



Aesculapius Ex

Invocation
Almighty God, we thank you for another time of gathering. Forgive us our frailties and may our thoughts, words and actions reflect your love and compassion. Amen

Plano, Texas, U.S.A.

Newsletter of the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation USA, Inc.

Convention Special, July 13, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to serve

by Bayani B. Elma, M.D.
Chairman, Board of Trustees



The morning after August 3, 2006 might be the start of a ho-hum day for ordinary mortals but that time catapults me to a day in Las Vegas to savor the all-you-can-eat buffets, the floorshows and the casinos amidst the glittering lights – all the escapisms of the Sin City. August 3, 2006 is the official day that I end my term as the fourth Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation, U.S.A., Inc. However, August 4, 2006 will find me in creative solitude engaged in visual and mental repartees assessing the plusses and minuses of my three-year term.

Having served as president of the National Association and a trustee for six years before becoming chairman has helped me immensely in my job as chairman of the board. I learned from George Santayana's advice, "History repeats itself and those who ignored its lessons are bound to repeat them" and what Thomas Edison said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." With the lead and work of the three previous chairmen, I did not have to re-invent the wheel. I continued the programs and projects that the Foundation endeavored since 1981 – the Scholarships, the Faculty Development Programs and the donation of medical educational materials to the library as well as scientific and surgical equipments to the University Hospital especially through the Recycling for Charity Committee chaired by Dr. Benjamin Rigor.

As the financial resources of the Foundation allowed, I expanded the scholarship programs by increasing the grants to the partial tuition, academic and book scholars. Together with Dr. Georgina T. Paredes, the current dean of the College of

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Dean Paredes cites alumni role in report

In her May 9, 2006 annual report, Dean Georgina T. Paredes listed several accomplishments made possible by funds donated through the Alumni Foundation. Topping the list in the area of student benefit is the new scholarship program to attract quality freshmen. It consisted of 15 Special Honors Award (tuition fee grant of \$400 for the first semester of first year), 10 silver scholarships (\$1,000 a year for four years after the first semester of first year), and 4 gold scholarships (\$2,000 a year for four years after the first semester of first year with good academic standing). Thirteen of the first 15 SHA awardees are in the top 13 of their class. She added that because of these, she has been able to make recruitment sorties to UE, Ateneo, U.P. Diliman and Manila.



The report also acknowledges the

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More than a decade has come and gone since my active involvement in the Alumni Foundation. I have seen the inner workings of the organization, both before and throughout the years of transition into our current electronic age. Much has changed. We have become a more mature organization. We have survived, and we're still alive!

Many have complained that as an organization, we are tedious, too slow to respond to immediate requests for grants and other forms of funding. We do our best, but we try to abide by constraints legally imposed upon us, not only by our own by-laws but, more importantly, by the myriad rules and regulations that government

We're still alive!

by C. J. R. Miranda, IV, M.D.
President, UERMMMCA FUSA, Inc.



There are numerous annual reporting obligations both to the State and to the Federal government. We have complied with these requirements year after year, and this is to the credit of our treasurer who, as a fellow medical alumnus of our *alma mater* and not one who has a formal background in finance, consistently fulfills the duties of his office with fervor up to a point.

Annual audits of our books are conducted by an

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more specifically the Internal Revenue Service, imposes upon tax exempt charitable organizations such as we are, officially classified as a 501 (c) 3 corporation.



Ask the Foundation

by El Castro, M.D.
Chairman Emeritus, UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc.

What is the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc. (UERMMMCA FUSA, Inc.)?

The UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation was founded on July 15, 1981 and incorporated in the State of New York. It is organized for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the Federal Government has determined that the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation is a tax exempt organization described in Section 501(a) and Section 501(C)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. It is recognized by the IRS as a public charity and not as a private foundation. Accordingly, contributions to the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Why do we still have to give through a charitable organization like the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation in the United States money or non-monetary donations? Is it not true that the UERMMMCA is a tax exempt organization in the Philippines? Why not just give directly to the Medical Center?

By law, any individual in the United States can give to any individual, organization or institution in the United States or anywhere in the world. Therefore, one can give directly to the Medical Center. *However, the money donation would not be tax deductible.*

It is illegal for a foreign incorporated organization and institution or its representative to directly solicit donations from individuals and organizations in the United States. The foreign corporation even though tax exempt in its own country must first be incorporated in any State and with the Federal Government as a charitable organization before it can legally solicit. *The UERMMMCA is included in this category.*

The UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation was *created specifically to give alumni, individuals, and organizations a significant, meaningful and organized way to support the UERMM Medical Center, the community it serves and our fellowmen.* Donations through the Alumni Foundation are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

As donors, you have the choice as to how and to whom you want to give.

What are the Goals and Objectives of the UERMMMCA Alumni Foundation?

The objectives of the Foundation are: 1. Support and development of medical education, 2. Support continuing training and retraining of the faculty, 3. Assist in upgrading and expansion of research, 4. Help upgrade therapeutic and diagnostic facility, and 5. Help upgrade teaching facility. Other objectives include Charitable, Scientific, Literary, and Educational within the

meaning of Section 501(C)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

The main beneficiary is the UERMM Medical Center.

How is donated money spent by the Foundation?

This is the most important and pertinent question. A large percentage of the funds are spent in Grants and Awards Programs at UERMMMCA. A portion of the fund is for Administrative and Operating Expenses to enable the Foundation to carry out its mission and goals.

How do we know whether the Financial Reports of the Foundation are true and accurate?

Let me say that since the inception of the Foundation, it has complied with the fiduciary and financial regulations of both the State of New York and the Federal Government.. The Financial Reports to the State of New York and the Internal Revenue Service are filed annually as required by law and may be reviewed by any donor or non-donor.

The Internal Revenue Service Form 990 required for all charitable organizations is filed annually by the Foundation. A Disclosure Policy had been approved by the Board of the Foundation in compliance with the Federal Regulation of 1999. Hence, the IRS Form 990 could be viewed at the web sites for charitable foundations such as www.guidestar.com.

The Foundation has an annual external and internal audit of its financial records and documents. External audit is done by a certified public accountant practicing in New York State. The Foundation with the help of the accountant makes sure that it complies with the most recent general accounting and auditing procedures (GAAP) for non-profit organizations.

Why are the Trustees and the Foundation as a whole required to strictly comply with their fiduciary and financial responsibilities?

There are two main reasons. The first is to assure donors that their donations are properly used and disbursed according to their wishes. The second is that noncompliance could lead to the loss of tax exempt status for the Foundation and to fines, penalties, civil or criminal liabilities for the organization and its officers.

Why are there two organizations, an Alumni Association and an Alumni Foundation?

Both organizations are important to accomplish our goals as alumni in the United States. However, each has its own specific function to accomplish the same mission of helping

the UERMMMCM maintain its premier status in medical education and healthcare delivery in the Philippines. This unity of purpose is clearly stated in the Alumni Association’s Constitution: “Through the UERMMMCM Alumni Foundation USA, Inc., to solicit, collect, and receive money and other assets by gifts, contribution, devise, and bequest or otherwise and to hold the same in trust for uses and purposes for which this association is organized” Hence, the foundation serves as the “charitable arm” of the alumni association. Thus, the continued cooperation of the two.

In what ways are the two different?

The differences? Under IRS code, the foundation is a 501 C 3, while the association is a 501 C 6 corporation. The former is a public charitable organization incorporated in New York in 1981, the latter is a business entity incorporated in Maryland in 1993. The foundation has no members and officers and trustees need not be UERM graduates as long as they do not have civil or criminal records, of good standing and have the ability and time to manage a non-profit organization. On the other hand, the members and officers of the association must be graduates of the UERMMMCM College of Medicine. Donations to the foundation are tax-deductible but not to the association. Dues to the latter and other related expenses are deductible as business expenses. Operating and administrative expenses are derived from donations and fund raising for the former while in the latter it comes from dues and fund raising.

Either can exist and survive without the other as they are separate legal entities with different Employee Identification Numbers; in the case of the association, as long as there are members and qualified, responsible and committed officers while a foundation needs only 2 or 3 qualified, knowledgeable, and committed trustees who can discharge their fiduciary responsibilities and can solicit donations from individuals and corporations.

What is the best way that alumni can effectively help UERM and its colleges?

By joining the alumni association (national and chapter) to help in its humanitarian work and making charitable donations to the Medical Center through the foundation. This way, one need not be very wealthy to be able to give to the *Alma Mater*. The top colleges and universities in the U.S., Europe, and Asia are in such enviable position because of alumni financial support. All of them have both well organized alumni associations and foundations that work hand-in-hand to give maximum assistance to them. We hope that all of you will join the same UERM bandwagons!

What are the present projects of the foundation?

Grants & Awards, Scholarships, Faculty Development, Research & Publication, Conferences, Resident Award, Community Service, Library & Share Educational Materials, Recycling for Charity (Donation In Kind), Adopt Program & Wish List. (Editor’s Note: *We invite you to help the foundation continue funding these programs by using the donation/pledge form on page 7. Thank you!*)

Did the UERMMMCM Alumni Foundation ever publish an annual report to the donors and the public since it was founded in 1981, 22 years ago?

Yes, the Foundation has published annual reports since 1982. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights signed by President Clinton in July 1996 requires all charitable nonprofit organizations to file annually IRS Form 990 and that it should be open for public inspection. This law seeks to: punish individuals affiliated with charities and social welfare organizations who participate in financial abuse; provide the government with financial sanction other than revoking the organization tax exempt status; require the organization to make its Form 990 accessible to public inspection; and, require the organization to file annually Form 990 if its gross income is \$ 25,000 or more.

Continued next page

AREAS	ASSOCIATION	FOUNDATION
Tax Exempt Status under the IRS Code	501(C)6 Business	501(C)3 Charitable (Public)
State Incorporated	Maryland-1993	New York State-1981
Membership and Officers	Officers and Members are graduates of UERM College of Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO MEMBERS • The Officers and Trustees are not necessarily UERM graduates. They must have no civil or criminal records. Must be of good standing and has the ability and time for managing non-profit organization work
Tax Deductibility of Donations	NO	YES
Administrative, Operating and Management Expense	Membership Dues and Fund Raising	Donations and Fund Raising

The Foundation has complied with this requirement since 1982 even prior to the law of 1996 even on the many years that its income had been less than \$ 25,000. The Form 990 of the Foundation has been published in the internet since 1997. The Foundation is not required by law to show in person or in writing its Form 990 if it is published at www.guidestar.com for the public to inspect.

The following is the complete text of the **DISCLOSURE POLICY** adopted by the Foundation:

*The **TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2** was signed into law by President Clinton on July 30, 1996. The principal purpose of this law is to punish individuals affiliated with charities and social welfare organizations who are participating in financial abuses, and to provide the government with a sanction other than simply revoking the charity's exemption status. The law requires nonprofit organization to have their Form 990 accessible to public inspection. The law also imposes fines if the organization does not file a timely Form 990 annually.*

*The **IRS FORM 990 DISCLOSURE REGULATIONS** promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service was published April 9, 1999 in the Federal Register Vol. 64 No. 68, pp. 17279-17291. This regulation provides guidance to nonprofit*

to establish good public relations and positive image. However, it is not required by law.

The Foundation always desires that donors and the public are informed. However, the Foundation has not consistently followed this policy annually because of financial and budgetary constraints. Furthermore, we have very few donors per year. For example, out of the estimated 3,000 to 4,000 alumni who are in the U.S. from about 8,500 graduates since 1961, only 163 or 0.5% donated to the Foundation during the 1999 - 2002 period or a donor rate of 0.125% a year.

What are your criteria in selecting or voting in non-medical alumni as officers or members of the board of trustees? Do you follow guidelines, if you have, by the nominating committee and ethical guidelines for a public non-profit organization in selecting officers and board members?

In the State of New York where the Foundation is registered, the law provides that any person age 18 can be a member of the board of trustee provided he is willing and has time to serve and has the skills.

The Constitution and By Laws of the Foundation, under Article VII, Section 6 Qualification of Officers provides: "It is not necessary that a nominee be a medical alumni. Other commu-

Ask the Foundation

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organizations seeking to comply with the 1996 Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2 provision on accessibility of Form 990. IRS policy requires copies to be provided upon request. The organization is required to make available for public inspection the three most recent Form 990 and Letter of Determination (or Tax Exempt Application 1023 for 501 C3) at the principal place of business or 30 days upon written request. Charities may charge a "reasonable fee" for this service, limited to \$ 1 for the first page, 15 cents for each additional page, plus postage. The fine for "willful failure" to allow inspection or provide copies is \$ 5,000 plus \$20 for each day that the organization is out of compliance, up to \$ 10,000. The organization is however exempt if it publishes its Form 990 on the internet at www.guidestar.com which has the listing of all non-profit organization in the United States.

Any donor or non-donor may request for the Form 990 and IRS Letter of Determination from the Chairman, President, or Treasurer of the Foundation. (Editor's Note: The names and contact addresses and phones of these officers are found on page 7.)

Have you been publishing the names of the donors annually?

The publication of the names of donors annually is the best method for small non-profit organizations like the Foundation

ity leaders who could be assets to the Foundation could be elected as officers and members of the Board of Trustees."

Historically, three of the seven named Board members in the articles of incorporation were non-alumni. Since the Foundation has no membership, it has relied on individual alumni and the officers of the alumni association for recommendations for board membership.

Anyone who has the time, willingness to serve, and the abilities to help the Foundation accomplish its mission, goals and objectives may apply for board or committee membership. He or she is required to fill out an application, submit a curriculum vitae and a statement of commitment to serve. Those intending to become trustees or officers are asked to give their position statements. If you are interested, please contact the president or the secretary of the board. The complete policy on Board of Trustees: Rights and Responsibilities and Committees is also available to those who are planning to serve.

Do you publish audited financial statement from last year and the current financial report to see how the Foundation spends donor money?

Yes, the Foundation published an audited financial statement by a certified accountant last year. As discussed above, the Foundation since its inception is in compliance with this requirement of the law.

Continued next page

There are two types of audited financial statements: internal and external. New York State requires that it is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to audit (with or without the help of an audit committee depending upon structure of the organization). The Foundation has an audit committee which has not been fully functional. However the Board as a whole, has done its best (despite the fact that all members are not accountants) to make sure as the law requires that there is no financial abuse, misappropriation of funds, or personal financial gain by Officers or Board members.

Federal law requires an external audit by a certified public accountant if the gross income of the nonprofit entity is \$ 150,000. The Foundation has complied with this ruling even though the gross income had been less than \$100,000, in fact less than \$25,000 many years ago.

(Refer also to Foundation Disclosure Policy)

Do you publish any program or project that makes an impact on the quality of medical education at UERMMMMC? How do you report to donors the impact of such project?

Yes, thru newsletters, publications, and form 990. It is also disseminated thru direct mailing, personal and written communication with donors, meetings with chapter officers, groups of alumni with special interest.

To report to donors the impact of such projects, the following had been done by Foundation representatives. 1) Annual Progress Report by the Foundation chairman during the Annual Medical Alumni Association Reunion; 2) Chairman of the Board Report to the Foundation attended by officers of the Alumni Association and its Chapters. The officers in turn disseminate infos to their constituents; 3) Various meetings and personal or written communication with individual donors and groups; 4.) Publication of donations and funded projects thru Newsletter and publication both in the United States and in the Philippines (copies are sent by the Administration of the UERMMMMC.

To measure the impact of the projects, the Foundation has instituted the following: written surveys by the Foundation for needs of the Medical Center; review of Reports from the Medical Center; review of the accreditation process in medical education in the Philippines; review of the response to the items in the acknowledgement form required by the Foundation from individual recipients, departments, and administration. Like any profit or nonprofit corporation of any size the officers of the organization have the responsibility of making sure the money donated is spent wisely and results in a good outcome.

Since 1997, the foundation board chairman and some officers of the UERMMMMCAA and the foundation have made annual onsite visits to the Medical Center, consisting of inspecting facilities and equipment at the Basic and Clinical Departments of the Colleges, Hospital and the Community Outreach. In addition, formal and informal dialogues with Administrative Officers, Department Heads, Faculty, Philippine alumni leaders and representatives from the residents and student body are held.

Since 1997, the Foundation programs have concentrated in "human resource development" rather than infrastructure. It is hoped that in future the Foundation will be able to expand into infrastructure development.

Lastly, annual progress report is sent to major contributors. All major donors who have trust funds have been surveyed and are satisfied with the work of the Foundation and how their money donations are handled.

Did the projects of the Foundation for the last 22 years improve the quality medical education at UERMMMMC? If one measurement is the passing rate of UE graduates in the boards, then you have to improve projects. UE has done poorly during the past years in the board exams. How will you help improve it?

All of us prefer 100% passing but, as most educators know, passing an examination is complex and influenced by multiple factors such as institutional philosophy, dedicated mentors and advisers, academic factors, administrative support, quality of faculty and their commitment to education, financial resources, educational materials, effective review courses, the individual socioeconomic status and preparation for the examination, etc. The role of alumni and our benevolent friends is to give financial support thru the Foundation. The Foundation in turn, allocates sufficient resources to projects that will have a greater impact overall on both individual recipients and the institution in general like: continuing training and retraining of the faculty, upgrading teaching, diagnostic & therapeutic facilities, research expansion. These are done through the foundation's current grants and awards for scholarship, faculty development, conferences, library, research, and community service.

Does the Foundation spend most of donated money to help the medical school or retain most of it for investment?

Yes, the Foundation spends most of donated money to help the medical school. The Foundation has no residual money for investment. The Foundation does not retain money for investment because it is a violation of the law. It is however legal for the Foundation to invest trust funds in conservative instruments to be used for long term projects.

The Foundation relies solely on money donations for survival. There are two basic expenses of a charitable organization. The first is for projects and programs. The second for administration and operation. For many years the Foundation has not even had sufficient money to support its programs. Its administrative and operating expenses have been miniscule. It has no office, office equipment or paid staff. It is run by officers and board members using their personal resources and office staff.

National Charities Bureau and Council Better Business Bureau criteria for reasonable use of fund for administrative/operating expense allows the use of between 30-35% of the donated money. The money saved due to the un-reimbursed expense by the officers and board member is used to support the project program.

If you have any more questions, please direct your inquiries to the Chairman, President or Secretary (addresses on page 7).

Thank you . . . from page 1

Medicine, I initiated the Special Honors Award to incoming freshmen students with a GWA of 1.8-2.0 and a high NMAT starting AY 2003-2004. It has been a worthwhile program because these students have done well belonging to the top 10% to 20% of their classes. It would be intriguing and interesting how these future graduates would perform in the Physician Medical Board Examination after their senior internships in 2008 and beyond. The impetus to the Special Honors Awards is because of the declining performances of our graduates in the licensing examinations every year and the belief that better quality of incoming freshmen would make high performing graduates. Also, during my three-year term, on my annual visits to the UERM campus, I placed an emphasis on information - and more information - to the UERM faculty and non-faculty members as well as the students about the Foundation (and National Association) – their collaborative projects and

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Dean Paredes cites . . . Continued from page 1

increased funding by the foundation for the on-going partial tuition, academic and book awards; community service award; and student and faculty research awards.

In the area of faculty improvement, Paredes cited the alumni foundation for enabling: 5 faculty members to take master in public health studies at the UERM Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; 2 faculty to train in evaluation and assessment in Hongkong; and 2 faculty to train in patient-doctor also in Hongkong.

Alumni in the U.S. also provided for ALS manikin and SIM simulator for the clinical skills laboratory and 4 binocular microscopes for the Department of Anatomy, and numerous books, journals and medical equipment, the report elaborates.

In the just ended school year, the Dean acknowledged receiving a total of \$34,194 in cash from the alumni foundation for all its budgeted project programs for the medical school.

The table below shared by Dr. Paredes summarizes the overall performance of medical students at UERMMMC for the past school year. The promotion rate for the upper classes seem stable. The lowest rate shown here for the freshman class is within the normal attrition rate of about 30% for this year.

Dr. Paredes stays on as Dean of the UERMMMC College of Medicine for another school year, sources at the Medical Center disclosed.

We're still alive . . . Continued from page 1

independent accounting firm. More recently the Foundation's Board of Trustees acted to engage an additional entity to ensure that our accounting is up to par. This serves as an assurance to all benefactors of the Foundation that monies it receives are properly appropriated and disbursed.

Some organizations operate at high expense. Not so with our Foundation, whose operating expense budget is marginal. This goes in tandem with the fact that its officers and trustees are all volunteers, and none of them is compensated monetarily in any way. Its officers and trustees are also mandated to be true exemplars of benevolence so that they can set an example to fellow alumni and friends who possess the gift of giving.

I have seen the dedication and perseverance of three of our alumni who have served and currently serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Theirs is an unenviable task of directing the mission and vision of the Foundation to its rightful goal, with at least annual visits to the Medical Center to personally identify the prioritized needs over there, and to bring us back a report as to the state of the Medical Center as we perceive it.

These chairmen of the board have contributed their insight to allow our Foundation to function as smoothly as it can, for as long as it can, with the resources that it has. The two who have "retired" from the Foundation, and our current one who will step down at the end of his term at this annual convention, continue to offer their expertise and knowledge in the organizational and operational aspects of the Foundation.

Our motivation for the trustees is to acquaint themselves with the functions and expectations of members of this board, so that each one will have a sure knowledge of what it takes and what it means to be in such a position of trust. We continue to hone the skills of each officer and trustee by encouraging them to read and become familiar with the work of tax exempt charitable organizations, and to transform each learned skill and each bit of information accumulated into a functioning force that will make our Foundation an even better organization.

We would close this personal chapter, as I step down from being President of the Foundation for the last nine years, with a certainty that our Foundation remains strong, viable and always willing and ready to offer its resources for the betterment of our *alma mater*, our teachers, and our colleagues-in-the-making.

We're still alive!

Year	1 st semester	2nd semester	Retained	Promoted	W/LOA	Dropped
1 st	213	203	27 (13%)	160 (75%)	29 (10%)	5 (2%)
2 nd	180	200	7 (4%)	186 (93%)	4 (2%)	2 (1%)
3 rd	178	197	4 (2%)	190 (96%)	1 (1%)	2 (1%)
4 th	176	165	6 (+ 7 en- rold 2 nd sem.	159 (96%) graduates	7 (short term l.)	1

UERMMMC Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc. (A tax-exempt charitable 501 c3 public corporation)

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UERMMMC ALUMNI FOUNDATION USA, INC.

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

All gifts are tax-deductible.

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Please mail this form and your check to **UERMMMC AFUSA, Inc. c/o Elmer Gilo, M.D., P.O. Box 2154, Bedford Park, IL 60499-2153.**

Thank you . . . Continued from page 6

programs, immediate and long-range. Most importantly, I emphasized the U. S. laws and the IRS rules that the Foundation has to follow and navigate very carefully and religiously so as not to jeopardize and even lose its non-profit publicly supported status.

Running the Board of the Foundation, I followed my personal philosophy of rational, not confrontational style; majority rules not dictatorial; and the power and persuasion of compromise. The words of Jonathan Swift, the 18th century author aptly summarized this: "Accept and adapt. There is nothing constant in this world but inconstancy." To the officers and trustees who labored long and hard with me through all those 3 years, my sincere gratitude for your trust, goodwill, cooperation and friendship.

To the loyal and very determined alumni who continue and persevere in their support of the Foundation, against all odds, my humble thanks and never ending gratitude. My deep-hearted appeal to ALL alumni: Please understand and appreciate the concept of giving. If you're successful, you are obligated to give back. Maintaining status quo is not enough. It is about leaving UERM better than we found it. You don't have to be Warren Buffett to be a philanthropist. You have to step up to the plate when you are called upon.

Last, but not least to my wife who has been my constant source of strength during all those angst-ridden days, months and years that could have zapped the songfroid of a dozen zen masters, a heartfelt thanks for being there.



Dr. Elma with Chairman P.O. Domingo, Treasurer Elizabeth Alba (left) and General Counsel Atty. Rochelle Yvette Dakanay-Galano (right)



Dr. Elma (center, 2nd row) with the New UERMMM Medical Curriculum Workshop participants on April 17, 2006 at the Manolo Lopez Development Center, Antipolo, Rizal led by Dr. Divinagracia and Dean Paredes. Others were Dr. Rabe, College Secretary, Dr. Alfaretta Tan-Reyes, former College Secretary, Department Heads, key faculty and 6 students.

Elma reports on last onsite visit as COB

Dr. Bayani B. Elma, Class '68, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the alumni foundation, made his final onsite visit to UERMMM on March 6 - 14 and April 10 - 23, 2006 and reported his findings to U.S. alumni

In an email dispatch to alumni officers and members on the run-up to the mid-year meeting of the foundation board of trustees in Chicago last May, Elma detailed his meetings with the administration, faculty, and students. The high point of his visit was the joint commencement exercises of the 4 units of the medical center at the PICC on April 23, 2006.

In his meeting with Dean Paredes, Dr. Elma reviewed the accounting of disbursed funds noting that recipients who do not complete the "Recipient's Acknowledgement of Funding" will no longer be receiving continuation of funding and the allocated funds reverting to the foundation's general fund. He also noted the Dean's request for an increase of the top ten students award to \$200 each; increase in Special Honors Award to 18 recipients all for the new school year.

The Dean also appealed for the funding of new faculty development projects including study & travel grants

and professorial chairs totaling \$3,000 and possibly a new urban community health extension in nearby Barangay Imelda. He took note of the measures taken by the college to improve board exam performance which are expected to bear fruit starting with the August 2008 tests.

At his meeting with President Dr. Divinagracia on March 8th and attendance at the curriculum workshop on April 17th, Dr. Elma learned that the traditional curriculum will replace the 8-year old PBL beginning this school year. To bolster graduates' board exam performance, 80 senior interns will be taken in at UERMMH, up from 50 (87% of this group usually pass the boards); paid lecturers will be hired; and reviewers given out to UERM grads.

Divinagracia also said, later confirmed by UERMMM Chairman P.O. Domingo, that the Center is not leaving the current campus within the next 10 years. Dr. Elma also met with Dr. Fernando Sanchez, Jr., Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Chief Librarian Ms. Raissa Ocaya, Treasurer Ms. Elizabeth Alba, Chief of Clinics Dr. David Ampil, basic faculty, student leaders, academic & book scholars, alumni officers, and nearby Barangay Imelda & Kalayaan leaders.