to pay the convention registration fee. | *150.00 | \$200.00 () \$ _____ |
| 2. CME (8 Hours Category 1) | *150.00 | 200.00 () \$ _____ |
| 3. Gala | *150.00 | 170.00 () \$ _____ |
| 4. Membership Dues | | |
| Annual (\$50) or Lifetime (500) | | () \$ _____ |

Social Events

- Golf Tournament, Wednesday, July 30, 2003
Bethpage Golf Course (per person) 175.00 () \$ _____
 - Golf Tournament, Thursday, July 31, 2003
Sky View Golf Club (per person) 200.00 () \$ _____
*Golf Tournaments: Pre-registration & payments must be received by July 15, 2003
 - Extra Welcome Party tickets (guests)
Per person 50.00 () \$ _____
Children 13 years old or less (per child) 25.00 () \$ _____
 - Extra luncheon tickets (per person) 70.00 () \$ _____
 - Extra Gala Dinner tickets (per person) 150.00 () \$ _____
 - Youth Trip (TBA) per person () \$ _____
- TOTAL \$ _____

Please make your check payable and send to:

UERMMCMAAA, Inc.
 c/o Belen F. Gilo, M.D.
 2 Deer Run
 Sparta, NJ 07871

Overall Convention Chairman, Alex Bobila, M.D., '73 at (973) 471-8852 or email ABOBILA46@hotmail.com. For golf tournament inquiries, please contact Andy Antonio, M.D. (for Bethpage course at 914-472-5765 or depamiroge@aol.com) or Elmer Gilo, M.D. (for Sky View course at 973-729-7967 or egilo@attglobal.net)
(For multiple registrations, feel free to copy this form.)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, July 30, 2003

6:00 AM. Golf Tournament (Bethpage Golf Course)

Thursday, July 31, 2003

6:00 AM. Golf (Sky View Golf Club)

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Registration (Ritz-Carlton Hotel)

6:00 PM - 12 MN Welcome/Fellowship Night (Ritz-Carlton Hotel)

Friday, August 1, 2003

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM Registration, Exhibits, Silent Auction (Ritz-Carlton Hotel)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Continuing Medical Education (8 hrs., Category 1, Ritz-Carlton)

12:00 PM- 1:00 PM Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture (lunch provided)

6:00 PM - 12:00 MN Silver Jubilarian Night (Marriott Marquis Hotel at Times Square)

7:00 PM - 1:00 AM "Midsummer Night Swing at the Ritz" (Ritz Carlton Hotel, This swingin' party will have the "roaring 20's theme" and is sponsored by the Pearl Jubilarian Class '73. All other classes are invited. Please contact Danny manganay at mangdan@aol.com or Debbie Bobila at dbob2001@yahoo.com for reservations)

Saturday, August 2, 2003

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Silent Auction (Regent Wall Street Hotel)

8:00 AM - 12:00 General Alumni Meeting featuring reports by Dean Dr. Erlinda V Valdellon, Dr. Romeo Divinagracia, President of the UERMMMCMC, Dr. El Castro, Chairman, UERMMMCAFUSA, Inc., and Dr. Joseph Rastrollo, President, UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. (Regent Wall Street Hotel)

12:00 PM -1:00 PM Lunch on your own

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM Business Meetings, Alumni Association Executive Council and Alumni Foundation Board of Trustees (Regent Wall Street Hotel)

6:00 PM - 1:00 AM Gala Banquet Dinner/Dance Night (Regent Wall Street Hotel)

SOUVENIR PROGRAM JOURNAL ORDER

15TH ANNUAL REUNION AND CONVENTION

UERMMMCMAAA, INC. AND UERMMMCM ALUMNI FOUNDATION, USA, INC.
RITZ-CARLTON/REGENT WALL STREET HOTELS

New York, New York
July 31-August 2, 2003

Please include my Name or Company, _____ with address at _____ in the 15th Reunion & Convention Souvenir Program Journal.

- Back Cover _____ \$1,500.00
- Front Inside Cover _____ 700.00
- Back Inside Cover _____ 700.00
- Gold Page Sponsor _____ 500.00
- Silver Page Sponsor _____ 250.00
- Full Page _____ 150.00
- Half Page _____ 100.00
- Quarter Page _____ 75.00
- Patron's List _____ 100.00
- Donor's List _____ 75.00

- Enclosed is the layout for my message (camera ready)
- Design an appropriate message for my ad (enclose calling card and \$5 fee)
- * Add \$5.00 for each photograph.

Please return this form with a check payable to:

UERMMMCM AAA, Inc.
c/o Danilo Manganay, M.D.
81 Rock Road West
Green Brook, N.J. 08812

Your donation maybe tax-deductible. Please consult your accountant. The UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. Federal Tax I.D. Number is: 52-1745846. For more information please call (908) 769-0355 or email Mangdan@aol.com. Deadline for the submission of your advertisements is June 15, 2003. Thank you for your support.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Wednesday July 30, 2003

Bethpage Golf Course, New York

(*Home of the 2002 U.S. Open)

\$175 fee includes green fee, golf cart transportation, clubhouse store credit of \$15, clubhouse snacks and snack at the turn. Tee time is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 PM for the convenience of out-of-town golfers to fly in and check in the venue hotels on Wednesday morning if they wish.

Thursday, July 31, 2003, Skyview Golf Course, New Jersey a challenging and beautiful course in scenic Sussex County

\$200 fee includes green fee, golf cart, transportation, box lunch, snacks. Tee time: 9:00 AM

Tournament prizes to be awarded
Hole-in-one prize: Roundtrip fare for 2 to London (donated by Irene I. Manlapaz, M.D.)

Wanted: Hole sponsors

Registration Deadline: July 24, 2003

For more information, please contact:
Bethpage outing: Andy Antonio (914) 668-9164 (depamiroge@aol.com)
Skyview outing: Elmer Gillo (973) 729-7967 (Egilo@att.global.net)

Talent Contest

Thursday July 31, 2003, Ritz Carlton Hotel, New York, New York

Alumni Categories

Dancing: Single, couple or group
Singing: Solo, duet or group

Alumni Children Categories

Dancing: Single, couple or group
Singing: Solo, duet or group

Those interested in joining please sign up with and send your dance or song number(s) to Drs. Jun San Juan (732) 321-9176 (Seve444@aol.com) or Ber de la Merced (973) 893-0292 (Bedm@nnpi.com).

Editorial

For a better UERMMMMC

In the last issue, we posed the question "Is UERMMMMC competitive?" and looked at the signs that implied a disturbingly negative answer. We touched on the broad principles that could further promote its recovery and restoration and called on the school's constituents (administration, faculty, students, and alumni) to commit to such an undertaking.

Now let us delve into more sanguine matters. First, the UERMMMMC structure. Officially, it is a non-profit, non-profit foundation and as such self-perpetuating and self-reliant. It is supposed to be owned by no one and should be fully independent and self-governing. Control is vested on its board of directors or trustees. However, the impression of many inside and outside the campus, including us, is that UERMMMMC remains an unloosened appendage of UE Main and as such unable to function in a manner that would release its full potential and fulfill its highest ideals of academic excellence. The alumni in America understand this and recognize the value of the Center's full emancipation in promoting loyalty and alumni philanthropy. That's why in its 1999 national convention in Long Beach, California, the alumni association passed a resolution requesting UE Main's owner, Mr. Lucio Tan, to relinquish all controls on UERMMMMC. To date, we have not received any response.

Next is a logical consequence of the first, a democratic governance. If the Center's board of trustees is representative of its constituents in particular and the public welfare in general, then UERMMMMC will become truly inclusive and a more conducive place to work, teach, and learn. To paraphrase Dean Valdellon, we believe that collaboration can be achieved when everyone has a direct stake in the ownership and success of UERMMMMC. Alumni in America concretely express this position through their twin organizations, UERMMMMCMAAA, Inc. and UERMMMMCAFUSA, Inc.

Third is dynamic leadership in administration and academia. We are proud to say that we have it at the Center. The bold experiment with PBL reassures us that UERMMMMC is not afraid of change. What former Dean Fernando Sanchez, Jr. inspired years ago former Dean Esperanza Lansang implemented. Now Dean Erlinda Valdellon is putting more flesh, blood and teeth to the new curriculum. The graduation of the second batch under it is a testimony to the Center's commitment to positive change. We loudly applaud this and alumni have backed this up with increased gift-giving to the alumni foundation's funding of the top project programs of faculty development and study/clinical materials.

Finally, money. We call on the administration again to work harder to minimize cost and enhance revenue. Being lean and mean is not just a for-profit corporate edict. It is very much a non-profit's as well. For in the final analysis, fairly earned money buys better teaching infrastructure, a fulfilled faculty, productive campus personnel, more successful students, and, ultimately, better quality of physicians coming out of the school's hallowed halls.

We await the fruition of what President Romeo Divinagracia announced in Hawaii last year as the dual approaches of improved marketing and upgraded facilities to achieve hospital solvency. So too the expressed intention of the administration to open up staff privileges to medical alumni stated in last summer's foundation day program. All to increase occupancy in the hospital and enable it to be profitable, self-sustaining and no longer dependent on students' tuition for its very survival.

Alumni in America reiterate their commitment to support the academic march of the College of Medicine. For the 15th time since 1988, we will hold our annual convention and reunion. Through this event, we have been able to raise funds for past and current projects prudently implemented by the alumni foundation. This year, the alumni association, as always, in the name of all graduates here and elsewhere, dedicates the proceeds to two projects that are vital to the clinical training of students: indigent fund and drug support. The current association leadership and its host chapter in New York correctly recognize that more money will bring in more charity patients. This will compliment very well the effort of Class 1977 to raise a substantial sum to fund full scholarships to attract more highly qualified but financially strapped students.

Earlier graduates have led the way in giving back to our *Alma Mater*. Succeeding ones have picked up the baton. We welcome the new graduates and all younger ones into our alumni family and wish them success in their future. We also hope that in due time they will likewise step up to the plate for UERMMMMC. To our jubilarians this year, congratulations and many happy return of the years. To everyone else, let us pull together and support both alumni organizations with our "time, talent, and treasure." Let us begin and continue doing so this summer, in New York. Happy reunion!

The Alumni Newsletter Staff

Samuel A. Piga, M.D.

Editor-In-Chief

3105 W 15th. St., Suite E

Plano, Texas 75075

469-467-9755

972-599-7877 (Fax)

sapigamd@ipninet.com

snpiga@yahoo.com

Roberto S. Castrence, M.D.

Conrado J. R. Miranda, IV, M.D.

Associate Editors

Senen Siasoco, M.D.

Assistant Editor

Special Editorial Assistants: Naomi C. Piga, M.D., Design & Layout; Maria Lourdes O. Torres, M.D., Circulation; David C. Piga, Technical.

*** Please send articles, news items, notices, announcements, photos, and other contributions to the Editor-in-Chief at the above mailing or e-mail addresses. Photos unless otherwise requested will be kept on file.***

Help support our newsletter!
Advertisement space available!
Full page ads \$250; Half-page \$125;
Quarter page \$75. Please make checks payable to UERMMMMC-MAAA, Inc.
Payment and your ads may be mailed to the editor-in-chief.

Alumni Active Desktop

Chinese Proverbs

Virginity like bubble, one prick, all gone.
Baseball is wrong: man with four balls cannot walk. Man who fight wife all day get no piece at night War does not determine who is right war determine who is left IIM

Pinoy Jokes

Waitress: How do you want your eggs done, Sirs? American: I want my eggs fried. Japanese: I want it boiled. Pinoy: Ala ehl Sa 'kin, hawakan mo na lang, masarap na yaan!

Wife: Gusto kong magpadagdag ng boobs. Husband: Hal Di ba masagwa 'yon, magiging tatlo. RSC

Sam Gud Dyok

Joe: Kumusta bakasyon Boy? Boy: Masama. Sabado pilay manok ni tiyong, ulam namin tinola. Lingo pilay baboy ulam namin litson. Kanina napilay si tiyong, ulam namin hindi ko alam, kain ako sa labas! DKO



Letters to the Editor



From Massachusetts

Thanks for the notice you put in the November issue. Since I last emailed you, I got some responses from our alumni. Dr. Rigor will donate the 2003 issues of the American Journal of Internal Medicine as well as OB-GYN. Two alumni expressed interest in donating their old journals but did not specify the titles. One alumnus wanted to donate one of the 3 textbooks in the list but again did not specify. I'll get back with them as soon as possible and keep you posted.

De Kiam Ong, M.D. '67

From Indiana

Dear Dick, thanks for the update. Please add me to your list of donors to the UERM library. I will be sending the following via *balikbayan* box: Journal of the American College of Chest Physicians, Journal of the American College of Surgeons, JAMA, AMA News, American Journal of Public Health, and Nation's Health Newspaper of the American Public Health Association.

Victor O'Yek, M.D. '71

(Thanks Dick and Vic. I talked to our librarians last month and they are very grateful for the donations. Editor)

From Texas

I am an alumna of UERMMMC Class 1998. I am currently residing in Dallas, Texas, ECFMG certified and applying for a position in family practice or internal medicine next year. In the meantime, I am looking for a job particularly in a medical office. In this regard, I would like to ask for your help. Maybe you know of any job openings from fellow alumni. Thank you for your help and hope to hear from you soon.

Luz S. Ramos-Bonner, M.D. '98

(Luz, please send me your c.v. and I'll share it with our alumni. Somehow, the Spirit will move someone to lend you a hand. Dr. Marlon Mangahas '99 got one. He has gone for interview at Case Western Reserve, Ohio with backing from Silver Jubilarian Dr. Franklin de Guzman. Keep trying and good luck. Editor)

From cyberspace

My name is Jean and I belong to Class '78. We are the silver jubilarians this year. I need to know the exact date of the NYC reunion because it is difficult to get time off. Please give me also the dates of the 2003 UERM alumni homecoming in December.

Rose Jasmine, M.D. '78

(Please keep this issue handy. You have all the info about your jubilee. Congratulations and have fun! Editor)

From New York, calling all Sigma Betans

As usual, I enjoy your newsletter. I would like to ask a favor. Would you be kind enough to announce that in New York, we are inviting all our sisters in the *Sigma Beta* Sorority for a brunch during the annual UERMMMC conference on Saturday, August 2, 2003 at Cendrillon Restaurant, 45 Mercer Street at 1:00 - 1:30 P.M.? Telephone number is 212-343-9012. Cendrillon is owned by a Filipino couple, Amy and Romy (we were together in the anti-Marcos activities here in NY) and they serve a kind of fusion Asian food. It will be KKB (*kanya-kanyang bayad*) but the NE Chapter sisters will pay for the drinks and desserts. This is for camaraderie and most importantly for "tsismis." My email is IDA-TIONGCO@WORLDNET.ATT.NET and my phones are 212-988-2634 (office) and 212-679-8808 (home).

Ida Tiongco, M.D. '68

(You are very welcome Ida. Hail Sigma Beta! Ed.)

From cyberspace

I received the 7th alumni newsletter and read it from cover to cover. Hungry for more news, I tried to log on to the websites that the newsletter mentioned or made several references to uermmmc.org and uermmmcmamaa.com, but I could not log on to those websites. Was there a misprint or they do not exist? Thanks.

Remy Agrawal, M.D. '69

(Our apologies Remy. We now have a new website: www.uermalumni.org. You can access it also via these other pointers: www.uerm.org, www.uerm.net, www.uermmmc.us, or www.uermmmcmamaa.com). If you want to access the medical school, log on to www.uerm.ph. Happy linking and keep in touch. Join in the many activities of our two alumni organizations including the chapter nearest you. Editor)

From Tanauan, Batangas

My family and I are deeply grateful for your sincere concern and generosity. The amount I received has surely relieved my apprehension about the medicines that I need to maintain. In return, I would like to send my heartfelt card of gratitude

Mia S. Garcia, M.D. '89

(You are welcome Mia and God bless you. Mia lives with her parents and sees patients in her modest clinic at home. She goes about her chores in a rolling chair. Editor)

From Illinois

When any of UERM's alumni criticizes the *Alma Mater* for any perceived breach of whatever, the school is forced into a stance of silence. This is understandable because the *Alma Mater* would not want to antagonize alumni for the simple reason of trying to avoid drying up support from them. This seems to be the case with the Paul L. Hamor, M.D. '70 vs. UERM in the Bernard Rocha ("I still owe UERM money so I cannot take the boards") case.

Dr. Hamor excoriated the school for Dr. Rocha's predicament in the newsletter's "letters to the editor." I think his criticism is too harsh. He would not even recommend accepting money from the alumni association to help Rocha. Instead he opts for the association to pressure the school into changing its business ways.

One thing we have to remember is that UERMMMC is in the business of churning out doctors. When I interview applicants for admission to UERM, I always ask if they have secure financial resources to put them through medical school. The reason is pretty simple: the school would be short of one paying student if halfway through he has to drop out for financial reasons. The school could have gotten somebody else in his place to avoid tuition shortfall.

Another thing we have to remember is that UERMMMC is not in the charity business nor the money lending business. Banks lend money. UERM does not. It would be nice if UERM could wipe our Dr. Rocha's debt but that would be poor business practice. It would not be fair to criticize UERM for good business practices simply because in Dr. Rocha's case it is not "being nice." To put it more bluntly, UERM is not in the business of being nice. Even hookers who are in the business of being nice are not expected to write off fees.

Dr. El Castro, our alumni foundation chairman, worked as a moviehouse "ticketero" in Quiapo to pay for shortfalls in his tuition money. I'm sure he is a better person than if he had complained about not being given charity by the *Alma Mater*. So to Dr. Rocha I say, work it off. It can be done. It has been done. To Dr. Hamor I say, back off. Your class' "back then experience" bias is showing.

David Roble, M.D. '65

From Virginia

Received copies of the foundation newsletter today. It is very informative. Will be sending you pictures of our MARVADC induction ball on May 3, 2003 at BWI Sheraton Hotel looking forward to meeting you in New York.

Ric Flores, M.D. '82

Random Thoughts of Lolo Totoy

by Roberto S. Castrence, M.D.

The agony and ecstasy of lolohood *Man's death wish*

It is a tiresome cliché that there is nothing like being a *lolo* or *lola*. It is so enjoyable that one gladly sacrifices a theatre performance, a movie show or even a milonga just to be with these little devils. This may sound boastful but that is the reality, or even if it's not, it feels that way, which is all that matters. It is also a truism that your grands are always the best. Again, probably an illusion but who cares?

I have been very lucky. I have four great (not perfect) kids and three very cute grands, a thirteen-year old in the Philippines and a five and a three-year old who live close by. I have been also lucky to have married a beautiful and smart wife who, I think, loves me sometimes and whom I love dearly. I've always said that without her I'd be dead, in jail, or homeless. We were both very lucky to have come to the U.S. when it was a much kinder and gentler place. Has it changed or it is us who have? I think both. We have also been lucky to have known and befriended some of the best and brightest Filipinos as well as Americans and foreigners on our other ventures.

Where is the agony? Is it in knowing that this thing is not going to last? No. Even though I am somewhat of a dreamer, I am also a realist. I know that my health which is fine for now, will eventually fail and we will all go. I think the agony is due more to greed, a different kind of greed. I would like my kids and grands to have a world without war, with less rage, with justice and more compassion. Is this asking too much? Elsie would say yes and she is probably right. My kids and grands as well as yours will have to face the world they have been born into, not necessarily a world that we wish for. We cannot live their lives for them. Somehow, deep in my marrow, they will make it. Meanwhile, we'll just play with our grands.

"Good to the last drop" Lolo Totoy!

To fight is to be true to oneself

My daughter Marcia who is staying with us asked me yesterday, "Now that war seems not only inevitable but is only a matter of when and how severe, do you feel that you have lost your cause (trying to avert the war), and do you regret or have you changed your position?"

I had to think hard to answer that one but came up with an answer that pleased me, though I honestly don't know how she will take it. I told her "If you believe in something such as war being the last answer, you should fight for it. It does not really matter whether you win or lose but whether you feel in your heart that you are doing the right thing." One does not need to be rigid in his/her position but must be able to change depending on new developments or findings.

It is when you take the "safe road," the popular one which is not necessarily deeply felt and thought of, that you make the mistake. It is always good to follow a Shakespearean character admonition "to be true to yourself!" Whenever I follow this advice that my mom gave me while I was growing up, I usually do not get into any problem. It is sound advice not because it's from Shakespeare but it keeps one out of many troubles. Trying to be somebody other than yourself is so tiring and unsatisfying. Even if you make a mistake, if it comes from the heart, *OK lang*. Of course others would have a different view. This makes for an interesting world.

The world is at a crossroad. The fork leads to our common annihilation or genuine solidarity and civilization. It is the choice between empire and barbarism. Unfortunately, the masters of the world with their narrow-mindedness and selfish interests are all deluded into thinking that they and only they can run the world the way they feel it should be run. Right now, they have the means and the will to do it. And they are doing it. But consider this, how long before the others wise up? How long before they develop their own technological prowess? I am not thinking in our lifetime but as the French say in the *longue duree*. Technological advance can not be stopped and limited. Eventually, real WMD will be more available and with the amount of hate in the world which I believe will not diminish unless there is more justice, the world is in for a rough time indeed.

If we have no concern for our grandchildren and for the yet unborn, one can say that this is a stupid exercise. But if we had any concern for those coming after us at all, we should all think of what we are leaving them as our legacy. I see a bleak future for them if there is no move to universally disarm and if nation states remain separated and potential enemies.

Unless the idea of a Gaia evolves where the earth is owned by all and there is a true brotherhood of man. One can say this is the thought of a dreamer but I say that this is the most practical and pragmatic way for our common survival. Perhaps a start would be to have women as world leaders. I still believe that they would be less prone to choose violence. I am sure others would have better suggestions. This is a matter of life and death. And something worth dying for.

*"To a man with a sense of shame,
his word is inviolate."
- Kartilla ng Katipunan -*

The aging alumnus: eyes-on-vitreous, tongues-in-cheeks, & brainless puns ***by David Roble, M.D., '65***

Is this what the aging UERM alumnus has to look forward to?

You see (oh no, not again), I have been seeing this floater on the side for a couple of weeks now. No, not one of those nubile company secretaries with no set assignments that some CEOs bring to the motel behind their wives' backs, or eyes for that matter. I'm talking about those pesky vitreous visual images, protein precipitates or one kind or the other that can either be ignored, or be the harbinger of some intern-interesting-case to pass around like retinal holes or detachments. This one I have been seeing on the side. Right temporal side, that is.

I have never swatted and flailed at more flies in my lifetime than now. My family tells me to ignore them because they're just all in my head. I guess they are right since they are just images in my occipital lobe or so I keep telling myself. Floaters, as they are commonly called, do dart around more sensuously than those nubile, especially if I do a slow nystagmus. I see it with my eyes open and I see it with my eyes closed if there is enough light to seep through the closed eyelids to form a dusk afterglow background. It sort of reminds of a candlelight dinner with a blind date with just enough darkness to hide her blemish, so as a distraction it may not necessarily be an irritant. I guess when we reach a certain stage in life, we take any pleasure that we can get. One cannot be too selective when one reaches that sublime eunuchoid state. Physiologic neutering can be liberating and more socially acceptable than swatting flies - yes, again pun intended (who can forget those pubertal days in darkened cheap theatres in the province where "they" would stand in waiting on the sides to brush up against our zippers?).

I asked some of my colleagues if they know the life span of a floater. I never get a straight or serious answer. One thing they all say is that it comes with old age. I wonder if this floater is as old as I. Probably not, I would say. For one thing, it darts faster than I (everything darts faster than I these days); and another, it is pitch black, not the graying I would associate with aging. One of my doctor friends tried to console me with statistical associations between glaucoma and floaters. I told him I'm sure it's not glaucoma because

my fingertip-palpation-tonometer which I acquired during my UERM internship rotation in the eye clinic tells me that my eyeball pressure is only 16.2575 units of pressure, whatever that unit is.

Surely, I keep telling myself, God in His infinite wisdom must have a purpose for these floaters. They cannot be just these vitreous distortions that we often dismiss as some senile fool's excuse for complaining. And it dawned on me one early morning that indeed God had a purpose when he invented these floaters. For the first time in so many encounters, I finally beat Paul at our regular Sunday morning tennis match. He was playing well but I had

it dawned on me one early morning that God indeed had a purpose when He invented these floaters

my eyes only on the ball from the time he took it out of the can to the time the match ended two hours later. Focus! That is what the floater forced me to do. Focus! By making it difficult for me to see, it forced me to focus.

This focus can spill over to other areas in our activities of daily living. Give a person with attention deficit disorder a floater and he just might learn to focus! No more mind wanderings or flight of ideas. No more one plus one equals, uh, classmate x's sexy legs. From floaters on it's one plus one equals two! Goodbye Walter Mitty.

God must have been listening closely to my complaints about the practice of medicine these days, to how I envy my neurosurgeon friend who though years younger was able to wrangle an early retirement from his disability insurance because of retinal detachment. Though God gives me a mere floater, it's good enough excuse for a disability claim knowing He must be on my side. A

floating blind spot to pit the disability insurance god against the traditional one. My God! This is going to be one hell of a fight - velvet gloves off all facetious pun handles.

This floater has taught me a thing or two about beauty. Pitch black as this floater is I now know what the African-American community trumpeting was all about in the early 70's - about black being beautiful. It is no longer my view that that was an attempt by Black American leaders to uplift the sagging morale of some of their brethren, homeliness notwithstanding, I could not see it then, but now I see it clearly - a confirmation that beauty, black in this case, is all in the eyes of the beholder.

So beholden will I always be to my floater for the lesson I learned and I shall not look back to bygone days of clearer vision. I shall instead accept life's aging ironies as they come, like this one - even as my vision dims I see clearly instead!

Now, if I can just find a fly swatter, the real kind, that is.

2003 UERMMMCM Alumni Homecoming Schedule

Monday, December 15 (Hospital Quadrangle)

5:30 PM Tour of the Center

6:00 PM Grand Alumni Welcome Party
(Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, P. T.)

Tuesday, December 16

6:00 PM Carolfest

7:00 PM Class Night for UERMMMCM '78

Wednesday, December 17 (Auditorium)

9:00 AM - 12 Noon Convocation

12 Noon - 2:00 PM Lunch and Bacay Memorial Lecture

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Scientific Meeting, Business meeting (election of officers)

6:00 PM Lantern Parade (Quadrangle)

Thursday, December 18 (Shangri-La Isla 1 & 2, Mandaluyong City)

6:00 PM Medical Alumni Fellowship Night

Friday, December 19

Class 1978 get together

Jesus Tamesis, Jr., M.D.

Overall Chairman, 2003 Host Committee

For more information, please call the UERM Alumni Office Secretary, Ida Tabuzo, at 011-632-716-0771 or uermmaa@i-next.net.

Alumni unfinished business

compiled by Roberto Castrence, M.D.

In this issue, we present a topic that has bothered many UERM MMC alumni over the years. It has impeded many classes' attempts at forging unity and loyalty to the Alma Mater. Its manifestations come in different shades. The feelings it arouses are deep, many times negative. Indeed, an unfinished business to many. A research into it by the staff was spurred on by an extended letter from an alumnus last year, originally written for the Hawaii convention issue. I am grateful to our Associate Editor for taking on this assignment with utmost sensitivity. We discuss this matter now in the hope of bringing about healing, closure, reconciliation, and rebirth in our alumni family. EDITOR

On Extra Duties: Piece and Peace of Mind By Victor Dulay, M.D., '70

In the words of Henry Miller, "One of man's missions in life is to remember...to remember to remember." Since this issue of the newsletter is timed for the 14th US alumni assembly, the above words may appropriately headline this year's reunion in a paradise called Hawaii.

However, what follows will hopefully not detract from the reunion spirit nor diminish alumni euphoria since this piece will address, after a lengthy period, a subject matter that is at once both sensitive and sacred for many alumni camps, notwithstanding the long temporal lag that is now measured in decades. This may also add more spice and balance to the newsletter content that is meant for reunion consumption.

To refresh one's memory, the newsletter issue of May, 2002 printed a nondescript and seemingly benign "open letter" from my friend and quintessential UERM alumnus, Dr. Roberto Castrence. It is far from being benign because it can potentially metastasize to affect all of our sensitive nerve endings on this topic that he forgot to spell out. It was deemed timely for publication and his letter was neatly positioned beneath Dr. Sam Piga's exquisite editorial on the beauty of springtime.

I can not precisely predict how this piece may affect your gastronomic sensibilities. I suggest, in good faith, that you should attempt reading this with your morning Hawaiian Kona coffee while leisurely grinding those delectable macadamia nuts, or you may choose to digest this before retiring for the night after a "luau" or an "imu" ceremony.

At any rate, Totoy Castrence's telegraphic "apology and thanks" appeared superficially surprising and minimally explosive since a large segment of the alumni readership may not be able to accurately diagnose what he was writing about. Some of us know... and this communication will serve as a rejoinder and fill the gaps of his diluted tirade against the system and its establishment.

I agonized whether to go on with a letter like this...written for my classmates, friends from other classes, and for those alumni members who elect to remain far and safe from the firing range, rather than articulate their own views. In a minisecond of calculated amnesia, Dr. Castrence failed to mention the topic and let others amplify and fortify his position. At this time, one must have an idea of what it is all about.

The newsletter is the next best thing to a newspaper. I submitted this with such usefulness in mind because it can serve not only for news dissemination and announcements, but more importantly, it can be a forum for the critical ventilation of convergent and divergent opinions. It can foster more discussions and debates, and it may also serve as a watershed and generate more opinions that may run parallel or follow a collision trajectory.

To frame the issue more succinctly, and strip it of any embellishments, the topic had already established itself in the UERM vocabulary with diverse titles such as: EXTRA DUTY, SPECIAL DUTY, or EXTRA NIGHT CALL. In its most extreme form, it is labeled as EXTENSION! These were "orders" rained down on clinical clerks and interns by residents during the formative years of the Medical Center.

We should line up in a procession and thank Totoy Castrence for resurrecting this area because we can now apply our own CPR version on this forgotten (dying?) topic. But if it dies, then we can bury the sarcophagus of this despicable practice so the recipients of those extra duties can go on with their consciences that they did nothing wrong.

While I was fortunate to evade and escape being a recipient, Castrence et al and many of my classmates and friends were at the receiving end of what Dr. Bayani Elma, in the same newsletter issue, wrote as "duties imposed by power-drunk residents."

Clearly, civility and humanism were strange words for those residents, and by extension, the Hippocratic Oath and the Code of Maimonides were perhaps dynamically reformatted in their own minds to justify their brutal actions.

In muted conversations over the years, many former clerks and interns remained wounded and scarred by those atrocious extra duties. Castrence's quick "I-apologize-thank-you-and-good-bye" scenario was dripping and oozing with sero-sanguinous sarcasm. I find my own letter extremely difficult to sanitize or deodorize.

In unanimity, the senseless dispensation of those extra duties was a travesty against the studentry and the Center itself! They were viewed as "punishments" and not as teaching tools ordered as they were for incorrectly-perceived minor deficiencies or infractions of mundane proportions. They were handed out like Magnolia popsicles by capricious and avaricious residents who were neither charismatic nor ingeniously gifted as teachers. Those orders were calibrated to maximally and effectively deflate one's ego or slice his or her self-esteem like salami.

The question begs to be asked: Why did it happen in the first place? There is no argument that it was ineffective and had absolutely no legitimate place in the continuum of clinical training within the UERM framework.

Residents were so audacious and supremely confident of "awarding" extra duties. One may ask: WHY? This would bring us to another level of discussion. Now that we are more mature with age and wisdom, we can see clearly that the chain of command and responsibility ran so long and deep and that those clinical superiors or supervisors (of the same residents) must be held responsible and accountable for their dismal failure to monitor and contain such cruel and reckless practice perpetrated against their future colleagues. Their own silence was the ultimate *imprimatur* or stamp of approval.

Our deep regret was thinking that medical student activism was in its infancy compared to other campuses. Graduation and the comprehensive exams were formidable tasks designed to strengthen, protect, and cosmetify the Center's image as a premier institution. All complied with those orders in silent obedience to their assigned tasks but done so under great psychological duress and protest.

Can somebody identify a clerk or an intern who was *both* happy and grateful for receiving an extra duty order? Let us know if the answer is YES. In its most caustic form, those extra duties inflicted predictable emotional injuries. They were like daggers thrust into the heart and in the words of Dr. Tantengco, "It's like having a broken heart!"

The unbridled exercise of raw power and authority, derived from their respective clinical directors, should lead us to **continued next page**

Alumni unfinished business . . . continued from previous page

another question that is still searching for an answer: Can you improve one's clinical knowledge and performance by depriving that person of precious hours of quality sleep and study? Please write your own letters to the editor.

The time has come, the moment has finally arrived and the opportunity is right here in this beautiful Pacific paradise. The grand reunion with alumni officers and Medical Center officials in attendance (some are alumni themselves) should avail of the critical "golden hour" before our own CPR efforts fail. The City of Honolulu is a pretty place where we can arrive at an accommodation — an acknowledgement that extra duty orders were grievous mistakes and serious errors in judgment.

There are available instruments to accomplish this. A formal apology to the entire alumni membership would be ideal. Short of this, a resolution by the alumni board and the Medical Center would bring legitimacy and sincerity. A declaration, oral or printed, by our alumni leaders and faculty heads would be acceptable.

A letter to all alumni with known addresses is as good as any of the above since they can be recycled or circulated. Of course, our alumni leadership can come up with a better way to resolve this matter and bring closure to this sad chapter in our school's history.

If this is done, then we can all rest and be reassured that the practice of extra duties is finally disavowed, discredited and dismantled. In the future, we can relay the good news to classmates, friends, and other alumni members who have earlier crossed into the other dimension of life and euphemistically celebrate what Dr. Vic Cabuquit called as "the grandest reunion of them all . . . in the sky!"

Having said my piece, we can confidently predict a bigger and happier UERM alumni family that will grow and thrive with enthusiastic participation and an escalation of gift-giving in any form or substance.

My next agenda would be to walk in peace along the black sand beaches and contemplate the regularity and majesty of Hawaiian sunsets much like ours back home. Gazing at the Pacific horizon brings a feeling of quiet reassurance that the sun will rise again. And in communion with a Waikiki beach sundown, I shall thank Dr. Castrence once more and tell him: "Farewell brother . . . when I meet you in the sun, I shall tell you much."

Alumni reactions

Finally a truth commission

Guys, our Editor-In-Chief has given me a big, big assignment and I'll need all your help and input on this one. The motive of the article is quite noble and worth tackling even if the odds of a resolution may not be too good. Hopefully by finding out why our residents and attendings treated us so badly, we could work out a solution so future generations of UERM alumni need not suffer the same fate.

I see it not only as a problem of UERM but all medical schools, PMA, UP frats, the problem of power in Filipino politics, civil society or even families. In other words, Sam is asking us why there is evil, cruelty, sadism in our country. Why is this so? Is it genetic? Is it insecurity? Is it Asian? Etc.

I think the Dulays did us a favor by recognizing it and seeing how its non-resolution is holding back UERM's forward movement I have broadened the scope 'cause I see the problem as a societal one, not just UERM's. Why does the usually meek Filipino when he gets into power become a tyrant.

How can we reconcile the training of a health provider with sadism. Where is the pleasure in hurting somebody physically who has not done one any harm? Do we need a Truth Commission? This is rhetorical on my part. Of course we do!

Roberto S. Castrence, M.D. '68

Where do we start?

Toy, where do you start? 350 years or so ago under the Spanish or 100 years ago? Human beings in general can be cruel, even children to other children (remember school?). But let us concentrate on UERM. A research is necessary: 1) Was the Class of '61 treated the same as others? If so, the residents then who were all graduates from other schools must have experienced it from where they came from and acquired such attitude; 2) If not, then it started at UERM itself and who started it? Dr. Salcedo was the dean for 2 years followed by the disciplinarian Dr. Cuyekeng who was good but could be seen as cruel; 3) Did the other schools have the similar practices? We have to find out from UST FEU, UP etc. graduates. What bothers me is that this practice continues to this day even when most of the attendings have been to the U.S. and are supposed to be enlightened. Why did they allow it to continue and why did they not try to change the system?

Rogelio "Boy" Sion, M.D. '63

Things are different now

Toy, it might interest you to know that the present generation of students at UERMMMC is of a different kind. They are no longer our kind who were treated sadistically. There's not much of special duties, extension and the like anymore. Also, the instructions they are getting now is very different (PBL). I think it would be good to get one of those who made it over there 3-4 years ago and ask him for details about his/her undergraduate years. I am fortunate enough to be a visiting lecturer on rural and missionary medicine for the past 2 years and I can safely say that I know the kind of people we have at the Center these days.

Antonio "ToniongIjugao" Ligot, M.D. '68

I did not see it

Lolo Totoy, I may have been one of the "well-behaved" junior interns (clerks!) or we may have learned fast not to be within the visual fields of those so-called "terrorizers" when they had PMS or FMS (frustrated male syndrome). Few of my classmates had extra duties or extensions but they were punished because they were caught not in their posts, not doing rounds on their patients, nor writing progress notes. If you do these things now to your patients, the consequences (malpractice lawsuits, termination of privileges, etc.) would be much worse. At the start of our internship, we were told the rules. In any "civilized" society, if you break the rules you will be punished. Maybe some "complainers" believe that the punishment is inappropriate. Maybe the training program should establish a list of violations and corresponding punishments so that all junior and senior interns should know their guidelines.

The only thing I can say is that my UERM training prepared me well for my VA pathology residency in New York City, fellowship in Los Angeles, and my current practice.

Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D. '75

Let's move on

I myself heard about all these terrors in the staff but I honestly did not get any bad treatment from anyone. My '67 classmates can vouch for this. I think these additional duties are imposed on those who try to "outsmart" residents and attendings. My friends from other medical schools tell me that the same things happened in their schools. Let us not dwell in the past anymore but do our best to improve resident/attending-clerk/intern relationship. There are many ways to do this and I'm pretty sure you know how.

Dekiam Ong, M.D. '67

Continued next page

Alumni unfinished . . . continued from page 27

Lest we forget

I am glad to hear of the new developments in student/resident/attending relationship. I'm sure that the newly established system has a lot to do with it. Hopefully, with the change in administration we do not regress to "old times," which is a definite possibility. This however should not deter us from "researching," studying how this issue of abuse of power came about. There have been people who were hurt some of whom unfortunately are still hurting, probably for life (those we do not see at reunions). We owe it to these people as well as to future alumni to try our best to see what we can do to prevent its recurrence.

*We do not drop the ball just because the current students are being treated more fairly. We want this to be permanent and knowing the sordid history of the institution is a good start. *Ano nga ba and sabi nila? "Ang hindi tumingin sa pinangalingan ay di makakarating sa tinutunguhan!"* We Filipinos forgive and forget so easily, a trait that has its pluses and minuses. In our case, the mimses seem to predominate. Look for instance at martial law. One can argue that the Philippines has not fully recovered from such a disaster but a lot of well-meaning though naïve brethren say that we should forget it and move on: *tapos na iyon!* How? How do you do that when the whole populace is so demoralized due to the absence of justice it has left in its wake?*

The other thing re not giving back to the Alma Mater is the issue of Lucio Tan. I keep going back to this apparently insoluble problem but I see no reason to help an institution that is owned by our version of a Filipino robber baron

Roberto S. Castrence, M.D. '68

Last words

I shared Dr. Dulay's letter with Dean Valdellon right after the Hawaii convention. She received it with a respectful nod and a thoughtful expression that seemed to beg for an answer. I think she wants to leave the issue at that, in our hearts, in our own individual and perhaps collective meditations, acknowledging that unpleasant memories of the past have no place in our more enlightened present other than to serve as guideposts for a better future.

Indeed as Boy Sion, Kuya Totoy, and Dick Ong have pointed out, abuse of power antedates UERMMMC, even human civilization in the final analysis. Yet many, I dare say, all of us have overcome it with the very esteemed fruits of righteousness that we have all toiled for in our ethical and spiritual lives. The results of which have been our abilities as physicians, products of our Alma Mater, to serve compassionately our fellowmen particularly the infirmed and mentally afflicted, the past notwithstanding!

The remedy or apology that our friend Vic seeks to assuage the pangs of many has been rendered in the reforms that are now in place at the Center. The school is much more supportive now of students. Freshmen now have time and stress management seminar during orientation. Dr. Lansang had started a faculty mentoring program for undergraduates. The proper balance between ethical and scientific conduct is now heavily taught in all the preclinical years through the PBL curriculum's Patient-Doctor course. A new position of fourth year (junior intern) coordinator, initiated by Dr. Valdellon and very ably implemented by Dr. Susan Pelea-Nagtalón of Class '78, now functions as an advocate for undergraduate interns, protecting them from unwarranted punishments or abuses by residents who are under the control of the chief of clinics. Shifting exams, oral and written, now objectively evaluate junior interns in every clinical rotation. Arbitrary or summary extensions or special duties are no longer the norm in the clinics. No, special duties, PSIs and other special assignments are not totally eliminated. They are still doled out for the necessary instruction of our budding doctors but only per guidelines clearly codified in the disciplinary manual that is now given to incoming junior interns every April. Graduates even now have a say on their graduation date, location and commencement speakers.

What have alumni done to build bridges to our students and young graduates? Our alumni associations and our very own alumni foundation here have supported various projects to improve faculty, resident, and student performances. Through our alumni foundation, we now have the ear of the administration in matters that concern us, specifically, the irritants to the proper development of a positive learning experience for our current and future students. Our collective voice has slowly but surely steered the school towards a more collegial and less adversarial atmosphere befitting an institution we can all be proud of, loyal to, and supportive of.

Editor '73

What to see in New York . . . continued from page 17

and they serve fresh *lumpia* in purplish *lumpia* wrapper, and *paella* made with *pirurutong* rice in a *palayok*. The place has been a cultural hub for Filipino artists and talents like Jessica Hagedorn (Dogeaters), painter Francia, and activist Ninotshka Roska for poetry and book readings.

New York Harbor (Hudson River) "The tip of Manhattan and the enclosing shores of New Jersey, Staten Island, Brooklyn form the broad expanse of New York Harbor, one of the finest natural harbors in the world and one of the things that persuaded immigrants to settle here several centuries ago. Hudson River is one of America's most important commercial and recreational waterways and is recognized as an estuary of national importance. The Hudson River extends for 154 miles of the river's 315-mile length. It is a unique natural source, home to over 206 species of fish."

South St. Seaport Historic District This hybrid historical district and shopping mall includes the Titanic Memorial, South St. Seaport, Piers 16 & 17. The Seaport Museum celebrates NYC sailing ships. See the "Seaport Experience," an hour multimedia show. Shop and eat at the over 100 stores at Pier 17, a restored 10th century architecture.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial The 80,000 sq. ft. plaza overlooks the East River offering solace, refuge and destination for all visitors who want to understand, remember and honor the 1,741 New Yorkers who served and died in Vietnam.

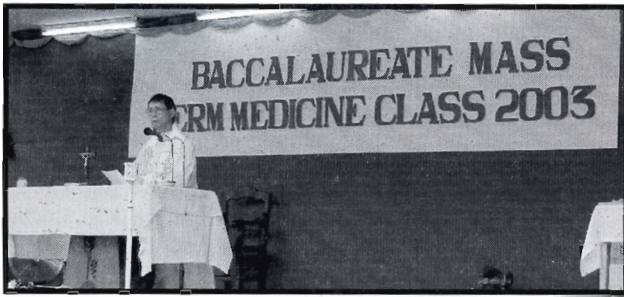
Trinity Church The original Anglican Church was built in 1697 with Neo-Gothic spire. It was a beacon for ships sailing into the harbor. The present 3rd built church survived the 9-11 attack and still stands as a significant statement of spiritual values in the heart of downtown Manhattan. Its burial grounds are the resting places of historical figures such as Alexander Hamilton, William Bradford, Robert Fulton, and Albert Gallatin.

Ground Zero Formerly the World Trade Center's Twin Towers a daily workplace for 50,000 people and spot for 200,000 more visitors including tourist who used to go up to the observatory of the 107th floor. Tickets are no longer required to go to the viewing platform to see Ground Zero.

Winter Garden After a year's absence and \$50 million reconstruction, the garden's barrel-vaulted glass ceiling and tall palm trees are back. It offers the best view of Ground Zero.

Statue of Liberty The one true symbol of New York City. More than 100 years after France presented her to the United States in 1884, the statue continues to beckon folks to NYC from her perch in the New York Harbor. Visitors climb 354 steps to gaze out the 25 windows in her crown which symbolize gemstones found on earth, and sit amidst the seven rays of the crown which represent the seven seas and continents of the world. On October 28, 1886, President Glover Cleveland accepted the statue on behalf of the United States and said in part: "*We will not forget that liberty has here made her home, nor shall her chosen altar be neglected!*"

The NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the UERMMCMAAA, Inc. welcomes you to Lower Manhattan, New York, New York.



Romeo J. Intengan, S.J., M.D., delivers the homily at the baccalaureate mass on graduation day, April 22, 2003



Drs. Divinagracia and Valdellon with the Editor's family (wife Nena Flor '74 and young Jonathan '03. Naomi took this photo)



The Northeast Chapters - RECEPTION COMMITTEE



Golf Committee deciding tee times, green fees, hole-in-one award: Elmer Gilo, Amy Mailhan, Andy Antonio, and Tito Tan.



Roger Lucas and Silver Jubilarian Ruby Reyes discuss the CME Committee's final speakers lineup and accreditation.



Souvenir Journal and Hospitality & Reception Committees chaired by Danny Mangunay and Lily Sanchez & Ping San Juan



Gala Committee at work: El Castro, Nely Recano, Jun San Juan, Amy Aban, and Debbie Bobila

Foundaton meeting . . . continued from page 10

- 11:30 AM Stock Market Update and Donor-Advised Funds, Lou Tumolo, Vice-President, American Express Funds
 12:00 N Remittance of Funds to Recipients in the Philippines, Kyoto Shoda, M.D., UERMMMC '87
 12:30 PM Questions and Answers, Bayani Elma, M.D., Vice Chairman UERMMMC/AFUSA, Inc., moderator
 1:00 PM Closing Remarks, Renato Raymundo, M.D., Vice-President
 1:05 PM Lunch

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, July 30, 2003, Marriott Courtyard, Elizabeth, NJ
 2:00 PM 5:00 PM

Presiding Officer: El B. Castro, M.D., Chairman of the Board
 Call to Order - Conrado J.R. Miranda, M.D., President
 Roll Call/Attendance Amuerfina T. Castro, Secretary
 Results of the Approval Menu - Rolando Mendoza, M.D., Member
 Treasurer's Report - Elmer Gilo, M.D., Member
 Committee Reports

Audit/Ethics Bayani B. Elma, M.D.
 Constitution & ByLaws Bayani B. Elma, M.D.
 Fund Raising Roy Baldomero, M.D.
 Finance/Budget/Investment Elmer Gilo, M.D.
 Scholarship Victoria Camacho, M.D.
 Research/Grant Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz, M.D.
 Faculty Development Benjamin Lumicao, M.D.
 Conferences and Memorial Lectures Rolando Mendoza, M.D.
 Residency Program - Jose Prudencio, M.D.
 Library - De Kiam Ong, M.D.
 Recycling for Charity Benjamin Rigor, M.D.
 Adopt Program El B. Castro, M.D.

Chairman's Report El. Castro, M.D.
 Election of Officers for Term of Office 2003-2005
 Adjournment

ANNUAL MEETING

(After the Alumni Association Meeting)
 Saturday, August 2, 2003 Regent Wall Street Hotel
 New York, New York

Installation of the Newly Elected Officers Wilmer Heceta, M.D., Chairman Emeritus
 Ceremonial Handling of the Gavel and the Manual "A Guide in Managing the UERMMMC Alumni Foundation USA, Inc." to the Newly Elected Chairman of the Board - El B. Castro, M.D., Outgoing Chairman

Orientation

Historical Perspective, Mission/Objective Frank Rabadam, M.D.
 Distribution of Handouts of the Constitution and ByLaws (Discussion, Questions and Answers) Bayani Elma, M.D.
 Schedule of the Strategic Planning Meeting Newly Elected Chairman and President
 Report/Message/Acknowledgement Dean Erlinda Valdellon, UERMMMC President Romeo Divinagracia, UERMMMCMAA Philippine President Lily Pine-Tansecoc
 Adjournment

Advances and Controversies in Medicine

Ritz Carlton Hotel Battery Park
 2 West St., New York, New York
 Friday August 1 2003

Welcome Remarks, 8:00 am 8:15 am
 Joseph Rastrollo, M.D., President, UERMMMCMAAA, Inc.
 Alex Bobila, M.D., President UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. Northeast Chapter, Overall Convention Chairman

Introduction

Rogelio F Lucas, M.D. 61 Course Director/Moderator

Bioterrorism, 8:15 am 9:00 am
 Philip Larussa, M.D., Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University

Use of Botulinum Toxins in Movement Disorders
 9:00 am 9:45 am

Ricardo Mabanta, M.D. '86, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Break/View Exhibits, 9:45 am 10:15 am

Recent Advances in Allergy, 10:15 am 11:00 am
 Ruby Reyes, M.D. '78* Clinical Instructor, Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy & Immunology UMD-NJ Medical School

Use of Combination Therapy in the Management of Hypertension, 11:00 am 12:00 pm
 Jan N. Basile, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina

Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Luncheon Memorial Lecture: Recent Advances in Dermatology 12:00 pm 1:30 pm
 Ida Tiongco, M.D. '68** Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Dermatology, Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Recent Advances in Prostate Cancer, 1:30 pm 2:15 pm
 Jose Prudencio, Jr., M.D. '78*

Medical Informatics and Clinical Practice Guidelines
 2:15 pm 3:00 pm
 Edward H. Shortlife, M.D., M.P.H., Professor and Chairman, Department of Biomedical Informatics, Professor of Medicine and Computer Science, Deputy Vice-President for Information Technology Health Sciences Division, Columbia Univ.

Break/View Exhibit, 3:00 pm 3:30 pm

Recent Government Regulations on Health Care: HIPAA, Etc.,
 3:30 pm 4:15 pm
 Germania Echeverry, Senior Consultant, Clinical Management Solutions, Inc.

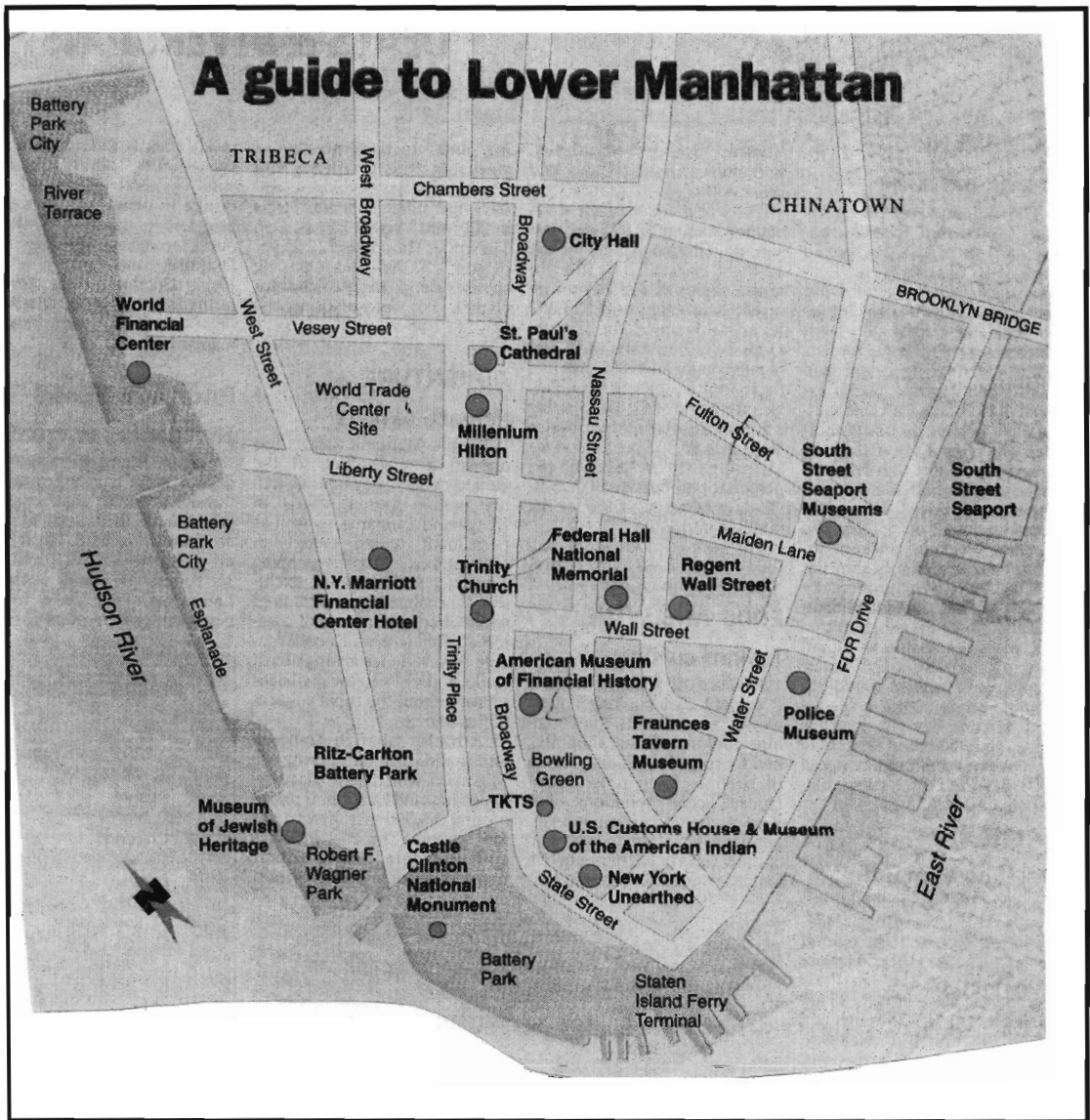
Concluding Remarks, 4:15 pm 4:30 pm
 Romeo Divinagracia, M.D. '63*** President, UERMMMC

Evaluation and Special Raffle, 4:30pm 4:45 pm

Adjournment, 5:00 pm

This CME program is jointly sponsored by Columbia University and UERMMMCMAAA, Inc. Columbia University has designated it for 8.5 hours of Category 1 PRA credits. *Silver jubilarian, **jade jubilarian, ***ruby jubilarian

Please keep this handy. You to get lost!



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Please mail this form and your check to Elmer Gilo, M.D., 2 Deer Run, Sparta, NJ 07871.

FRANKLIN DE GUZMAN

Start spreading the news!

Classes 1978, '73, '68, '63, and all UERMMMC alumni, the Alumni Association and Alumni Foundation USA, invite all of you to New York City on July 31st to August 2, 2003.

Stray in your vagabond shoes through the heart of Manhattan as your hosts, the Northeast Chapter, make you Kings of the Hill, Top of the Heap, A # 1 in your stay at the historic and elegant Regent Wall Street and nearby Ritz-Carlton Battery Park Hotels. Make your reservations early to take advantage of discounted rates. They're going very fast!

Melt your little town blues and wake up to the City that never sleeps. Meet your dearest classmates, see warm familiar faces and join us as we welcome you in fellowship at the hot, Hot, HOT Latin Caribbean Night. Update your medical knowledge with the latest from the Columbia U sponsored CME. Lunch with the dean and president, get involved and give back to the UERM community. Swing with Pearl, Jade and Ruby Jubilarians at their night's Roaring Twenties. Rebuild the UERM Spirit as we honor the Jubilarians Classes of 1978, 1973, 1968, and 1963 at the gala night.

"Let's make a brand new start of it in ol' New York" as we say a moment of prayer at Ground Zero for the fallen souls and marvel at the resiliency of the City. "If you can make it there, you'll make it anywhere." IT'S UP TO YOU! See ya! DNRM

Please contact your class coordinators now: **Franklin de Guzman** (pole500@supernet.com) and **Ruby Reyes** (rcreyest@pol.net) for the Silver Jubilarians; **Eli de Leon** (erdmd@msn.com) & **Roy Baldomero** (BaldoRoy@ol.com) for Pearl; **Roberto & Elsie Castrence** (Castrence@aol.com) for Jade; and **El Castro** (elamor@optonline.net) for Ruby.



At Ground Zero above, Wagner Park below. There's much to see in New York City!



The Alumni Newsletter

UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association of America, Inc.
3105 W. 15th. St., Suite E, Plano, Texas 75075
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REBUILDING THE SPIRIT!
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UERMMMC MAAA INC.
and
ALUMNI FOUNDATION

15th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND REUNION
JULY 31-AUGUST 2, 2003

RITZ CARLTON, Battery Park / THE REGENT WALL STREET