



Aesculapius Ex

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Plano, Texas, U.S.A.

Newsletter of the UERMMM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

Year XXIX, June, 21 2010

22nd alumni reunion to honor '85, '65, '70, '75, and '80 classes

Host UERMMMCAA-Southern California Chapter has completed preparations for the 22nd alumni reunion and convention next month at Newport Beach Marriott Hotel.

The group headed by convention cochairs Drs. Andy de la Llana, chapter president, and Neda Ballon-Reyes, immediate past chapter president, is eager to receive all alumni attendees, families and friends to the 3-day gathering that kicks off with a golf tournament and the annual meeting of the alumni foundation on July 1st followed by an 8-hour credit CME on the second and the gala on the 3rd honoring primarily the silver jubilarian class of 1985. A fun-filled welcome reception party is in store for everyone on the first night then the class parties on batch night led by the silver, pearl, jade and sapphire classes the next evening.

To sweeten the pot, the host committee has **waived the penalty for late registration** except for the onsite surcharge. See details at www.uermafusa.com or www.uermmarvad.org. You can then register online, by phone or by mail by downloading the applicable forms.

Also, avail of the group rates at Marriott (800-266-9432) by reserving no later than June 10, 2010, using the group code **UERUERA**.

AFUSA to honor donors

The alumni foundation is inviting donor attendees to its first ever reception for donors on July 2nd at Newport Beach Marriott's Fountain area right after the day's CME program. Please read the president's invitation on page 2. The wine and cheese affair will also conduct a raffle for the top prize of \$2,000. Interested parties please RSVP with Dr. Ruby Reyes, board of trustees secretary (rreyes78@gmail.com, 609-320-8215). For tickets, please contact the Fundraising Committee headed by Dr. Ned Valen (freshned42@yahoo.com, 504-554-0565). Cost is \$100 per ticket. You need not be present to win a prize. Visit www.uermafusa.com for further details.

Slated also for the hour-and-a-half party will be the recognition and awarding of tokens of appreciation to the top donors of the foundation (those who have contributed \$10,000 and above) and outstanding

leaders that had served the board.

The annual meeting of the foundation which is open to all alumni will be held from 12 noon to 5:00 PM on Thursday, July 1st at the said hotel's Bay Cliff. To be led by Chairman Dr. Rene Querubin and President Dr. Vickie Casibang, the session will hear the reports of the standing committees most importantly the treasurer's report, approve the budget for the next fiscal year, and elect five trustees for the new 3-year term of 2010 - 13. See election rules on page 2.

In a phone chat with Dr. Elmer Gilo, treasurer, the recovering economy has improved the fiscal position of the foundation. At the same time he noted an increase in requests for funding for faculty development and scholarship. Last month, Dean Tan-Reyes made such an appeal due to increased needs.

5th place, 69% passing for '08

The physician licensure exams in the Philippines last February yielded an overall passing rate of 46% (621 out of 1,344) nationwide. For UERMMM Class '08, a 69% passing rate is nothing to be ashamed of then considering that the other top wrung med schools got no markedly better. In an mail message to alumni in early March, Dean Retta Tan-Reyes said that the tests had been much more difficult than average. This last batch of examinees in her first term as dean, the third to the last under the erstwhile PBL curriculum, still managed to put one bet in 5th place, beating the 10th place effort of last August's candidate. Dr. Bianca Escaro-Villanueva scored 84.25% to lead her classmates to a 3rd place finish among medical schools in UERM's category. Dr. Melanie Estolas, an

alumni scholar, got 86.83% in August to lead her class to a 92% passing and number 2 ranking among medical schools fielding 100 or more examinees.

For the record, FEU took 1st place, Fatima 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th, UST 6th, West Visayas 8th, Ateneo de Zamboanga 9th and UP 10th.

Reaction from alumni in the U.S. was generally positive.

Meanwhile, the medical center wasted no time to look forward to the next exams scheduled for this coming August. Review classes started last May 13 at the PBL Room and would continue until June 18, 2010. It is offered to UERM graduates only for a fee of P8,500. Top ten graduates are *gratis*.

Good luck to Class 2009!

President's Invitation

To our alumni donors who have given well and generously to the Foundation when a call for help for our Alma Mater's plight after the "Ondoy" disaster, the members of the Board of Trustees and its Community Volunteers, applaud you and thank you from the heart.

Each of us knows that an act of giving any amount to a cause, is nearly magical. It fills us with joy and a feeling of great satisfaction especially when it is done unselfishly and nothing more. This magical feeling is enhanced when the recipient responds in gratitude, expected or not. Every donor finds satisfaction and fulfillment—the giver and the recipient both win. This makes us want to help more not only to the cause and grantees we care about but also to the community that gives us the ability to help or give.

Whatever reasons we have in our giving, we will experience an uplifting joy and great satisfaction knowing that our hard-earned money goes to where it is most needed and will do the most good.

The Board of Trustees of the UERMMMCAFUSA, its officers and Community Volunteers would like to invite our alumni donors to a special affair - our Donor Appreciation Hour on July 2, 2010—to meet, greet and thank you for all you have done in the name of our Alma Mater and its community.

Trustees for the 2007-2010 term



Dr. Gilo
Treasurer



Dr. Herrera



Dr. Reyes
Secretary



Dr. Siddig

Trustees for the 2008-2011 term



Dr. Baldomero
Asst. Treasurer



Dr. O'Yek



Dr. Pasatiempo



Dr. Querubin
Chairman



Dr. Valen

Trustees for the 2009-2012 term



Dr. Casibang
President



Dr. Dona



Dr. Moorjani



Dr. Raymundo



Dr. Torres

Ex-Officio Trustees



Dr. Tan-Reyes
Dean,
UERMMMCA



Dr. Manlapaz
President
MAAA, Inc.



Dr. Suntay
President-Elect
MAAA, Inc.



Dr. Carlos Gortardo
Vice-Chairman



Dr. Maria
Herrera
Asst. Secretary

Non-Trustee Officers

About the election of trustees, the Bylaws says "The nominees should have participated in the activities of the foundation/alumni association for at least two years. The qualified nominee shall submit a resume and a signed consent that he/she is willing to serve if elected.

The documents shall be submitted three months prior to the Foundation's annual meeting (July/August). It is not necessary that a nominee be a medical alumnus. Other community leaders who could be assets to the Foundation could also be elected as

Officers and members of the Board of Trustees." (Article VII, Section 6.)

Currently, interested candidates are asked to submit their resumes and letters of intent to the board president.

The incoming MAAAI president-elect will also be seated *ex officio* in the board.

UERM MMCAFUSA Snapshots

Years in operation

29

Board chairmen

6

Number of donors, percentage of donations

31 corporate (50%), 833 individuals (50%)

Current total assets

\$741,000

Average annual donations

\$101,470 (82% of total income)

Average annual investment income

\$22,000 (18% of total income)

Current budget allocations

Total \$77,769 - 81% for project programs (scholarships 63%, faculty development 15%, adopt programs 9%, awards & lectures 8%, community service 3%, others 2%), 19% administration and fund raising

Current scholarship awards

Special honors 20, gold 1, silver 7, partial tuition (bronze) 17, book 30, academic excellence 30, clinical honor roll 10, grants-in-aid 2

Total scholarship recipients to date

770

Total faculty development awards to date

100

Estimated value of in-kind donations to date

Books and journals \$150,000, medical instruments and equipment \$1.5 million

Please visit www.uermafusa.com, or uermafusa.org, or uermafusa.net for more details.

Interim Board Activities

Under the leadership of new Chairman, Dr. Rene Querubin and reelected President Dr. Vickie Casibang, the foundation board of trustees held one face-to-face special meeting in October, 2009 and two teleconferences in early October, 2009 and February, 2010.

The foremost action taken was the monetary response to the devastation wrought by 2 successive typhoons in the Philippines last fall. The **Disaster Relief Fund** was established to provide immediate assistance to the community health and out-patient services of UERMMMC serving the nearby Barangay Imelda and cities of San Juan and Quezon City. As detailed in the last *Aesculapius* bulletin issue on November 20, 2009 ("Newsletter" box at www.uermafusa.com's homepage), \$10,000 was donated for such emergency. The board envisioned this fund to be a permanent standby source of urgent help for community medicine services and training of medical students under the auspices of the Department of Preventive & Community Medicine. The fund has a current balance of \$45,000.

At the same meeting, the board also approved measures to improve submission of acknowledgement of receipts by scholarship recipients; created a permanent standing Committee on Strategic Planning; directed the Community Service Committee to explore ways of helping UERM's Department of Preventive and Community Medicine provide health services to nearby Barangay Imelda; renamed the Recycling for Charity Committee into the Gift-In-Kind Committee.

The February teleconference dealt with interim reports from the Community Service, Faculty Development, Scholarship & Financial Aid, Gift-In-Kind, and Library Committees. Noteworthy were the donations of 5 dialysis machines from John Hopkins through Class '85 alumna Dr. Marita Guevarra and an ECT jointly funded by the alumni foundation and association along with individual alumni donors.

The board also has been conducting cyberclasses on parliamentary procedures and the Robert's Rules of Order under the direction of President Dr. I. B. Casibang.

40th homecoming toasts Class '85

The Silver Jubilarian Class '85 was honored at the 40th alumni homecoming gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, EDSA on Thursday, February 4, 2010. Over one hundred of the joyful celebrants lit up their candles, raised their champagne glasses, sang and danced in triumph. Other honorees were batches '65, '70, '75, '80, 90, '00 and '05. The alumni association led by President Dr. Andy Borromeo also presented 16 outstanding alumni awards in leadership, community service, education and medical research. 6 of which were bagged by Class '85, 4 by '84, 2 by '76, and one by each of '80 and '81.

A poignant moment in the silver jubilarian's presentation was the much applauded recognition of the Dr. Gersam Lukban who overcame the scourge of stroke at a young age of 38 and barely starting an orthopedic practice to become a watercolor painter. His work was on exhibit at the hotel's 4th floor foyer before the start of the night's festivities. *Mabuhay!*

Dean to serve 2 more years

In an email message to alumni in April, Dean Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, announced that UERM's Board of Trustees has extended her term until April, 2012. She has so far served for three years and overseen the transition of the medical curriculum from the problem-based learning method back to the traditional one. Of her reappointment she said "I am looking forward to more productive partnerships with our alumni." Congratulations and thank you for your leadership and dedication!

Dean seeks more clinical clerkship affiliations

Dean Tan-Reyes is asking for alumni help for more possible affiliations with U.S. training hospitals that "offer general clinical electives for our clinical clerks." A few alumni involved in academic medicine have already responded to the dean's appeal. If you know of other opportunities, please contact the dean at uermmed@yahoo.com.

From the UERM Website

"Wireless internet is now available for students, faculty members, consultants, doctors and alumni who have laptops . . . Patients can also avail of wireless

internet access by purchasing WIFI cards at the cashier for P100 per 100 minutes."

New RP alumni officers

The alumni office announced in early March the new set of officers of the UERM College of Medicine Alumni Association, Inc. for the year 2010 taking over from the team led by Medical Director Dr. Andres Borromeo, '73: Drs. Jesus Adelo B. Inciong, '87, president; Paul Anthony L. Sunga, '91, vice-president; Roberto Antonio F. Rosadia, '90, secretary; Melvin Juan R. Cleofas, '97, treasurer; Francis Xavier Daniel M. Dimalanta, '90, PRO; Arnel V. Malata, '82 and Joan S. Tagorda, '97, members.

In memoriam

Dr. Elena Ines-Cuyegkeng, former Dean and Professor of Pharmacology, August 22, 2009.

Dr. Romulo Guevara, Jr., former Director of UERMMH, Chairman and Professor of Medicine, February, 2010.

Dr. Justito Candari, '74, former President of the PMA-West Virginia, active supporter of alumni affairs, May 20, 2010.

May they all rest in peace!

Post-On doy, things have returned to normal at the South (Hospital) and North (Administration & Gym) Campuses.



40th alumni homecoming



Class '73



Dr. Andy Borromeo



Class 74 & '75



With Class '61



Class '78



Silver celebrants Class '85



Class '71



Ruby Class '70



Silver celebrants Class '85



Class '71



Class '67



Armand Delo Tan with Drs. Wiltz



Crista Baclagan & Catherine Credo with Drs. Garcia



Joanna Margania Santos with Dr. Posa-Kane



Robert Sontel Berina with Drs. Torio

Getting to know your scholars



Seated L to R: Drs. Rolly Torio, Africa So-Torio, Armand Wiltz, Leilani So-Wiltz, Nora Garcia, Moonyeen Posa-Kane, & Nestor Garcia; Standing L to R: Dr. Lily Sia-Vargas, the 7 scholars, and Dr. Rey Carandang.

Last February 4, my wife and I joined the Class '72 visit at UERM the highlight of which was a meeting with the seven scholars that they currently support with their donations to the alumni foundation. It was a happy occasion just like a family reunion. Each donor was able to talk to and get to know his or her scholar. We heard their impressions on the school and their expressions of gratitude for the support they get. The sponsors, in turn, took the opportunity to encourage them to work hard and succeed. The meeting at the surgery office was arranged by Dr. Lily Sia-Vargas, '72, chair of the College of Medicine's Committee on Scholarship. The class underwrites 2 class and 10 individual scholars, 8 of whom are gold, 6 silver. Two class gold scholars have graduated last year. Other classes have also supported other scholars. See details at www.uermafusa.com.

Such personal connection with scholarship recipients aims to foster loyalty to and continuing support for the *Alma Mater*. Also through this process, alumni donors become role models in charitable giving that can inspire future alumni. Please read the responses of two young doctors on the next page.

To Class '72 and other donors, thank you! - Editor

The UERMMMC College of Medicine is now accepting applications for the first year class of the academic year 2011-2012 starting in June, 2011. Please contact the Registrar's Office as soon as possible for more information at 011-632-713-3315 or www.uerm.ph. Applications must be completed by January 15, 2011. In addition to academic and documentary requirements, applicants must take the NMAT (National Medical Admission Test) administered in Manila, Chicago or Los Angeles. Foreign students are encouraged to apply early. The names of accepted applicants will be posted at the above website as they become available.

What recent scholars say

In line with its quality assessment program, the alumni foundation asked recently graduated scholars for their feedback on the AFUSA scholarship and financial aid program. Here are two edited responses. Editor

Dear Dr. Gregggy Panga

First of all, I want to congratulate you on your graduation from medicine. You did not just graduate. You graduated 5th in your class! What an achievement! You and your parents must be proud of your accomplishment. Just like them, UERM-AFUSA is also proud of you and we are honored to have you as one of our scholars.

I was given the assignment of communicating with all the scholars, to know their stories and whereabouts, how AFUSA helped them reach their goals, what other things can we do for you after graduation. You can also comment on how we can improve our communication with scholars at UERM.

Please be aware that your response will be made part of the report to the general meeting of AFUSA.

Teresita Torres, M.D., '73, Chair, AFUSA Audit & Ethics Committee, April 26, 2010

*Dear Dr. Torres,
Pax Christi!*

I would like to thank again the UERM-AFUSA for making me a Gold scholarship recipient. The scholarship did not only motivate me to strive harder, but it came as a timely answer to my family's financial difficulties after two major typhoons hit the Bicol region and devastated my family's business and sole source of income . . . I simply cannot forget the generosity that Dr. Gotardo showed me through the monetary help he sent me.

I am the 2nd of 3 siblings from Iriga City, Camarines Sur. I went to La Consolacion College Iriga City for elementary (graduated 1st hon mention), Ateneo de Naga University for high school (graduated valedictorian and received a tuition scholarship in 4th year), and earned a BS Biology at Ateneo de Manila University on a 4-year full scholarship . . . I went to UERMMM for the PBL method of teaching. With Dr. Valdellon 's help and a GPA of 1.59 and NMAT score of 96, I qualified for the 50% tuition fee scholarship for the first semester . . . and was fortunate to receive the UERMAAA-Midwest Chapter's Gold scholarship for 4 years in medical school.

I am currently a post-grad intern at UERMMM and will graduate on May 7, 2010. As an honor student, I will be taking the May 12 - June 18 review classes for the August boards for free. If I pass, I plan to start residency early next year. I initially intended to work for Doctors Without Borders or Doctor to the Barrios but because of my family's financial situation, I will have to save up first and later do community work. I'm still contemplating on what specialty to take. It could be OB-Gyn-Onco, IM (onco, cardio or endo) or psychiatry. Eventually, I may go for IM-cardio as it's relevant to my mom's needs. If allowed, I plan to specialize abroad but rest assured I would join the faculty (anatomy) first. I enjoy teaching and it will be my way of paying forward the generosity and kind assistance I received.

I can only suggest that AFUSA continues to help deserving and financially-challenged students. This will not only motivate students to aspire for excellence but also enable them to

help society as doctors later. Also, AFUSA can help or at least guide scholars in applying for residencies abroad.

Thank you very much. The scholarship grant made a vital mark in my life. My family and I will forever be in gratitude.

Greggy A. Panga, M.D., '09, April 27, 2010

Dear Dr. Torres,

Thank you for your email and your interest in the alumni. It is a hard task to try to locate the scholars. I try my best to keep in touch with Dr. Gotardo and give him an update on what's going on with me.

Well, my story is quite long, few years in the making. I got my B.S. in Physical therapy in 1993 from UP, worked in UP and other schools for almost 4 years, then due to family financial problems came to work here as a PT in Hot Springs, AR in 1997. I have always wanted to go to med school but there were more pressing matters at that time. In 2004, I finally decided to go to medical school and fulfill my dream of becoming a doctor. I went to UERM because I heard about the PBL way of teaching back then. Being an adult learner, I liked it that way. I also learned that there were various scholarships available to students. I was supporting myself then from whatever I saved from my PT stints and withdrew my 401K. The scholarships really helped me get through. Thanks to the AFUSA.

After graduation, I decided (but not without hesitation) to go back to the States. I knew people were counting on me to stay for the senior internship and take the local boards. But again, I had to go and start working to help support my family. I wouldn't be able to pay for my USMLE, the fees, reviewers and all the other expenses if I didn't do that. I worked as a PT again at the same hospital where I used to work. I studied at night for the USMLE and just tried to be consistent. I had to schedule the exams according to the time frame required for residency/ERAS application. The residency application is quite tedious. You have to have your heart set on your goals to really go through it. Social life was virtually non-existent during the last 2 years because of working and studying but it was all worth it. And I am very thankful to have very supportive friends and co-workers. My first choice was neurosurgery but like everyone knows, it is a tough field to get into. I got an interview here at U of Arkansas but all the other applicants were very well qualified and competitive. Neurology was my second choice. I knew neurosurg was like aiming for the moon. I had to try, though. I also applied to Internal Medicine programs. I shadowed a neurologist and a hospitalist to get LORs from them and gain US clinical experience. I got 10 interviews for neurology, 1 for neurosurgery and 5 for IM. I only went to 9 interviews, mainly because of budget and time constraints. I am happy with the result of the match and I thank God for getting me through all these.

About communicating with the scholars, I think it would help if the scholars knew their sponsors early on. My sponsor was class of '72 and Dr. Gotardo has been the main person I keep in touch with. I came to know of my sponsors only during clerkship so I didn't start communicating until after graduation when Dr. Gotardo visited UE . . . I think that the scholars should find a way to communicate with their sponsors.

Anyway, I am glad that you contacted me. I hope to be able to encourage and assist anyone who also has the goal of getting into a residency program.

Leony Bermejo, M.D., '09, April 28, 2010

Special MAAAI candidate forum

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am NEDA BALLON-REYES, Medicine Class '71 and I am running for **President-Elect** of the UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association of America Inc. (MAAAI).



I have been an active member of the Alumni Association practically since its inception and like most of us who have attended and witnessed our annual reunions and conventions, I look forward to the week that is set aside to renew acquaintances, reconnect with classmates and friends alike, and also establish new friendship with other fellow alumni. We come together for almost a week of fun, laughter, drinking and dancing - knowing that this is for a noble purpose. Coming to these occasions may help support a well qualified and motivated student to finish Medicine, help enrich the competence of the faculty staff, help save a life of a patient, may support a research project, or may even support a community. In supporting our Alumni Association as well as the Alumni Foundation, we support not only our Alma Mater but our beloved Philippines. All our contributions, whether monetary or volunteering time, sharing ideas and giving advice, put together can mean so much.

I am running for this position and I know it is a very tough time mainly because of doubts and controversies happening within our association, in essence, questioning our Medical Alumni Association's purpose of existence.

When the thought of running for this position became a consideration, I was overcome by hesitancy and trepidation - having been overwhelmed by what has been happening these past two years, but my sincere commitment and dedication to our Alumni Association gave me strength to accept the challenge...to give something back to our beloved Alma Mater. If elected, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as your leader. I am your servant and not your master. I need your

support in this endeavor because, with it, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

I promise to make my foremost agenda...to bring back unity, cooperation not competition, understanding, respectfulness, compassion, camaraderie and friendliness among the Membership...for after all, we are one family.

Thank you and I hope to see you in Newport Beach, CA this coming July.

Sincerely yours,

Neda Ballon-Reyes, M.D.

Diplomate, American Board of OB-GYN
Fellow, American College of OB-GYN

University of Santo Tomas High School, 1958-1962; University of Santo Tomas B.S. PreMed, 1962-1966; University of Santo Tomas B.S. Zoology, 1962-1966. UERMMMC Medicine, 1966-1971

Member: Sigma Beta Sorority

Children:

Michael John Reyes -B.A. Political Science & East Asian Studies UCLA, Dana Rose Reyes - B.S. Biology UCSF

Post Graduate Training: OB-GYN Residency 1971-1974 - UERM Memorial Hospital Rotating Internship Mercy Hospital - Buffalo, NY; OB-GYN Residency - State University of NY at Buffalo; Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship - State University of NY at Buffalo

Private Practice:

OB-GYN - Northridge, CA; Northridge Hospital Medical Center - Northridge, CA; West Hills Hospital - West Hills, CA

Lifetime Member:

UERMMMC Alumni Association Philippines, UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association of America Inc., UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association of Southern CA, Philippines Medical Association, Southern CA

Department Chair - OB-GYN Northridge Hospital 2004-2008, UERMMMC MAAAI Executive Vice President 2006-2008, UERMMMC MAASC Immediate Past President 2007-2009

Visit uermaumni.org for election details.

Your VOTE means:

F = FRATERNITY
L = LEGACY
O = OPPORTUNITY
R = REDEMPTION



Level-headed
Integrity
Visionary
Energetic

THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW!!!

I am running for the position of **President-Elect** 2010-2012 because I have the energy, vision and true leadership in consolidating our resources and manpower for the benefit of our organization and ourselves irregardless of our beliefs.

I am running to serve you !!!

These are my goals if elected:

. To solicit grants from big corporations and/or influential donors in order for us to establish a one stop UERMMMC Community in the Philippines; thereby, we can have a hospital, research and development, rehabilitation center, hotel, dormitories, and housing that will benefit the well-being of everybody in the Motherland. This project will be self sustaining and in partnership with UERMMMC Alumni and future donor corporation.

- To create an online superstore where all members can order office supplies and other paraphernalia at a discounted rate similar to Costco, Sams Club, etc. Proceeds will be given back to UERMMMC Community as stated above.

Education:

. Doctor of Medicine, UERMMMC, 1975
Profession:
. Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology
. Diplomate, Philippine Psychiatric Association

. Staff Psychiatrist, Riverside County Department of Mental Health, Hemet Mental Health Clinic, Hemet, California

Awards:

. Clinical Excellence, UERMMMC, 1975
. Certificate of Appreciation for Dedicated Work To the Needy and Disabled Youth, Philippine Ministry of Social Services And Development, 1983

Post Graduate:

. Adult Psychiatry, New England Medical Center Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1998
. Child Psychiatry, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines, January 1982 - December 1983
. Adult Psychiatry, UERMMMC, January 1977 - January 1980

Community Service:

. Executive Secretary, UERMMMC Medical Alumni Association in America, Inc. (UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc.) 2008-2010
. Chairperson, Constitution & Bylaws Committee, UERMMMC-MAAAI, 2008-2010
. Chairperson, Fundraising for Church Building, Cornerstone International Christian Fellowship

My appeal:

The success of these goals solely depends on your support. I earnestly ask for your vote in securing a better future for our organization.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Flor de Jesus, M.D.

Recently asked questions

We received the following questions recently from Dr. Africo So-Torio and present the reply of Dr. Ned Valen, a trustee and chairman of the Fundraising Committee of the AFUSA. For this and other frequently asked questions, please visit www.uermafusa.com's FAQs section on the About Us page. We welcome your inquiries. Please feel free to send your inquiries through the Contact Us Page. Your questions will be referred to the appropriate officers for prompt answers. *Italics mine. Thanks. Editor*

Since I'm chairman of the Fundraising Committee (FRC) of AFUSA, I can't help but be biased and selfish. So, I'll try to convince you to continue sending your donations to our *Alma Mater* through the Foundation. Otherwise, I'll be remiss of my duty. Let's take your questions one by one and I may have to paraphrase them to fit our discussion.

Question #1. *What is the function of AFUSA that the national association does not already do?*

a) AFUSA's function is clearly stated in our website: <http://www.uermafusa.com>. It is an independent 501(c)3 tax-exempt entity organized for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes. It was created to give alumni, individuals, and organizations a way to support UERMMMC, the community it serves and our fellowmen. (see forwarded copy of my e-mail sent out by Dr. Lamberto "Benching" Tan last Oct. 2, 2008, describing the functions of the Board of Trustees {BOT}).

b) AFUSA preceded the MAAAI by almost 10 years. The Foundation was incorporated as 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity in New York in 1981; MAAAI was first organized as 501(c)6 social association in Baltimore, Maryland in 1990. It recently converted to 501(c)3 association in 2007. Note: Officers and volunteers of AFUSA saw the need to organize U.S. alumni into a group for social functions such as reunions, CME conventions, and medical missions (not primary functions of AFUSA).

Question #2. *Does AFUSA have its own fundraising campaign other than receiving from the national association proceeds from different functions?* The answer is yes.

a) AFUSA is about 10 years older than MAAAI, so, it has raised revenues by fundraisers and letter of appeal for donations in the past and at present. The Foundation has now donated more than two million dollars in monies and "gifts-in-kind" (GIK) to the Medical Center since its inception.

b) Contrary to people's perception, MAAAI is not the major contributor to AFUSA; individual donors provided the bulk of contributions to the Foundation. (see recent data from the Foundation's books as reported by Dr. Gilo)

	2007	2008	2006
2009			
Individual Donors			\$63,000
(40%)	\$67,500 (48%)		\$65,000
(55%)	\$75,500 (71%)		
Alliance and Friends			\$7,000
(4%)	\$4,000 (3%)		\$10,500
(9%)	\$17,000 (16%)		
MAAAI			\$13,000
(8%)	\$4,000 (3%)		\$4,000
(3%)	NONE		

The significant contribution of MAAAI was the Drug Assistance Program (DAP) or Indigent Fund - a restricted fund - started by Dr. Joseph Rostrollo and continued by Drs. Manny Blas and Ed Banez. None has been contributed since.

c) AFUSA continues to carry on its fundraising campaign. (see attached Fundraising Committee Report of July 1, 2010) The Foundation would like to invite you and the WBA (*Class '72's group*) to participate in the planned raffle this July in Newport Beach, CA. Please come to the Donor Appreciation Hour.

Question #3. *Now that MAAAI is now a 501(c)3 association, is there (not) redundancy in the function of the two?* No, because AFUSA can perform better their

Continued next page

mission of providing donations to the Medical Center and MAAAI can concentrate on the needs of alumni.

a) AFUSA, being the older of the two, has more experience in "handling and disbursing" donations. It has "safeguards" to assure donors that contributions "do not fall in the wrong hands". AFUSA has always maintained a culture of compliance to follow IRS rules and regulations to protect its tax-exempt status and to allow donors to claim tax deductions as allowed by law.

b) The Foundation is governed by 15 Trustees of the Board (BOT); it does not have regular members. Five trustees are elected to 3-year term in successive years to provide smooth transition for operation and management. As a group, it has shared fiduciary responsibility to the Foundation and its mission, and to donors (and the public) that funds raised are spent wisely and specifically to what they are intended for and in accordance with IRS rules and regulations.

c) In contrast, MAAAI officers are elected and changed every 2 years which will not guarantee a smooth transition. Documentation of donors and beneficiaries and use of donated items can be difficult and could create problems in complying with IRS rules and regulations.

I have been involved in both organizations: I was privileged to serve as host-chairman of the only reunion and convention held in New Orleans Hilton Riverside in 1994. Now, I'm spending some of my retirement (twilight) years "giving something back" to our Alma Mater through the alumni foundation.

So, Dr. So, I hope I was able to answer your questions and was able to convince you to continue your donation to the Foundation.

At your service,

Ned Valen, Trustee



Past chairman Dr. Benjie Rigor with new Chairman Dr. Rene Querubin & President Dr. Vickie Casibang, NYC, '09.



Participants at the last annual meeting in New York, 2009



Members of the Board of Trustees



Aesculapius Ex

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Editorial

Wilmer Heceta, M.D., an alumnus for all seasons

In this season of many challenges, doubt and uncertainty, we embark on the search for balance, stability, direction, hope and inspiration. Our introspection begins with a look at the past, where have we been, with whom have we traveled, what have we accomplished. Almost always such a journey brings us a figure that embodies the best of what we aspire to. A hero maybe but more of a spiritual guide.

In this time of gathering, we have an opportunity to renew and recommit to the values that invite the better angels within us so we can do what is good for our fellowmen. How true and proper then that we look up to someone among us to emulate so we can do the task before us with strengthened conviction and enlightened perseverance.

We are fortunate to have in our midst such a mentor who calms our hearts, encourages even our modest efforts, and makes us feel we belong and never stops showing us the way.

Dr. Wilmer Heceta, '61, indeed has been a pioneer. Twenty-nine years ago, led by a deep sense of gratitude and inspired by the vision of a great

medical institution, he worked with others to start the alumni foundation. After planting the seed of this entity, he nurtured its growth and has seen to its vitality. He has always been around at annual meetings and



conventions to lend his wise counsel and cheerful support. He genuinely gets to know you, more so if you are a younger graduate.

When he struggles to use the computer and the internet, he is humble to admit his limitations. Yet his messages reflect the values of a compassionate human being. His compliments and admonitions are gifts to be treasured (To one he says, "you

are still a brilliant kid!" To me, he urges "help the alumni by your pen . . . Write anything close to your heart and it will bear fruits.")

When he established the 333 Fund which we now call the Wilmer Heceta Endowment Fund, he envisioned a perpetual source of funds for worthy projects at UERM. His formula: 300 alumni(3) each giving \$300 a year(3) for 3 years aims to raise at least \$270,000. We may be halfway toward that goal but the participation of more could even surpass it. Modest yet achievable.

He models selflessness and sacrificial giving when he donated his SSS check last September to the Disaster Relief Fund following Typhoon Ondoy. He faithfully pays the life insurance he has taken out for the benefit of the alumni foundation.

His words to Ned are his words to each of us - "You are doing a wonderful difficult job. God promised us all safety in things we do but it is not to be calm and easy all the time. The harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. You will pull through."

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