New York, New York - the City that never sleeps

By Felix Bautista

Looming as the backdrop of this year’s 21st UERM Alumni Convention/Reunion is the glamorous city of New York, known for its excesses, excitement and high expectations. With the Waldorf defining elegance and grandeur serving as the center of its festivities, the stage is set for a rousing and memorable event. It is no wonder why the Northeast Chapter (NEC), hosting this year’s event has been driven to extraordinary feats of hard work and sacrifices to ensure its success. It is in their blood to always shoot for the best! Their dedication is truly inspiring and worthy of everyone’s respect and admiration.

Those who value and cherish their past, their fealty to their class and friends and to our School will always be drawn to attend this annual Alumni conventions and reunions. It is always a joyous and emotional experience. It is a time for renewal and strengthening of our attachments and reliving of our gloried past. It is the thrill of perhaps unearthing hidden secrets, a chance of closure of unresolved issues, even seeing your old flames and enemies, and vindication that you have not screwed up your life after all.

But we also need a forum, ceremonies and a moral cause to lend higher meaning and impart a sense of belonging. Some would dispel this as BONGA but it is crucially as important! Still others will degrade it as “Payabangan lang dyan” not mindful that we all are already accomplished and we need not trumpet it here! We also all should be reminded that it is a FUND RAISING AFFAIR for our School!

Here’s what you will expect from your stay in NY for the Alumni convention:

1. NEW YORK, THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS; BOLD and DARING; ECLECTIC; CAPTIVATING; EXCESSIVE; GRAND and all the marvelous words that you could think of. You will never run out of anything to do in NY and all major attractions are in VERY close PROXIMITY of each other, no need to waste time in getting there. It is the SAFEST among the 25 largest cities in the US. You will be surrounded by BEAUTY, with the likes of the AVANT GARDE and HAUTE COUTURE that are everywhere. There simply is NOTHING LIKE IT!

2. DINING 18,000+ restaurants of every cuisine, numerous 5-star restaurants.

3. CULTURE “It just seems to be in the air, like the weather” There are at least 20 world class Museums including the MET, MOMA, GUGENHEIM, ETC. There are varied theaters with Broadway and off Broadway shows, the CARNEGIE, the MET, AVERY FISCHER HALL, THE APOLLO, RADIO CITY, and more! LANDMARK ATTRACTIONS: ST. PATRICK church, the EMPIRE STATE bldg, GROUND ZERO, the ROCKEFELLER Building (30 Rock) and of course TIMES SQUARE, where all the tourists conglomerate at night, the SOHO district, GREENWICH, home to many celebrities, CHINATOWN, and of course THE STATUE OF LIBERTY and ELLIS ISLAND.

4. SHOPPING You can shop till you drop on 5th Ave. with multiple specialty shops, and department stores like MACY’S, LORD & TAYLOR, with 10 floors each.

5. NIGHTLIFE. It is a PARTY TOWN with NIGHT CLUBS, JAZZ joints.

(Continued on page 13)
"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Romeo and Juliet (II, ii, 1-2), Wm. Shakespeare

Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet meet and fall in love in Shakespeare's lyrical tale of “star-cross'd” lovers. They are doomed from the start as members of warring families. Here Juliet tells Romeo that a name is an artificial and meaningless convention, and that she loves the person who is called “Montague,” not the Montague name and not the Montague family. Romeo, out of his passion for Juliet, rejects his family name and vows, as Juliet asks, to “deny (his) father” and instead be “new baptized” as Juliet’s lover. This one short line encapsulates the central struggle and tragedy of the play. (http://www.enotes.com/shakespeare-quotes/what-s-name-that-which-we-call-rose).

The above paragraphs encapsulated my emotions soon after the previous issue of this biannual tract came out. Yours truly was subjected to a torrent of odious email, spiteful calls, even threats of secession and legal action because I had printed a list of officers that had M.D.(Phils) affixed to their names (versus just plain “M.D.”). In fairness to the Officers (after all, I only publish what is sent to me, editing - not editorializing) - they were just covering their derrieres (pardon my French). This subject, they believed, had been resolved in the ‘08 meeting when Dr Suntay was president-elected. My sincerest apologies to all who were offended by this oversight. I recognize that we all poured out a lot of our blood, sweat, and tears during those four (five? six?) agonizing years at Aurora Blvd -and therefore deserve the title. Henceforth, I shall strive to eliminate the MD (Phils) tag wherever and whenever I can. We must steer clear of the Capulet’s vs. Montague’s scenario. Let’s all kiss and make-up, and not let this petty editorial lapse divide us- we have much more pressing matters to confront. A positive thing I learned from this episode- we have readers! Thanks for keeping us on our toes!

The 4th of July weekend is fast approaching, I hope your itinerary includes a stop at the Big Apple for our Big Event. The Northeast chapter (NEC) has worked mighty hard to give you a great experience, as evinced by Ate Ida Tiongco’s article (elsewhere in this issue). Come and enjoy the sights and sounds (and smells) of the World’s capital. Ate also penned a wonderful narrative (with pictures, pa) of her recent expedition to the Cordillera Highlands (see inside pages). La Presidenta Amie Malihan of the NEC also has a Cordillera Saga to narrate in another inside page (sorry, her photos didn’t make our deadline).

Our prayers have been answered- welcome please, your new associate editor, Felix Bautista. His Welcome to New York is our headline story.

The list of lifetime members continues to grow. If your name was (inadvertently) omitted, please inform us. If you want your name included- you must sign up (and pay-up)! A worthier cause is hard to find ...

You're association officers have been burning the midnight oil, as you can read from Prexy Irene’s report. Exec Direc Bench has compiled an extensive email list that will keep you regularly updated on our group’s goings-on. Join the Few, the Proud, the Alums -by sending us your email address (www.uermalumni.org) and we’ll keep you posted on the Association’s Latest and Greatest Happenings (spam-free warranty included). Details, forms, schedules may also be downloaded from the website (and inside this issue). There are deadlines, people, so get your a__ (excuse cest moi, tambien) in gear.

Class 72, aka, The Wild Bunch Alliance (WBA) has a special place in our hearts because of their passion for the alma mater. Check out Vic Carbonell’s passion (of a different sort) in his “Search for the Coolest WBA” story.

You can find Mr. Wilson Young’s projects for the Medical Center (where he is the Vice-Chairman of the Trustee Board) elsewhere in this issue. The story was scanned from the latest issue of the Mediscope which is the official organ of the Center. Just another example of your tax (deductible) dollars at work. In other campus news, the newest member of the Board of Trustees is that son of the RM--> ex-Senador Ramon Banzon Magsaysay Jr. The legend continues.

Digressing a bit now, how about our kababayan, Manny Pacquiao? With all the depressing stories coming out of the Olde Sod, it’s nice to hear some upbeat tales for a change.

And finally, the snow’s gone, the grass is turning green, the sun’s out and the temps in the 60’s. Pardon me while I go for a bike ride ...
President’s Report

By Irene Ibanez-Manlapaz

1) The UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. continues to be a solid non-profit organization and is now approved by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation with all its privileges.

2) Preparations for the 21st Annual Convention & Reunion to be held at Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, New York on July 2-5, 2009 are going as expected with few hiccoughs brought b y few, and just like in any other corporation brings minor irritations.

3) At the last General Membership Meeting, it was approved that grantees of the Drug Assistance Program (DAP)/Indigent Fund should also include community projects. For clarification to the new set of Board of Trustees, the main and majority donor of the DAP Fund is UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. Please see below the updated instruction from MAAA, Inc. on how this fund will be disbursed.

4) As per report of Dr. Elmer Gilo, treasurer of AFUSA on February 16, 2009, the current amount of the DAP Fund investment at year end 2008 is $252,609 with estimated market value of $175,865. According to Dr. Gilo this investment is being managed by H&R Block FA. The total investment management fees for the last 4 years is $7,916 and for 2008 it is $2,729. The fees are quite high and we have recommended in the last 2 years and we again repeat our recommendation to the Chair that the fees are quite high and we have recommended in the last 2 years and we again repeat our recommendation to the Chair and the Board of Trustees that the DAP Fund be transferred to Water Tower Financial Partners, LLC (WTFP). The President-Elect of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc., Susan P. Sunlta y can help facilitate transfer of the DAP Fund to WTFP.

5) For Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the Executive Committee of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. recommends that $50,000 grant money be disbursed towards the Antipolo Green Building Project for the building of 4 medical clinics that will be used on indigent patients of the two communities that will be served by medical students studying at UERMMMC College of Medicine.

6) For Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the Executive Committee of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. recommends that $25,000 grant money be disbursed towards the Indigent Patient Fund of UERMMMC Charity Hospital.

7) For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Executive Committee of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. recommends that $25,000 grant money be disbursed towards the purchase of necessary medical instruments and maintenance of the 4 clinics mentioned above.

8) For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Executive Committee of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. recommends that $25,000 grant money be disbursed towards the Indigent Patient Fund of UERMMMC Charity Hospital.

9) The Executive Committee of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. recommends that the checks for $50,000 grant money for the Antipolo Green Building Project and the $25,000 grant money towards the Indigent Patient Fund of UERMMMC Charity Hospital be handed to the designated representative of the grantees during the General Meeting of the Membership of UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc.

10) Copies of this report will be given to all Alumni attending the 21st Annual Convention and Reunion and will also be published at the Association’s website: www.uermalumni.org and Alumni Newsletter.
Everybody knows how the island of Manhattan was bought by the Dutch from the Indians for $24.00 worth of trinkets. Before the arrival of the white man, the island was called Mannahatta, island of many hills, with “230 types of birds, 80 kinds of fish, plus bears, wolves, beavers, otters and numerous others. Supporting this richness were 66 miles of streams, 21 ponds, and 300 springs.” (New York Magazine, April 20, 2009). From this sylvan setting we go fast forward to the present Manhattan with its towering skyscrapers, miles of underground subways, center of arts, fashion, entertainment and theater, media, etc. thus metamorphosing into New York City, the Capital of the World.

The image of New York City as the glitzy, expensive Big Apple is what out-of-towners imagine the city to be. In the metropolis where 50.5% of its population came from another state or country, one need not break the bank to experience and enjoy this most vibrant of American cities.

This guide is how to live it up in the Big Apple as an El Cheapo or a Cheapskate.

Sightseeing/transportation/getting around

Don’t take the hop on - hop off tourist bus which charges about $40/person. Get a Fun Pass Metrocard (from any subway stop, stationery store, groceries etc) for $7.50 good for 24 hours and go up and down the Avenues and East and West on the Island from Downtown to Uptown. If you are just using a regular Metrocard ($2.00), you can avail of the free transfers as long as you don’t take the same route (example, go up First Avenue on M15 and go down on Lex Avenue on M103/M105), and as long as it is within a 2 hour window period. Ask for free bus and subway maps which you can later use as chic gift-wrap (similar to those sold at the MoMa museum store). If you want to see Lady Liberty, don’t take the ferry to the Liberty Island; instead take the free Staten Island Ferry in lower Manhattan and back. As soon as you are within the shadows of Lady Liberty, take your picture with the Lady in the background.

You can go to Brooklyn by walking on Brooklyn Bridge for nice photo-ops. If you have a car and would like to park, even near midtown, go to the garages on the farther side of the island, near the East River and/or Hudson River where you can park for 12 hours for about $10.00 plus tax. Taxis are a little bit expensive but not as much as in other cities. Yellow cabs are abundant in the city and cost $2.50 initially, 40 cents per 1/5 mile (there are extra charges on certain times of the day which are listed on the doors of the cabs). This is cheaper than getting a parking ticket or even worst, to have your car towed.

A simpler way to go around New York (New York City is composed of 5 boroughs- Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx which is the only borough connected to mainland USA ... but Manhattan is referred to as The City or New York ), is just to walk and walk and walk some more. The streets are laid out in a grid and arranged numerically (lower numbers begin downtown, with higher numbers going uptown). Fifth Ave. / Central Park divides the East from the West sides, and is a gallivanters dream.

Shopping

34th Street is a big shopping street with Macy’s, the world’s biggest store, as its magnet. There are smaller stores around, and for outrageously low priced clothing visit Conway, the favorite of Philippine actress Vilma Santos. Two blocks off Macy’s is Jack’s World (32nd St. off 6th Ave. and near Korea Town) where you can find dollar items including souvenirs and gourmet food.

14th Street, in the vicinity of NYU and Greenwich Village on the west side is also a good “El Cheapo” place. My mother’s favorite is The Big Dee for miscellaneous items from clothes to household goods. In lower Manhattan, across the former Wall Trade Center is the world famous Century 21 (“New York’s Best Kept Secret”) on Cortland Street where you can find intimate wear to designer clothes for both men and women, shoes, bags to linens for the house (all brand names) at a discount. You will hear a Babel of languages there, mostly European.

The Fashion District (36th to 38th Sts between 6th to 8th Aves) has numerous stores selling women’s (and some men’s) clothes at wholesale prices ($20 long evening dresses). Don’t be intimidated by the term “wholesale” because one can buy 6 pieces of different styles and sizes so if there are two of you then you can buy 3 dresses each.

Continued on page 14
A Sky-High Medical Mission

By Ida Tiongco

In the midst of the world famous Rice Terraces in Banaue, Ifugao, can be found a modest but adequately equipped clinic/hospital that has catered to the medical needs of the natives. For many years, Dr. Tony Ligot, the surgeon-missionary/medical director of the Good News Clinic and Hospital in Banaue, wanted specialists to come to his hospital on a regular basis. He approached the Philippine Dermatological Society more than a decade ago but because of funding and other reasons, his idea did not materialize.

In 2002, after lengthy talks via the internet, fax and E-mail with a classmate, Dr. Ida M. Tiongco, a dermatologist in private practice in New York City and at New York Cornell Medical Center and at that time a visiting professor of Dermatology at UERM, they were able to raise funds from classmates and friends from the USA to start the first Derm Mission. Four senior residents (one from Cornell) and two graduates from UERM Derm together with Dr. Francisca Roa, then president of the Philippine Dermatological Society, joined the first Derm mission of Dr. Ida. From then on, all presidents of the PDS participated in the missions and on this recently concluded mission, most of the board of directors were there too upon the invitation of Dr. Gina Pastorfide, the current president.

Annually, except for the year 2003, the Ifugaos are visited by the Derm group for 3 to 4 days in January. About 120 patients are seen everyday and about 120 skin surgeries are done (excision of moles, fatty tumors, cysts and other growths, and burning of warts, age spots and keratoses and occasionally skin cancers). Most of the cases are the usual skin rashes like eczema, dandruff, acne, skin infections and infestations like scabies and lice, fungal infections and the occasional exotic diseases that require biopsy and subsequent dermatopathology. Patients are provided with all their medications for the whole course of the disease and even sunscreens, moisturizers and even special soaps and shampoos most of which come from the USA.

A lot of lowland people believe that the Banaue mission is in Quezon City or near Baguio- it is actually an 8 to 9 hour trip from Manila or Baguio. You drive through a couple of zigzag trails including the famous Sta. Fe trail. Most of the medical missions involve some form of government help from local and even national officials. At times, these politicians “use” the medical missions for their political gain. This mission has been free from politicking all these years. The members of the Derm mission come from New York, Manila and other parts of the country. It is an annual event that the Ifugaos look forward to after the New Year. There is also follow-up with either Dr. Ligot or, through cyberspace, with members of the mission who are in Manila. At the same time, there is some form of continuing medical education wherein the visiting Derms from the USA and the Philippines interact with the local physicians in a meeting usually held at the nearby Banaue Hotel.

This year’s mission is composed of Drs. Gina Pastorfide, PDS president, and officers and members Tess Gabriel, Lonabel Encarnacion, Arcee

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Lifetime Members

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Projects in Progress

- As-Built Plans of the five Buildings at the Medical Center (College of Medicine, Charity Hospital, Pay Hospital, Administration and JMC Bldgs.)
- Skills Laboratory for the College of Physical Therapy
- Provision for a Waiting Area at the Outpatient Dept.
- Renovation of the Comfort Rooms at the JMC Bldg
- Renovation of the Comfort Rooms at the Administration Bldg.
- Design and Supply of Fire Pump at the Administrative Complex
- Improvement of the Canteen at the Administrative Complex
- UERM-MCI Signage in front of the Administration Bldg.
- CCTV for the Pay Hospital
- Installation & Modernization of the Elevator at the JMC Bldg.
- Design and relocation of the Kitchen at the Hospital Complex
- Acquisition of Ultrasound Machines for the Pay Hospital
- Acquisition of two Anesthesia Machines for the Pay Hospital
- Construction of a Waste Water Treatment Plant and Level Parking at the Hospital Complex
- Renovation of the Amphitheater at the JMC Bldg.
- Renovation of the College Auditorium at the College of Medicine Bldg.
- Installation of a Sprinkler and Fire Protection at the JMC and Administrative Bldgs.
- Re-design and renovation of the Medical Library at the JMC Bldg.
- Construction of a Bust/Statue of President Ramon Magsaysay
- Rehabilitation of the Electrical System and Wiring of the Medical Center
- Re-designing and renovation of the Multi-purpose Gym.
My search for the coolest WBA

By Vic Carbonell ’72

Taking up Medicine at UERMMC was no walk in the park. When almost the whole section gets wiped out after the first year alone, it didn’t take a Rocket Scientist to realize that it involved serious studying to make it and to have your friends by your side would be a welcomed icing on the cake. I figured I had to enlist all the help I could get and all the resources I could gather and all the fun I could muster as I embarked in that journey...thus leading to mysearch for the coolest buddy/buddies among the Class 72.

“The coolest group in all of our class 72.”

I first believed it was the group of Vivs (Vivero), Poksy (Seldera), Jatee (Gobunsyu), Dick (San Pedro), Mandy (Real), Oca (Pizzaro), Ernie (Quinio) and others. They had a certain swagger, confidence and that smirk. They were not loud nor boisterous but they had that “can do” spirit and “why not?” attitude. They could sing, tell jokes, debate and they were not too bad in academia either. You didn’t see them lugging a stack of books like most of us did and when they did carry a notebook it was hidden somewhere in those back pockets. Some of them were so quick to finish off those surprise quizzes as if they were in a quest to get back to their after school festivities. They usually kept to themselves but they seemed to have all the fun in the world...They were just simply different...in the eyes of an awe-struck young man like me.

When Dennis (Tumbukan), a roommate of Vivos started hanging out with them at one time, I thought height was not a requirement so I found myself drifting towards them and hanging out with them but...oh! so briefly. When the group’s Pow-Wow centered on Wine, Women and Rock and Roll...but it was not evident to me at that time. Maybe I caught them in one of those rare and serious moments of their student life. But of course, that was just one of the many interests of the group. They would continue to balance studies and good times with the occasional company of some cool spirits like St. Mig plying the way to a more exquisite taste of the vino in the future. Although they proved their prowess in that Word Power contest, among other things, the restless side of me wanted to move on...and kept searching...

With my roving eyes, I shifted my attention to the Blue House boys-- Henry (Ancheta), lex C , F. Rafanan et al, a jolly group of studious characters from diverse regional background...but they were like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid’s Hole in the Wall gang. They were always holed up in that tiny basement of the Blue House....reading and studying...plotting for the next big score. Gee, I was already getting that with my fine roommate, Chuck (Gotardo). Chuck, of course was our top student with the movie star person and he was so up there in the Brains dept that I did not want to distract him. I was just glad to be breathing the same air with him in that tiny brown house apartment in hopes that it would at least affect my brain function and improve my grades but I wanted a little more spark in my student life, so I moved on...

I drifted towards Christian (Cango), preacher extraordinaire, he with his olive oil hair, key chains which were filled with rings of his conquests and that beautiful stare...but he has a different mission in life. I have seen him apply his charms with the ladies and he was such a smooth operator that I was afraid I didn't have the spunk and stamina for that kind of lifestyle...So I moved on...But in retrospect, to be able to combine academia and that much art of flirting and come away intact is tantamount to be called the smartestlothario in our class, in my little book.

I looked around and I found Armando (Wiltz), a pleasant gentleman sporting that tall, dark and handsome trifecta but he was so mesmerized and enamored by a pretty lass from Ilocos named Lani that he seemed like a very happy man. Sometimes that happens when your inamorata is an Ilocana.I think the famous halakhah that he’s known for was already starting to blossom at this period. He did not have time for any other distraction. Likewise, the straight-shooting Markina Boys Etoy (Garcia)and Delay (de Leon) were already tenderly entrenched with their respective lovely amores, Nora and Cornelia respectively. I turned to my group C batchmates, Leonype (Castillo) with the coolest car with the Beetle but he too was enwrapped by a pretty classmate from Laguna named Florence. Roly (Corpus) could have been perfect, he's smart, well dressed, well groomed and deeply religious but he was already taken...by beautiful Delma. These lucky gentlemen succumbed to the affairs of the heart early on in their student careers...living a happy life with their own personal "trainers".

Then there was the group of Benching (Tan), Bien (Rosales), Manny (Llado), Kuya Ernan (Garcia), Alex (Lising), Pipo (del Corro) et al and theirs was like an exclusive club. They were bright and gracious ivy league gentlemen. Some of them were starting to discover and pursue some of the beauties of the University. They were like a country club-set colleagues not akin to my working class bearing so I moved on......

Then there was Ed (Genato) and other GI boys of the Brown house. He was a fellow Ilocano and we were neighbors along Project 10. It could have been swell but he had a physique sculpted like Hercules that I was afraid I would look awfully insignificant standing side by side with him.

There was the easy going Rey (Carandang) from Batangas, laid back and a friendly frencancer but he has already overextended himself spreading his friendly wings to everybody from the Batangas boys to the Laguna Boys to the Mekene Boys.

Then there was Elmer (Ignacio), the Stanford kid from the Waray nation, with his easy laugh and cheerful disposition but he was concentrating on his roots, the Visayan Brotherhood. Much later, we became roommates in internship in Chicago. His waray roots and my ilocano roots blended nicely and we became good friends.

I tried to recruit Mandy, a talented and very musically inclined chap with an unpredictable sense of humor bordering towards slapstick. He was fun to be around with but he was such a devoted comrade anda rah-rah boyo of the Vivos and Poksy outfit that he couldn't spare any more time doing a moonlighting buddy job.

Art (Sabio) was another likable Ilocano but he was the quiet, strong type ala Clint Eastwood, all business- like and very organized which was not my style so I moved on again.

Jerome (Marave) was relaxed and cool in that pencil-thin mustache that was the trademark image of his commanding presence. He was the confident, vigilant type but I was looking for something or someone who would tame my restless soul.

Then along came a fellow from Malabon named Jun (Chua), clean cut with his crisp, starchy uniform, slick hair, ready smile and friendly manner .... and pretending to possess the coolest gadget of all..the patoc sometimes called gimmick at that time and of course, harmless mischiefs but we maintained a good student sense all the way to graduation and we're proud of our alma mater. Most of us have our own buddies and all of us were cool in our own way and in our own peculiar style. I'm just glad that my coolest amigo was Jun and the fellowship and the fun we had, made me forget the potholes in the road and made me celebrate the journey in med school instead. Even the Lone Ranger has his Tonto and Jun was my Tonto... or I was the Tonto to his Lone Ranger...Certainly, I'm grateful for the friendship.

P.S. I didn't know it at that time that the group of Vivos, Poksy, Ernie et al was the WILD BUNCH whose exploits, strength, unity and humor...would some day be adapted as the basis for the moniker of our class 72. Although I only have a very brief flirtation with the group. I'm proud of it, although up to now I'm still having a hard time answering all of the Reader's Digest WORD POWER. In retrospect, I should have stayed a little longer with the Bunch and took Jun along with me...we could have gotten the best ride and best blast of our life with the ever so cool WILD BUNCH. Who knows, I might even ace the Reader's Digest WORD POWER.

Thank you all for being Cool sports and for the cool journey. Mabuhay ang WBA! 

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 1, 2009 - WEDNESDAY: 7 am □4:00 pm - Golf Tournament (Bethpage)

JULY 2, 2009 - THURSDAY:
7 am  □4:00 pm  Golf Tournament (TBA)
7 am  □5:00 pm  Registration
12 noon □5 pm  UERMMMC-AFUSA Inc. Meeting
10 am □5:00 pm  EXHIBITS & Alliance Silent Auction
6:30 pm □12 am  WELCOME and FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (“Back to the 60’s”)
Dinner/Dance & "UERM's GOT Talent Dance/Singing Contests"
(Dinner tickets required)

JULY 3, 2009 - FRIDAY:
7 am - 5:00 pm  REGISTRATION/ EXHIBITS & Alliance Silent Auction
7 am - 9:00 am  Continental Breakfast (For CME Attendees □tickets required)
7:50 am - Noon  CME – Day 1  Quality of Life Issues: Disease Prevention
and Health & Wellness Maintenance □
12 noon - 1:30 pm  Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Luncheon  □The Science and Art of Medicine □
Keynote Speakers: Dr. Angelina Tantengco & Dr. Eliezer O. Sarmineto 64
Moderator: Dr. Benjamin Rigor  62  □Professor Emeritus, University of Louisville, KY
1:30 pm  □3:00 pm  General Meeting  (Reports of MAAA, Inc. President, AFUSA Chairman, Dean,
& UERM Hospital President, Wish List Auction)
3:00 pm  □6:00 pm  □FREE TIME
6:30 pm □12 am  JUBILARIAN NITE Dinner/Dance”
(Celebrating Jubilarians : Class 84, 64, 69, 74, 79, 89, 94, 99 & 2004 )
ALL CLASSES WELCOME (Pre-registration/tickets required) THEME & ATTIRE: “Rock n Roll”

JULY 4, 2009 - SATURDAY:
7 am - 10:00 am  REGISTRATION
7 am - 8:30 am  Continental Breakfast (For CME Attendees □tickets required)
8 am-1:00 pm  EXHIBITS and Alliance Auction
8 am □10:00 am  REFERENDUM
8:00 am - Noon  CME – Day 2
12 noon- 1:00p.m. Medical School Forum “Why & How to Enroll at UERM College of Medicine”
(Moderator: Dr. Sam Piga) Open to public.
1:00 p.m. □Announcement of result of referendum (CBL Chairperson)
1:00 p.m. □6:00 p.m. □FREE TIME
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. Executive Council Meeting
6:30 pm □12 am  GALA DINNER/DANCE (The Waldorf=Astoria Grand Ballroom)
ATTIRE: BLACK TIE (Barong Tagalog - Optional) Tickets required.
12:00 am  □Midnight Snacks (Filipino delicacies)

JULY 5, 2009 - SUNDAY:
Churches/Places of Worship - St. Patrick’s Cathedral-5th Ave & Madison (one block from Waldorf=Astoria).
For other places of worship for most denominations please call the concierge for assistance at 212-872-4790.
12 Noon - CHECK–OUT TIME (THANKS & Have a safe trip and see you all in
Newport Beach, California, June 30- July 4, 2010!)
The Alumni Newsletter

UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. & Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.  
21st Annual Reunion and Convention, JULY 1-5, 2009  
The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, 301 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Tel: (800) 925-3673 / (212) 355-3000  
Co-Hosted by: The UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. - NORTHEAST CHAPTER

For more info & forms/CME brochure: www.uermalumni.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Hotel Reservation:  
June 11, 2009
Deadline for Hotel Group Rate  
(NO EXTENSION)

Group Code- UER Group Rate: $209/ night+ tax *(single/double occupancy) Group rates are honored 2 days before and after the event dates
Call: 1-(800) 925-3673 / (212) 355-3000
Hotel rooms are limited and those with packages or Saturday Gala Night (required) plus another event (CME or Thursday or Friday Dinner/Dance) will be given priority.
For suites reservation, call Dr. Debbie Bobila at 201-248-5257

REGISTRATION FEES:  
(PACKAGE A, B & C FEES** include: 2-DAY CME ($365) Registration + Membership Fee, Fri. & Sat. Continental Breakfasts, Dr. Cuyegkeng Luncheon, Thursday, Friday & Saturday Dinner/Dance.
ONSITE Registration up to Saturday at 10:00 a.m. ONLY. Add $50 for each event or package (required).

RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY:  
June 1/09 After 6/1/09 On Site No. TOTAL

Package A (Solo M.D. & Lifetime Member)  $845  $945  $1,095
Package A (Solo M.D. & 2009 dues unpaid)  $895  $995  $1,195
Package B (Retired Alumni [≥65 years])  $670  $775  $910
Package C (Residents/ Fellows / Non-Practicing)  $450  $465  $495
Package D (Non-USA Resident Alumni [Passport required] includes Thursday & Saturday Dinner/Dance and Free 2-day CME lectures only)  $300  $300

INDIVIDUAL FEES: (Prices per person)
Continental Breakfast per day  $55  $75  $100  X__ $___
Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Luncheon  $95  $135  $150  X__ $___
Welcome/Thurs Dinner/Dance ("Back to the 60’s")  $90  $125  $150  X__ $___
Friday Dinner/Dance ("Rock n Roll")  $95  $135  $185  X__ $___
Saturday Gala Dinner/Dance  $185  $235  $250  X__ $___
CME (per person) 2-day with 2 breakfasts  $365  $465  $500  X__ $___
CME (per person) Friday or Saturday w/ breakfast  $365  $365  $300  X__ $___

OPTIONAL FEES:
GOLF Tournament - July 1, 2009 - Bethpage  $185/golfer/day  X__ $___
- July 2, 2009 - TBA  $185/golfer/day  X__ $___
Contact: Dr. Andy Antonio at (914) 588-8392  Dr. Boni Sanchez at (732) 476-8804
Email: depamiroge@aol.com

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP FEES: Non-package
LIFETIME - One time fee (Optional)  $500 per person  X__ $___
Annual Membership fee (Required)  $50 per person  X__ $50
Registration Fee (Required)  $25 per person  X__ $25

**Attendance to CME with package may be tax deductible; Pls. consult your accountant.

Grand Total: $____

PAYMENT METHOD (Please return this form with the Payment Information Form and Payment enclosed)
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT: CHECK PAYMENT:
Please fax completed payment form to 318-445-5224 Make check payable to: UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc
For additional info, please contact Ms. Marivel I. Tabalon c/o Josephine Pobre-So, M.D.
at 310-729-8635; website: www.uermalumni.org P.O. Box 2153, Bedford Park, IL 60499-2153

For more info: Dr. Amie Malihan, National Convention Commissioner 2008-2009 at Tel: (917) 747-2123; Email: amalihan@gmail.com
Dr. Benching Tan, Executive Director, UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc. at Tel: (908) 770-2922; benching123@gmail.com
## 2009 Payment Form

**UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
**MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**  
A non-profit 501 (C)(3) corporation with Taxpayer I.D. Number: 52-1745846

### PAYMENT INFORMATION FORM

**Registration & More Info:** [www.uermalumn.org](http://www.uermalumn.org)  
**Early Registration Deadline:** JUNE 1, 2009  
For payment: Please fax or mail both Payment Information Form and Registration Form with either credit card or check.

### PARTICIPANT INFORMATION: (Please Print with blue or black ink).

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Golf questions? Please contact: Dr. Andy Antonio at (914) 588-8392; Email: depamiroge@aol.com  
Dr. Boni Sanchez at (732) 476-8804

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT: Fax completed form to (318) 445-5224; For questions please call Ms. Marivel I. Tabalon at (310) 729-8635 or (318) 623-0088

- **VISA/MC/Discover**
- **Exp. Date:**
- **ID Code:**
- **Card:**
- **Signature:**
- **Date Signed:**

### CHECK PAYMENT:  
Make Check payable to: UERMMMC-MAAA, Inc.  
c/o Dr. Josephine Pobre-So, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 2153, Bedford Park, IL 60499-2153  
Tel: (267) 218-3468

### YOUR CME package may be tax deductible (please contact your accountant)

### NOTE: ALL Souvenir Ads must be mailed to: Dr. Irene I. Manlapaz (see Ad form)

### CANCELLATION POLICY:  
**No refunds after June 1, 2009**  
(50% refund for payments up to June 1, 2009 only)

### Waldorf=Astoria HOTEL Reservation: Group Rate: $209/night + tax*  
Suites reservations with Dr. Debbie A. Bobila.

### Hotel Reservation by Phone:

- **1-(800) 925-3673**  
- **(212) 355-3000/ Group Code: UER**  
  **1 night + tax deposit required.**

Cancellation after 72 hours prior to start of reservation forfeits 1 night deposit. Early check-out fee applies unless hotel is advised of change of length of stay at check-in.

### CANCELLATION POLICY: June 11, 2009 (NO EXTENSION)  
Hotel rooms are limited and those with packages or Saturday Gala Night (required) plus another event (CME or Thursday or Friday Dinner/Dance) will be given priority.

**Attendance to CME with package may be tax deductible. Pls. consult your accountant.**

### More Info:  
Dr. Amie Malihan, National Convention Commissioner, 2008-2009 @Tel: (917) 747-2123; Email: amalihan@gmail.com  
Or, Dr. Debbie A. Bobila, NYC Convention Co-Chairperson at Tel. (201) 891-7919/ (201) 248-5257/ Email: dbob2001@yahoo.com
CME: Quality of Life Issues: Disease Prevention and Health & Wellness Maintenance

COURSE DIRECTOR
Rogelio F. Lucas, M.D., MBA
New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University, 900 West End Avenue, Suite 18, New York, NY 10025, Tel: (212) 866-3821; E-mail: rogerflucasmd@att.net

ACCREDITATION
This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 8.5 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Each participant should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

CME PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, July 3, 2009:
Moderator: Rogelio F. Lucas, M.D.
7:00 - 7:45 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast and Viewing of Exhibits
7:50 - 8:00 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks: Amie Malihan, M.D., Overall Chairman 2009 New York Convention
8:00 - 8:40 a.m. Overactive Bladder, Michael Manyak, M.D.
8:40 - 9:20 a.m. Maintaining Brain Plasticity, Boosting Your Memory and Preventing Preclinical Alzheimer’s Disease, Dennis Aumentado, M.D.
9:20 - 10:00 a.m. Prevention of TIA and Stroke, Amado San Luis, MD
10:00 - 10:20 a.m. Coffee Break/Visit the Exhibits & Posters
10:20 - 11:00 a.m. Dyslipidemia and Prevention of Atherosclerosis, Benjamin Lumicao, M.D.
11:00 - 11:40 a.m. Creating Health and Beauty from Inside Out, Randall C. Latorre, M.D.
11:40 - 12 noon Q & A
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Dr. Jose Cuyegkeng Memorial Luncheon Lecture
“The Science and Art of Medicine”
Keynote Speakers: Angelina Tantengco, M.D.
Eleazer O. Sarmiento, M.D.

Saturday, July 4, 2009:
Moderator: Tomas Lumicao, Jr. M.D.
Assistant Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, Texas
7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast and Viewing of Exhibits
8:00 - 8:40 a.m. The 3 Ds in the Elderly - Flocerfida B. De Jesus, M.D.
8:40 - 9:20 a.m. COPD: Diagnosis & Management Update, Nestor C. Alabarca, M.D.
9:20 - 10:00 a.m. Obesity, its Consequences and Comorbidities, Jacqueline Fabello-Gamiao, M.D.
10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break/Visit the Exhibits
10:30 - 11:20 a.m. Applications of PET Imaging in Neurological Disorder, Homer Macapinlac, M.D.
11:20 - 11:40 a.m. Q & A
11:40 - 12:00 Noon Evaluation/ Special Raffle (2 raffle tickets, 1 per session)
Prizes: Medical Instruments & Textbooks
12:00 Noon Adjournment

Acknowledgement: Lamberto Tan, M.D. - Printing of CD Handouts

REGISTRATION
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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: May 31, 2009
Thank you for your support!!!
It was a cold winter in the Northeast; February 20, 2009 the flight was in the early Morning to Narita International Airport en route to Manila International Airport arriving midnight, Feb 21st some 18 hrs later. To some of us, the trip could be longer, having to depart from San Antonio, Texas to LA to catch a flight through Southeast Asia en route to Manila. To others, the preparation had began the year before-gathering surgical instruments, operating room and anesthesia equipment, wound care material and medications, securing a team of skilled nurses, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, internists, psychiatrists and surgeons, and constant contact with the receiving provincial hospital to screen and pre-op general surgery, and cleft lip/palate patients.

The familiar scent of burnt leaves in the air and the humid 95 degree temperature that seemed to bother no one else awakened the sleep-deprived travelers. Once again, they were back in their homeland, the Philippines.

We proceeded (after a short nap) to the Cordillera Mountain Provinces via Laoag International Airport. To other members of the team, there was a 10 hour overland trip by bus from Manila. A refreshing welcome lunch in the farm, courtesy of the Bobila Family (a gentle breeze was as calming as the delicious regional cuisine), then we began a hectic sightseeing tour of Vigan City and the Claridad Museum, ending the day with a quick scouting trip to the Bangued Provincial Hospital. Then, finally, some much needed sleep!

The next morning, a sumptuous Ilocano breakfast was served, and then we were off to work. At the hospital, the team met and evaluated and rescreened the patients, wrote pre-op orders, checked the anesthesia machines, and unpacked and sterilized surgical instruments. The most difficult task was to tell some patients to go home and return next time when they are better candidates for surgery. One could feel the disappointment of those parents of cleft lip and palate children— a deep sense of loss of the opportunity to correct a deforming birth defect.

The day of surgery began after a few snags (the virtual image projection portion of the instruments for endoscopic cholecystectomy). Having a pediatrician to secure the care of the little ones before and after surgery facilitated the turnover of cases. All other volunteers found meaningful roles that contributed greatly to the progress of the mission. For the medical students, the experience was one of the defining moments in their pursuit of specialty training. To each team member the experience would be so rewarding that no one seemed to notice the clock. The work continued till 10 pm, with no one noticing their legs and feet getting heavier.

The second day began with a 6 am breakfast by the riverside, with the Cordillera mountain range in the background. Even though our legs were still aching and swollen, everyone seemed recharged and eager to return to the OR. Morning rounds found very appreciative recovering patients.

The third day in the OR included teaching student nurses who were interested in pursuing a career in the OR. The post op patients were to be discharged with follow-up instructions given to the in-house surgeon.

It was yet another experience as nostalgic as the previous years, one that will never seem to diminish for as long as there are Filipinos unable to afford healthcare, a constant reminder of our good fortune to have acquired the skills to deliver medical care otherwise unheard of by our less fortunate countryfolk. For us all, it was truly a rewarding and enlightening experience.

May you all discover your own Alumni Experience, and attain a lifetime sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. Join your friends and colleagues in supporting the Alumni Association in all it’s endeavors.

See you all in New York this summer.

*Ed Note: Amie A. Malihan, is the Convention Committee chair of the upcoming NYC Reunion.*

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**New York, New York**

Last but not the least, it’s at **THE WALDORF**. Glamour, grandeur, opulence and it’s all on the CHEAP! You will SAVE a lot more if you plan your trip NOW with TAX FREE ROOM.

**RATES (DEADLINE TILL END OF APRIL)** and also on **AIRFARES**. The Northeast Chapter (NEC) will set up a TRAVEL ADVISORY STATION, Advising you ON HOW TO TRAVEL FROM/TO THE AIRPORTS, HOW TO GET THERE/TRANSPORTATION AND TIPS ON HOW TO ENJOY NY.

LET US LOOK FORWARD TO THIS NYC CONVENTION AS A TIME FOR FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION AND A HOPE FOR A NEW FOUND SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE WALDORF THIS FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND!! WE ASSURE YOU WILL HAVE A FUN AND A MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE!
El Cheapo ... Or, Why I Love Living in the Big Apple

all at wholesale.

Avoid the tourists traps along Fifth Avenue and elsewhere with “Closing Out” or “Going Out of Business” signs because they have been closing or in renovation for the umpteenth time.

Eating

New York has a plethora of ethnic restaurants (Chinese, Greek, Italian, Thai, Vietnamese, you-name-it) and at lunch time, you can get a full meal for less than 8 or 9 dollars. If you take it out, you can even split the meal with another person. Street food is good in New York and will range from the regular hot dog stands to the specialty barbecue and dishes. Hot dogs from the hot dog stand are $1.50 while sausage is $1.75 to $2.50 (depending on the type and location). Sodas are $1.00 each. Sauerkraut, if available, is free. Specialty foods like those from hallo Berlin stand near the Lufthansa office on Fifth Ave, shishkebab ($3.00), pretzels and knishes ($2.00 each) and even halal food dot the midtown area.. Ices (gelato) are cheap at $1.25 if you buy it from the small vendors but become at least $3.00 when you buy from Italian places.

Chinatown, as usual, is cheap. You can try the street vendors, especially those underneath the Manhattan bridge where a mee fun (pancit bihon) costs $1.50 and “taho” is $1.25 Filipino food is mostly found in Queens-- ride the No.7 subway and get off at Woodside, the Filipino enclave where you can also buy pan de sal and luscious ube cake.. Here in New York, at Elvies, (1st Ave near 12th St.), you can get 2 dishes and a big plate of rice (request for a free “sabaw” for $7.50 tax included; this is “turo-turo” style). There is another restaurant, Grill 21 (21st St off 1st Ave.) owned by a Pinay ex-RN which serves lunch for $8.00/dish with rice.

For the quintessential New York breakfast of bagels and cream cheese, H and H Bagels (2nd Ave/ 81 St) is arguably the best bagels in the country (thanks to the unique NY city water which, by the way, is potable everywhere, including hotel bathrooms!)- very much a value at $2. Katz’s Deli (East Houston St. and Allen St) was the setting of “When Harry Met Sally,” the Meg Ryan-Billy Crystal movie where 4 people can share one order of pastrami with rye bread and dill pickles for about $25 total.

Free (Libre!) or very discounted, stuff

Tourist information kiosks at the Grand Central Station and Times Square give away free maps and brochures on where to go and what to do in the Big Apple.

During the Opera season at the Met, at Lincoln Center, from Monday to Thursday, you can get orchestra seats for the evening’s performance at the box office (after 5pm). The Stars of the Metropolitan Opera and the NY Philharmonic also give free concerts at Central Park on certain summer days. There are also free Shakespeare presentations on the Park.

If you really want free entrance, just hang around the theatres a few minutes before the performance and somebody might give you tickets that they will not be using. A surer way is to go to these shows during intermission and those who are not going back to watch the performance might give you their tickets.

For Broadway shows, there is the TKTS booth on Times Square and at South Street Seaport (Water St. near Wall St. in downtown) where you can buy discounted tickets for the night’s performance. (There are no more discounts for matinee shows). Bryant Park (on 5th Ave and 42nd St behind the NY Public Library-which also has free guided tours) has free classic movies on widescreen during summer Mondays starting at dusk.

For very discounted rates for fillers (Collagen, Restylane, Juviderm etc) and Botox, the Dermatology Clinic at New York Hospital (1305 York Ave.) offers them at cost ($15/unit for Botox and $270 for the fillers). Haircuts at less than $5 can be had at the NY Haircutting School (39th St and 10th Ave). One of the favorite activities of fashionistas is to walk along Madison Avenue (from 57th to 79th Sts) around midnight and window shop with all the designer brands one after the other vying for your attention with their well lighted windows.

These museums are free or on a pay as you wish admission charge: American Folk Art Museum (free), 45 W53rd Street (between 5-6Ave); Guggenheim Museum (Pay as you wish),1071 Fifth Avenue at 89th Street; International Center of Photography (Pay as you wish), 1133 Sixth Avenue at 43rd Street; and Whitney Museum of American Art (Pay as you wish), 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street. MoMa (Museum of Modern Art, 53rd St between 5-6 Ave), in the late afternoon and early evenings on Friday, has free admission. The best way to stay in New York is to live with friends or relatives with an apartment in the city since they personally can tell you where to go to shop etc and you don’t pay for your stay. However, remember the saying: houseguests are like fish- after 3 days, they both start to stink.

Walking Around the Waldorf

The Waldorf Astoria, which opened in 1931 at its present location, is a union of two hotels, the Waldorf and the Astoria which were owned by rival factions of the Astor family. The art deco landmark building was, at that time, the world’s biggest and tallest hotel and was the first hotel to offer complete electricity and private bathrooms. Located in the heart of midtown Manhattan, it is just a few blocks away from some of the city’s “must-sees” After enjoying the hotel’s luxurious facilities and famous restaurants (home of the Waldorf Salad, Eggs Benedict and Veal Oscar), it is time to leave the confines of this historic hotel and venture out into the city. The best way to enjoy New York is by walking and just a few blocks away from the Waldorf in all directions are stores, restaurants and places of interest that make New York the City that it is.

Before exploring the nearby surroundings to see the sights, be sure to have sustenance to give you energy and endurance. Just two blocks south on Lexington Ave. is the Longwood Gourmet, a big deli cum

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El Cheapo ... Or, Why I Love Living in the Big Apple

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food store where the choices are numerous from American, European, Mongolian, Japanese (reasonably priced tempura or classic NY deli sandwiches at $5).

A few blocks further towards 42nd St. are the landmark buildings -- the Chrysler Building and Grand Central Station. The Chrysler was, for almost a year, the world’s tallest building until it was overtaken by the Empire State Bldg. The Chrysler art deco lobby is worth a visit and so is the cavernous Concourse of the Grand Central with its ceiling decorated by the constellations. Grand Central was about to be demolished to give way to a cluster of modern buildings.

Venturing a few blocks uptown will take you to Bloomingdale’s, dubbed “like no other store in the world” (59th and Lexington). It’s black and white marble cosmetics department on the ground floor is full of zest and vitality that is simply incomparable. Neighboring stores like H&M and Diesel, with their cutting edge interiors, contribute to the vibrancy of the area. Visit the adjacent Dylan’s Candy Bar (60th/3rd Ave) owned by Ralph Lauren’s daughter Dylan and see, smell and taste hundreds of candies and chocolates from all over the world.

Park Avenue in the Waldorf area is where one finds office buildings with open spaces, fountains and plazas and an elegant neighbor of the hotel is St. Bartholomew’s Church. St.Bart’s, as it is fondly called, is a Byzantine structure which is a dramatic contrast to the steel and glass buildings in the area. A preferred wedding venue for the WASPEs (E for Episcopalian), the church is also the site of classical concerts.

A city block away from the Waldorf towards the west is Madison Avenue and a block over is Fifth Avenue, THE shopping streets of the city. Walking westward on 49th or 50th streets will take you to Rockefeller Center and St. Patrick’s cathedral and a few blocks away between 45th and 46th Sts. is the Philippine Center which has ongoing exhibits usually by Filipino painters or photographers. Rockefeller Center with its cluster of buildings connected to each other through a huge underground shopping concourse was built during the depression and is notable for its art deco statues and murals scattered throughout the area. The Rainbow Room at the top of the GE building with live orchestra and a revolving dance floor and the cavernous Radio City Music Hall are the gems of Rockefeller Center.

Walking just a few blocks north will take you to the corner of Fifth Avenue and 57th street, probably the worldís most expensive retail real estate where you can have breakfast at Tiffany’s, and Bergdorf Goodman, Van Cleef and Arpels, Bulgari and Louis Vuitton are all vying for your attention and pocketbooks. The Plaza Hotel and the Apple Store and the nearby Central Park all beckon to those who still have the energy to explore more of New York.. When fatigue and exhaustion creep in, you can always hail the ubiquitous NY yellow cab to take you back to the comforts of the Waldorf Astoria.

Note: Ida Tiongco, is a dermatologist in private practice in the Upper East Side of New York City and a Clinical Associate Professor in Dermatology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. She was a former Visiting Professor of Dermatology at UERM in Quezon City. She has lived and worked in Manhattan since the early ’70s. However, because of the economy, some free things may not be available this summer. She is also a little bit dyslectic so that for directions etc, ask the concierge at the Waldorf since she is not responsible for wrong directions.

A Sky-High Medical Mission

(Continued from page 5)

Grey (from Lucena, Quezon - her 7th mission), Karen Alabado (from Davao), Alex Castillo, Johann Dayrit, Faith Generao (from Baguio City) and Yvonne Lopez (who recently finished her Derm training and is from nearby Lagaue). From New York Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Ida Tiongco invited a Derm resident, Dr. Toby Ebede. Overseeing the mission operations was Dr. Ida’s husband, Alex Sarmiento.

The missioners, for 3 to 4 days, live together in the house of Dr. Tony and Sylvia Ligot in the hospital compound -- eating, working and sharing experiences together. The chapel was converted into an outpatient clinic and the delivery room, with a magnificent partial view of the rice terraces and towering pine trees, became an operating room. After the mission, the members bonded like a family, and most looked forward to another mission the following year even if it entailed further hardship. The missioners felt a sense of accomplishment because they had been of service to the poor and almost forgotten Ifugao.

Removing ugly growths on a shy young woman (lesions akin to the Elephant Man), or the 90 year old woman with life threatening skin cancer on her face, or treating families who are all infected with scabies are just some of the cases that made the mission very fulfilling to the doctors. For a few days, the Ifugao benefited from world class dermatological, medical and surgical treatment from specialists who are members of the Philippine Dermatological Society, and the American Academy of Dermatology. “We plan to serve the Ifugao for their dermatological needs as long as we can sustain it,” says Dr. Ida, “Because it is a way of showing the Ifugao that we care for our upland brothers and sisters.”
The Association of Philippine Physicians in America will hold its 38th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar July 2-5, 2009 at the Loew’s Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market, Philadelphia PA 19107. This year, the association is headed by a UERM Alumnus (valedictorian ‘68), Dr. Francis Talangbayan, who is in private practice in the metro Philly area. The Grand Inauguration Ball will be held at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, also in Philadelphia, beginning 5 pm Saturday, July 4. All alumni and guests are invited. For more details on the association and the national convention, consult its website at: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=29731994545