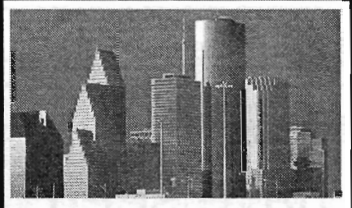




Aesculapius Ex



Houston, Texas, U.S.A.

Newsletter of the UERMMMCM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

XXIV, August 4, 2005

Ruby Class '65 tops pre-registration



The Houston Host Committee Welcomes You!

Foundation meeting to kick off confab

The 17th convention and reunion of UERMMMCM alumni in America get off to a busy start as the alumni foundation holds its marathon annual meeting this afternoon at JW Marriott's Westheimer Hotel while the golfers tee off at the championship Tour 18 course in the morning.

Some 300 graduates are expected to attend the 3-day affair. Class '65's ruby jubilarians top the pre-registered list of participants. A total of 102 have signed up for the CME while at least 130 have booked for the Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture and at least 215 tickets have been issued for the gala on Saturday night. The other large delegations are those of '63,'68, '73, and '67. Data about the other celebrating classes of '70, '75, and '80 are yet low but expected to increase as the convention progresses.

A 2-hour leadership workshop open to all interested parties and jointly sponsored by both the alumni association and foundation starts at 12 noon today followed by the business meeting. UERMMMCM President Divinagracia and Dean Paredes are attending. The top-heavy agenda includes the election of 5 trustees for the next 3-year term, investment policy options, mandatory trustee contribution, and the Antipolo learning center lots. Standing and special committees of the foundation will also give their annual report.

Three outgoing trustees have expressed their desire to con-

A convention prayer

Almighty Father, we thank you for this time of gathering, for the tie that binds us, and for the dedication of those who have made it possible.

Forgive us our faults. Make us humble in our triumphs and wiser in our failures. Reunite us with one another and renew us as we mark our milestones. Guide us in our deliberations as we learn from each other.

Above all, help us to be faithful to your Son who not only healed the sick but also embraced the poor and outcasts, and to live the bold stirrings of the Holy Spirit who sustains and comforts us always.

Amen

tinue serving (Drs. Roy Baldomero & Querubin, and Mrs. Amor Castro, RN) while two are retiring. Foundation Chairman Dr. Elma and President Dr. Miranda confirmed to *Aesculapius Ex* that Drs. Victoria Camacho and Roly Mendoza are reti-

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Valdellon to talk about hepatitis

Former Dean Dr. Erlinda V. Valdellon will deliver the 2005 Cuyegkeng Memorial Lecture today at the luncheon session of the CME program. She will speak on the latest developments in the treatment of hepatitis which continues to be a top cause of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines. She will be introduced by Dr. Angelina Tantengco, former professor of pathology and colleague of the late UERMMMCM President and Dean of the College of Medicine Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng.



The talk will be the high point of the 8-hour credit CME program of the 17th convention which will also feature other distinguished alumni who will speak on a variety of topics including ethics. As of presstime, about 102 attendees have registered for the CME. For those who have not yet done so, registration is still open. Please contact the registration desk.

Variety of programs await alumni support

The once a year gathering of alumni every August has been our biggest fundraising affair. This year is no exception as alumni through the association and foundation respond to the

Continued on page 2

Editorial

I have seen the future

Visiting UERMMMCC always brings nostalgia and a sense of coming home to me. There, I am always welcome. Perhaps because of the familiarity it brings,

the presence of former teachers, classmates and personnel who remain, or the memories that come back.

Such was the feeling I had when I visited the Alma Mater three weeks ago. However, this time, there's something else as I met the alumni scholars through the graciousness of our Dean, I was impressed by their enthusiasm for medicine. Not only that, I was impressed by their determination to become doctors despite their own families' financial constraints. Most of all, they tell me almost in unison that their brief time at UERMMMCC have so far been worth it. One expressed her deepest appreciation for the partial support she has received from us. Except for a few, these scholars who have chosen our school and profession over the others, are on installment plans for their tuition and matriculation fees.

Dean Paredes' recruitment campaign for top quality students is bearing fruit. This group is bigger than before. Even if enrollment is down, we are attracting better applicants. In the long run, we will have better graduates that will enter our country's healthcare system.

The dean needs our support. We can help these needy scholars by providing them with a gold (\$1,000 per semester for 4 years) or silver (\$1,000 a year for 4 years) scholarship. We can do this by individual or group or class effort. I encourage you to talk to the dean and the alumni foundation for details.

Editor

**Alumni Scholars**

Class 2008: Ivy Elline Afos, Leonides Bermejo (#1), Jacelie King, Jhames Ocfemia, Irene Gail Robredo, Melanie Estolas (#2), and Milldeanna de Guzman (#7).

Class 2009: Roberta Emille de Joya, Joyce Natarte, Frances Sapinoso, Joyce Sodusta, Aileen Obmaces, May Angela Pelayo, Aiza Blanco, Jason Ligot, Nila Franche, Bryan Bolante, Donna Lea Pepito, Kenny Tablizo, Katherine Magante.

In their own words

Bryan Bolante

I am Bryan Raymond V. Bolante, a first year student in the UERMMMCC. I graduated from the University of the East, Recto, Manila. Due to my current condition, I am in dire need of financial support for my studies. My father is unemployed and my mother has no occupation. My brother is the only one in the family that has a stable income. I am hoping for your kind consideration. Thank you very much.

Roberta Emille de Joya

I graduated from the Philippine Science High School in 2001 with a 4-year full scholarship from the Department of Science and Technology. In March, 2005, I attained my B.S. degree in molecular biology and biotechnology cum laude from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. I am currently a freshman at the UERMMMCC College of Medicine. With my background in molecular biology, I hope to specialize in and promote genetic medicine in the Philippines someday. Currently, my mother, who is an elementary school teacher, is funding my medical education since my father's business has recently closed down.

Aiza Chrysan C. Blanco

Educational background: High School - Colegio de Sta. Rosa, Makati, awarded the Certificate of Good Performance and Mercury Drug Excellence in Science; College - B.S. University of the Philippines, Manila, awarded College Scholar, 2nd year to 4th year, Best Thesis.

Family: Third child of 4, father is a retiree, mother is a disbursing officer at the City Government of Taguig.

Leonides Bermejo

My name is Leonides D. Bermejo. I'm from Mexico, Pampanga. I have an older brother who is 32 and married. My parents stay in Pampanga. My father is self-employed as an electronics technician. My mother is a housewife.

I am a graduate of U.P. in B.S. Physical Therapy in 1993. I worked as an instructor at the U.P. Manila College of Allied Medical Professions from 1993-97 and at other PT schools in MetroManila. I wanted to go to medical school then but because of our family's financial situation, I decided to work in the U.S.; in Florida, Arkansas, and was also licensed in P.T. in California. I took up positions in P.T. at sub-acute rehab and long-term acute units and as a supervisor in one regional health center. This enabled me to help my family and save some for my medical education.

I came home last year to fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor. I am now in 2nd year. I am supporting myself as my family has minimal financial means. I am grateful for UERMMMCC alumni's financial support for needy students like me. Whoever is going to sponsor me, I would be very grateful.

Thank you again for your generosity.

The new school year brought in a large group of latin honors freshmen, totaling 22. They received the President Dalupan entrance scholarship for the first semester which began last June. One is a *summa cum laude* (AUP), another is a *magna cum laude* (UE), the rest are

Bumper Crop

cum laudes (UPD, UPLB, UPV, UE, AUP, FEU, ADMU, AND, ADZ, and CSU). Six along with 7 non-latin honor deserving but needy freshmen have been recommended for alumni scholarship by the Dean's office.

news roundup

RP alumni reach out

The UERMMMCM Medical Alumni Association in the Philippines under the leadership of Dr. Susan Pilapil-Lazaga '79 has launched a series of outreach activities designed to strengthen its ties with old and young graduates. It held the first regional assembly and scientific meeting on March 18-19, 2005 at Clark Field's Holiday Inn in Pampanga then the second one on June 18-19 at L'Fisher Hotel in Bacolod City and plans to hold the third one on October 14, 2005 in Davao City. The June issue of its *Newsletter* also reported the revival of the traditional testimonial dinner for the graduating class of 2005 at the College Auditorium on April 26 and joined the administration in honoring the school's board placers of last February's licensure exams.

Following its strategic planning workshop in Antipolo last month, the association announced its search for outstanding alumni in the fields of medical education, medical research, leadership, community service, and most outstanding alum who will be honored along with the silver jubilarian class of 1980 at the 35th alumni homecoming on December 14-17, 2005. Nominations may be submitted to the alumni office at Rm. 117, College of Medicine Bldg, 62 Aurora Blvd., Q.C., tel/fax # 716-0771 or 715-0861 loc. 319, cellphone 09206748830, email uermmaa@I-next.net, website <http://uermmaa.home-page.org>.

The group also will hold the 1st Lucio Tan Invitational Golf Tournament on November 11, 2005 at Forbes Park's Manila Golf & Country Club to raise funds for scholarship.

All alumni are invited to support these projects. You are also requested to update your directory file with them by contacting the alumni office at the above addresses and numbers.

Medical Center gears for 50th b-day

UERMMMCM is preparing for a 6-month observance of its founding next year. Participation of alumni in the Philippines and abroad is being eagerly sought by the Administration through

the offices of the Dean and President. Facts about graduates' achievements are being compiled for the celebration.

Alumni move to save ComMed lots

A group of concerned alumni headed by Dr. Vic O'Yek, '71 appealed last June to the alumni foundation for help to save two lots in Antipolo purchased by the Philippine-based Alumni and Friends of UERMMMCM Foundation, Inc., previously headed by Dr. Divinagracia, in 1998 for a Community Medicine Learning Center to be run by the Dept. of Preventive & Community Medicine of UERMMMCM. The said lots are now at risk of being remanded to the National Housing Authority because property taxes amounting to P84,882.94 have not been paid since 2000. In addition, it is now currently occupied by squatters.

In a letter addressed to Dr. Bayani Elma, UERMMMCMCAFUSA, Inc. board chairman, O'Yek explained that the previously agricultural lots with areas of 8,692 and 1,464 sq. meters, respectively, were bought mostly from Class '66 contributions. Now 20 alumni in his group representing Classes '65, '67, '69, '70, '71, '72, '74, '75, & '76, raised sufficient funds towards securing the title. Regarding the squatters, he added that he and Dr. Edith Regalado, '65, Program Coordinator of the CBHP in Antipolo and former councilwoman of the same city, had met with them and felt that "the issue can be settled amicably."

The original plan of the center included a research, training & nursery bldg., dormitory, auditorium, herbal lab, herbarium and green areas, and a model vegetable garden.

Our thanks to: Drs. Josie-Garcia-Sidiq, Luis Ylagan, Dekiam Ong, Ramon Salumbides, Apolonio Lirio, Victor Dy, Vitchanart Bejraputra, Rey Maniago, Vincent Casibang, Isabelita Casibang, Mariza Alvarez-Lirio, Teresita Cruz-Capozzi, Agustin Morales, Ramon Ferrer, Victor O'Yek, Elizabeth Pascual, William Ty, Agnes Cuatico, Joselito Syfu, and Gloria Syfu,

1st symposium on RP medical education slated

In response to numerous inquiries from interested alumni families and others, the 17th convention will hold the first informational meeting on medical education in the Philippines particularly at UERMMMCM.

The 11 - 12 AM symposium on Saturday will feature a panel that will tackle the curriculum, application process, clinical training, scholarship and housing at UERM College of Medicine as well as test preparation and U.S. residency application strategies to help a returning Philippine medical school graduate rejoin American medicine.

The alumni association, the event's sponsor, hopes to enable more highly motivated and intellectually gifted students from the U.S. to enroll at UERM and also to enable the school to make its case before alumni to gain further support.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the Philippines allocates 10% of UERMMMCM's total enrollment of 300 to foreign students. An average of 10 to 15 students from the U.S. a year enroll there, many of whom have led their graduating classes in academic excellence.

All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please ask them during the question & answer segment. The editor will moderate the session.

Come to mass on Sunday

A thanksgiving mass to be celebrated by '70 jade jubilarian-turned Cannosian priest Rev. Fr. Dr. Jerry Bongcawil will be held on Sunday at 10 to 11 A.M. Celebrating classes are encouraged to organize for the mass for the readings, community prayer, and offertory.

Fr. Bongcawil has been named recently to organize and head his order's soon to be erected seminary in Surigao, Mindanao and would like to solicit help from his classmates and fellow alumni for this project. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Foundation meeting . . . continued from page 1 Variety of programs . . . continued from page 1

ring. Board Secretary Dr. Mendoza has moved to the Philippines to care for his ailing father. As of press time, the President has not received any new resumes from anyone seeking a trustee position but he hopes that the two open seats will be filled at this afternoon's election.

An investment policy will also be clarified not only to preserve its capital but also to enable the foundation to maximize its earnings. Since its initial decision last year in Chicago to involve an investment adviser in this matter, the board has divided into a conservative and aggressive investor camps. At stake is \$662,629 in liquid assets which the foundation now holds in conservative instruments such as savings, money market, certificates of deposit, checking and fixed income securities, which yielded an income of \$11,587 in 2004 or 2.19%, a figure below the official inflation rate. The latter group feels that a higher yield could be obtained with minimal risk.

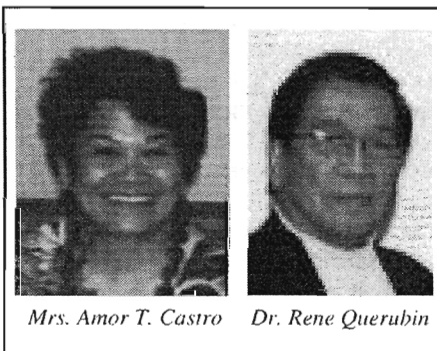
Board Chairman Dr. Bayani Elma has included in the agenda a resolution mandating a contribution of \$1,000 a year from each board member or trustee to spur contributions from rank and file alumni. He had argued for this in

the last regular issue of *Aesculapius Ex*. He particularly wants alumni to contribute to the unrestricted fund coffer as this is the main source of current operational expenses for project programs. According to the treasurer Dr. Gilo, \$284,462 or 38.5% of all assets are in restricted funds led by the Class 1973 and the 333 Endowment Fund. This amount practically can be



the source of a well-managed long term aggressive investment.

The Antipolo problem (details in page 4) has just been brought to the foundation's attention in June and promptly added to the agenda by the president and chairman.



Mrs. Amor T. Castro Dr. Rene Querubin

needs of the medical school. In particular, the alumni association which has sharpened its focus on supporting indigent patients at the UERMMH Charity Hospital since 2003, hopes to augment its Drug Assistance Program fund towards its \$300,000 goal and begin disbursing at least its earnings. The association hopes to improve the clinical experience of students and residents in the process.

Since last year through the initiative of Dean Georgina T. Paredes, emphasis has been given to scholarship and faculty development. The Dean's Scholarship, officially dubbed at UERM as "Special Honors Award," was launched last year with initial funding from the alumni foundation (see next page). The first awards were given at this school year's opening convocation in June. It has been expanded to the four-year gold and silver scholarship program.

In faculty development, alumni support for the masters program for select faculty is strongly urged by Dr. Fernando Sanchez, Jr., Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Science. It has been designed to improve the quality of teachers.

For the rest of programs to choose from, please see the Dean's Wish List.

UERMMMC ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC.

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

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