



Official Publication of the FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY  
Dr Nicanor Reyes Jr School of Medicine Alumni Foundation

# **ECTOPIC MURMURS**

**Alumni Foundation's Vital Beat, Echoing Unity and Legacy.**

## **Highlights of the 43rd Reunion & Convention in Chicago**

### **Messages**



**CHAIRMAN OF FEU DR. NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION (FEUDNRSMAF)**

**Manuel A. Malicay, MD, FACP, FAHA, Class '72**

The challenges and expectations were high for the current administration's management of the 43rd Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention held from June 27 to 30, 2024. The primary goals were to ensure the event's success and profitability, and I am pleased to report that we exceeded those expectations.

The event began with the Hawaiian Welcome Dinner Program, designed to offer arriving alumni and guests a chance to relax, dine, dance, and enjoy entertainment. The evening featured the captivating vocals of Dr. Manuel Sanchez and Mrs. Elizabeth Lardizabal-Malabana, a violin performance by Dr. Natalie Fogata, and a charming Hawaiian dance by Dr. Leilanie Mon, all of which achieved our goal of providing a memorable welcome. We were also honored by a brief address from Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, Secretary of Health of the Philippines, who attended with his wife and spoke about the current state of healthcare in the Philippines.

For the first time, the CME program was a full-day event and received remarkable reviews for its organization, quality, and the relevance of its clinical topics presented by distinguished speakers. A highlight of the program was the 8th Annual Ricardo L. Alfonso, MD Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, who discussed the Philippine health care system and the implementation of Universal Health Care (UHC). According to Dr. Herbosa, the Philippine health sector is guided by the 8-Point Action Agenda under the theme "Sa Bagong Pilipinas, Bawat Bahay Mahalaga," reflecting a collective commitment to realizing UHC. The agenda includes eight primary care outcomes: immunization, nutrition, maternal health, water, sanitation and hygiene, tuberculosis and HIV, road safety, and noncommunicable diseases (such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancer). Dr. Herbosa emphasized that the Department of Health firmly believes that quality, affordable, comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, and cost-effective primary care serves as the cornerstone for achieving UHC. He encouraged everyone to actively participate

and take full advantage of this platform to create meaningful connections.

The Filipiniana Gala and the Grand Ball were extremely successful, held in the beautifully decorated International Ballroom of the Hyatt, which provided the perfect backdrop for a grand celebration. Each program began with a parade of the Officers of the Foundation, followed by the celebrating jubilarian classes, which was truly unique.

During the Filipiniana Gala, the 43rd new set of officers were inducted by Dean Rey De Los Reyes, standing in for Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, who had to return to the Philippines by order of President Ferdinand Marcos. The evening included the Medallion Ceremony, honoring the following celebrating classes: Class '79: Sapphire, Class '84: Ruby, Class '89: Coral, Class '94: Pearl, Classes 2004, 2009, and 2014. The newly inducted officers and the Chicago alumni group presented the elegant and regal "*Rigodon de Honor*."

The Gala Ball was radiant and delightful, with a fully filled ballroom. The medallion ceremony honored the Jubilarian Classes: Class '64: Diamond, Class '69: Emerald, Class '74: Golden and Class '99: Silver. Following the medallion ceremony, the jubilarian classes showcased their presentations. The official program concluded with an award presentation and a raffle drawing, which raised \$9,580.00, earmarked for the Scholarship Fund.

The total number of attendees was 284 for the Gala Ball and 265 for the Filipiniana Gala. The 134 for the Welcome Night. The jubilarian attendees were as follows: Diamond-20, Emerald- 23, Golden-8, Sapphire-3, Ruby-35, Coral-20, Platinum-1, Pearl and Silver-0. Overall, the 43rd Annual Reunion and Convention netted \$43,256.87.

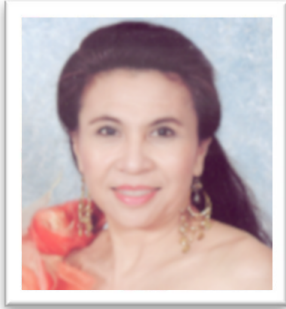
The Board of Trustees meeting was unusually long. The following recommendations of the Finance Committee were approved by the BOT:

1. To sell non-performing assets and reinvest them in performing assets.
2. Maintain a conservative profile of the portfolio but explore the possibilities of investing small amounts into cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, and robotics.
3. Grant the Financial Committee fiduciary responsibility for investing this portfolio without much undue interference from others.
4. Gradually shift to a self-directed feature of this portfolio to save money.
5. Reduce the number of securities held to simplify and streamline the portfolio.
6. Create a wire transfer capability from Morgan Stanley to the FEU School of Medicine.
7. Apply for sales tax exemption in the State of Nevada.
8. Abolish the position of financial coordinator as it is no longer needed.

The members of the BOT elected for 2024-2027 are as follows: Drs. Edgar Altares, Felipe Ambas, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Cesar Jimenez, Grace Averilla-Obena, Grace Rabadam, Virgilio Jonson, Oscar Tuazon, Ted Tolentino, and Araceli Sweeney.

On behalf of the Officers, our heartfelt thanks to all our alumni, guests, speakers, sponsors, donors, and the members of the BOT who attended the 43rd Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention.

  
Manuel A. Malicay, MD. FACP, FAHA.



PRESIDENT OF FEU DR. NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
ALUMNI FOUNDATION (FEUDRSMF)

**Nida Blankas-Hernaez, MD, FAAP, Class '84**

### **Reflections on the Recent Reunion and Convention in Chicago:**

#### **A Spectacular Success!**

I'm thrilled to reflect on the recent Reunion and Convention in Chicago—an event that can only be described as a spectacular success! The energy, camaraderie, and sheer joy that filled the air were truly unforgettable. Our jubilant classes outdid themselves, infusing the festivities with their unique charm and spirit, making this reunion a vibrant celebration.

As the overall convention chair, president/COO, and CME chairman, I found myself juggling a dizzying array of tasks—program preparation, jubilant collaboration, dance practices, plaque, banners, and ribbon orders, raffle sales, guest invitations, decorations, hotel logistics, and so much more. It was a true test of endurance, especially while managing my pediatric practice and other community commitments. Yet, through teamwork and determination, we pulled off what seemed like the impossible.

This year's achievements are a testament to our collective effort. We ensured meticulous financial oversight, with multiple meetings focused on optimizing our investments. Our Zoom meetings—ranging from executive sessions to website, scholarship, and membership discussions—kept everyone in sync and moving forward.

The CME convention was a standout moment, headlined by none other than the Hon. Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, Philippine Secretary of Health, whose insights into healthcare were nothing short of inspiring. The crowd erupted in applause when he announced that practicing board-certified physicians in the USA can now participate in medical missions in the Philippines without needing additional certification—a game-changing development!

Our CME speakers and moderators were outstanding, making the event both well-attended and deeply impactful. A big thank you to everyone involved, with special appreciation to our BOT Emeritus, Dr. Philip Chua, and Dr. Renato Ramos, for their stellar recruitment of the memorial speakers. And let's not forget—we saved an impressive \$17,000 on audiovisual costs, proving that with a dash of creativity and a lot of resourcefulness, anything is possible. A heartfelt thank you to all who made this event an unforgettable success!

**A Few Words on the Walkathon.** Regarding the Walkathon organized by VP Dr. Larry Rabang, though participation was limited, those who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, making it a meaningful and worthwhile cause.

**Celebrating the Ruby Class of 1984.** Kudos to my Ruby Class of 1984 for having the most jubilant attendees from the Philippines, Australia, and across the USA! It was a once-in-a-lifetime celebration packed with unforgettable moments: a lively welcome dinner at my home, tours of Chicago's iconic sites, the Gateway Arch, a joyful brunch, and a Karaoke night that brought us all together. Special thanks to Drs.

Jocelyn Guerrero, Tess Shioda, Frank Montellano, Larry & Resty Agbisit for organizing the activities; Dr. Abraham Bayan and Dean Dr. Rey delos Reyes for the medallions; Drs. Manolito Reyes and Efren Rodriguez for their stellar roles as CME speaker and moderator; Erlinda Barcelona Yeh for the seating; and Drs. Candido Africa III and Elmarie Simangan Saban for their Rigodon participation.

**Highlights of the Reunion and Convention.** The reunion was a spectacular affair, elevated by the presence of Hon. Teodoro Herbosa, whose speech during Hawaiian Night left a lasting impression. The festivities continued with the grandeur of Filipiniana Night, featuring the grand parade of our jubilarians—Sapphire '79, Ruby '84, and Coral '89—and the BOT, led by Dr. Virgilio Jonson proudly carrying the Philippine flag. The night dazzled with the "Rigodon de Honor," performed by our Executive BOT officers, the Chicago Chapter, and jubilarians, choreographed by the talented Norma Manankil, with Dr. Phoebe Tan and Marylyn Lopez, a Clarinet & Violin Rendition by Drs. Bienvenido Yangco & Natalie Fogata and a Modern Ethnic Dance by Jelly Ann Barimbao, Miss Philippines, PIWC 2024. The Filipiniana Gala was also highlighted by the first-ever jubilarians' medallion ceremony, adding a touch of elegance to the evening. The night was a breathtaking blend of stunning décor, unforgettable moments, and vibrant energy.

The Grand Ball treated us to exquisite performances, including an opera solo by Eric Carampatan, son of Dr. Ernesto Carampatan, an Emerald jubilarian, and a ballroom dance performance by Drs. Gregorio & Melinda (Sibulo '72) Tolentino. The jubilarian medallion ceremony, presented by Dean Rey delos Reyes, Chairman of the Board Dr. Manuel Malicay, and yours truly, was a moment of pride and recognition among our jubilarian celebrants. The jubilarian class presentations and participation were a testament to our legacy and resilience. Both nights were well-attended. To the entertainers, presenters, emcees, decorators—Dr. Ledy Jasminez for the flowers and décor, RJ Turiya for the Mabuhay Arch, and Robert Chavez for the Nipa hut—donors, advertisers, and everyone involved, thank you.

**Awards and Recognitions.** At the Grand Ball, we proudly presented several awards and recognitions: The Most Outstanding Alumni Award was bestowed upon our very own Ruby Jubilarian, Dr. Abigail DG Castro, Vice Dean of FEU-NRMF IM was announced by the Awards Chairman, Daisy Ramos MD. In her absence, Dean Dr. Rey delos Reyes and fellow Ruby Jubilarian Dr. Abraham Bayan accepted the award on her behalf. The Award of Excellence was presented to Dean Dr. Rey delos Reyes, while Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera received the Philanthropy Award, accepted on their behalf by Dr. Nany Tansuche. Leadership Awards were given to past Chairman of the Board Dr. Pedro Florescio and past President Dr. Cesar Jimenez. Due to unforeseen circumstances, President/COO of FEU-NRMF, Juan Enrique J. Reyes, was unable to attend, and Dean Rey delos Reyes accepted his Plaque of Appreciation. A Plaque of Appreciation was also awarded to the Consul General, who honored us as a guest speaker.

**Gratitude and Looking Forward.** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our success—Dr. Grace Averilla-Obena, for her management of seating and registration; Dr. Richard Mon, for his diligent work as treasurer; Dr. Daisy Ramos, for organizing the raffles; and Dr. Daniel Fabito, for the wonderful souvenir program. Special thanks to my husband, Ed, for his love, support, and understanding. We couldn't have done it without the incredible Chicago team and everyone who generously shared their time, talent, and resources. **To all jubilarians, guests, BOT, advertisers, donors, and volunteers, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you all!**

The reunion concluded with a beautifully organized Thanksgiving Mass arranged by Dr. Virgilio Magsino and officiated by Rev. Father Cesar Pajarillo, leaving us with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation for our next gathering in Las Vegas in 2025 at the Tuscany Hotel.

Let's hold onto these cherished memories and look forward to our future reunions with the same passion and dedication. **Together, we've proven that when we come together, we can achieve greatness!**

**"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." - Helen Keller**

*Nida Blankas-Hernandez*

**Nida Blankas-Hernandez, M.D., FAAP**

847-668-7385



**PRESIDENT and CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF  
FEU DR. NICANOR REYES MEDICAL FOUNDATION  
Juan Enrique J. Reyes, MHM**



To our beloved alumni,

We thank you for inquiring regarding the present status of FEU-NRMF Medical Center. While I would have preferred to share more comprehensive updates with you in the 2025 State of the Foundation Address, it would be a disservice if your request had fallen on deaf ears, especially knowing the type of love and support you have for your Alma Mater.

To recapitulate, our Management Agreement with AC Health took effect last February 1, 2024. Under the agreement, we have given them authority to establish organizational structures, craft or modify policies and procedures, assess contracts, and perform any and all other acts incidental and proper to the management. Ownership of the assets, accreditations, insurances, licenses, and permits have been retained for the time being and all employees are still employed by FEU-NRMF.

Notably, they deployed Mrs. Margaret A. Bengzon as the interim Chief Operating Officer, concurrently serving as the COO of AC Health, and formerly the President and CEO of Guam Regional Medical City as well as the head of the JP Morgan Chase Bank in the Philippines. Another welcome addition is Mr. Karl Nick D. Balintec, an up-and-coming executive hired to be the Chief Financial Officer of our hospital and whose duties shall carry over when the lease kicks in on January 1, 2025. Considering that capital infusion and other significant renovations are scheduled to begin next year, their ability to deliver results and The impact of the institution with our current resources has been astounding.

### **July 2024 Year-to-date Highlights**

Year-to-date (YTD) figures for July 2024 show that our numbers are mostly on the upswing, exceeding expectations and projections made prior to signing in October 2023:

#### **I. In-patient**

- A. 37% increase in revenue from ₱192M (July 2023) to 263M (July 2024)
- B. 29% increase in admissions from 2,363 (July 2023) to 3,054 (July 2024)
- C. 76% private-bed occupancy rate
- D. 40% service-bed occupancy rate

These can be largely attributed to the Human Resources Division for their retention and attraction strategies, allowing us to admit more patients (11 vs 14 – average daily admission) with additional healthcare workers on board. For our service beds, rooms would need to be refurbished before expecting a higher occupancy rate.

## **II. Outpatient**

- A. 19% increase in revenue from ₱92M (July 2023) to 110M (July 2024)
- B. 45% increase in procedures from 78,297 (July 2023) to 113,716 (July 2024)

All these in spite of challenges with our equipment. Within the period covered, the MRI was down for five months, the CT-Scan for a month, and histopathology-related machines for three months. Fortunately, the centralization of our clinics in the Upper Ground level, prior to their entry, provided better accessibility as opposed to having multiple consultation areas in the facility and losing the opportunity to have their tests performed in-house.

## **III. Attrition**

Although FEU-NRMF Medical Center possesses the largest headcount and bed capacity across the Healthway Medical Network, it has the lowest YTD Attrition Rate at 10.6% and lowest Annualized Attrition Rate at 16.0% as opposed to YTD Attrition averages between 14-26% and Annualized Attrition averages between 24-40%.

Hopefully, this trend continues past December 2024. Given that FEU-NRMF as a juridical entity shall cease to operate the hospital, the employment would be transferred to Healthway Hospital Fairview, Inc. Legally, we are bound to provide all affected personnel with the pay and compensation they are due at the time of separation.

## **Ayala's "Care Beyond Cure"**

This is the tagline of Healthway Medical Network. A credo or model of care which they wish to embody when interacting with their patients, colleagues, and other valued stakeholders. Let us be their testament. When they say, "*Care Beyond Cure*", it is not limited to the healthcare setting or to the course of their treatment. FEU-NRMF has been a beneficiary of how much they care for their partners no matter how small or big the business may be. Since we've signed with them, we can enumerate a handful of items where they were of great help to our institution.

## **I. Quezon City relations**

There is a proverb that says, "*You don't know what you have until it's gone.*" For those who may not know, we are relatives of the two Aquino presidents through our Cojuangco lineage. The late JCR was very strict about not calling in favors, especially if this may compromise, besmirch, or put into question the image and reputation of our relatives who had to act in the best interest of the Filipino people. Interestingly, this is what impressed us about the Zobel de Ayalas. After all, you don't become the quintessential Filipino family business if you fail to maintain healthy relations with both the public and private sector. All these years, we seemingly had smooth relations with our local government unit. Unfortunately, the tide had turned, and our obvious political affiliations were no longer in the good graces of the court of public opinion. This led to having more

bumps and bruises that we needed to navigate no matter how legal or constitutional we believed our actions were. Hence, our new partners showed us the ropes, stressed the importance of collaboration, and helped renew our ties across all levels – from the barangay, to the city hall, the legislative branch, up to the executive level through Private Sector Advisory Council – Health Sector Lead Mr. Paolo Borromeo, who is also the President and CEO of AC Health.

## **II. IERC**

Among AC Health's aspirations is to mirror the best practices of cancer hospitals around the globe where they have a research arm geared toward curing the most complicated diseases. With their research being in its nascent stages, they identified the strength of FEU-NRMF's Institutional Ethics Review Committee having the highest level of accreditation from the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board. This is an essential component before proceeding with any type of research leading to the signing our second memorandum with them.

## **III. School of Pharmacy**

Our third memorandum covers rotations or internships in Healthway's wide array of clinics and hospitals. With more tycoons in the pharmaceutical space (e.g. Ques of Mercury Drug, Gokongweis through four chains under Robinsons Retail Holdings, and Sys through Watsons), AC Health needs to employ an enticing method to capture the interest of future pharmacists while allowing them to complete curricular requirements.

## **IV. Supply Chain**

We cannot stress enough the power of having economies of scale. We have vendors who have been in business with us since 1955. Yet, AC Health managed to command better terms and prices simply because they had more than one hospital.

## **V. Typhoon Carina**

FEU-NRMF was not spared from the onslaught of Typhoon Carina. Roads were not passable, our Lower Ground was flooded, the hospital lost power, and we could not access our generators. Again, one call from our friends and Meralco were onsite not too long after to help restore electricity.

## **VI. ACEN**

With the growing demand for renewable energy, incentives for sustainability initiatives, and clamor for cheaper electricity, our Institute of Medicine shall ride on the renewable energy supply of the hospital to allow us to do our part in saving mother earth and to reallocate financial resources toward loan repayments, infrastructure improvements, and growth.

## **VII. Scholarships**

As a gesture of their goodwill and philanthropy, AC Health and FEU-NRMF are working on scholarship opportunities for those in the baccalaureate level. This would also provide a steady supply of professionals as they expand their network to meet the demand in their estates.

## **In Thy Happy Halls, Thy Will Be Done**

Reflecting on the progress we've made, indeed, the FEUture looks bright, and we have much to be excited for our Medical Center. Admittedly, there have been times, early on, where we've pondered about our decision to

lease the hospital and if allowing professionals to take over was the best course of action due to mere sentimentality. Then, as soon as that fledged, thoughts on whether we had chosen the right partner would enter our minds. We've always believed that if you keep your intentions pure, serve as a vehicle or instrument for good deeds, and ambition for something bigger than yourself, the universe will find a way to make the stars align and put you in a favorable position to achieve your mission or cause.

Today, let me be the first to say that we are very pleased with Ayala, and we are certain that they can propel FEU-NRMF Medical Center to greater heights; even better than how our forefathers envisioned it to be. The Department of Health licenses are underway, committees are being formed and completed, and much-awaited increases in the compensation for clinical chairs, section heads, and residents have been presented with performance-based incentives to help the institution realize its full potential since transferring to Fairview in 1999. That said, we hope our alumni grace us with their presence in the next Foundation Week. It would be an honor to have you during the 2025 State of the Foundation Address. By then, we could share a more complete picture of the Institute of Medicine and Medical Center. Akin to the Carpenters' hit, "*We've only just begun.*" The best is yet to come.

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

Sincerely,



**JUAN ENRIQUE J. REYES, MHM**  
President and COO



**FROM THE HOME FRONT FEU NICANOR REYES MEDICAL FOUNDATION  
(FEUNRMF) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**Rey H. de los Reyes MD, FPOGS, MSA, Class '78**  
Dean, School of Medicine

CONGRATULATIONS to the FEUDNRSMAF Organizing Committee, led by President Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez and Chairman of the Board Dr. Manuel Malicay, for the successful 2024 Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention held on June 27-28, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The scientific program was expertly crafted and highly relevant, while the social events were enjoyable, entertaining, and well-attended.

In other news, the School of Medicine was visited by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) from April 24-26, 2024. PAASCU accreditation is crucial for our graduates to be eligible for the ECFMG examination, which is required for residency training in the United States. PAASCU is the only accrediting body in the Philippines recognized by the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME). The wait is over—we received our Certification of Accreditation on August



9, 2024, valid until 2029. We are now a Level III accredited medical school and will begin working towards Level IV accreditation.

The academic year 2024-2025 began on August 5, 2024, for Level I-III medical students. We welcomed 489 freshmen during their orientation on July 27, 2024, at the JCR Gym. The event was attended by President Juan Enrique J. Reyes, Dean Rey H. de los Reyes, Vice Dean Abigail DG Castro, and the Chairmen and Faculty of First Year subjects.

Students were introduced to the school's mission and vision, policies, rules, and regulations, as well as the student services available. They also learned about the various student organizations and non-curricular activities. The Medicine Student Council provided invaluable support to the Admission Committee and Administration in welcoming our new students.

In our pursuit of excellence, a curriculum review was conducted on July 23-24, 2024, led by the Curriculum Committee of the Medical Education Unit. Attended by the Dean, Vice Dean, Department Chairs, and Subject Coordinators, the review aimed to:

1. Streamline course content in both topics and areas.
2. Redesign the curriculum to fully utilize blended modes of onsite, online synchronous, and asynchronous instructional delivery.
3. Focus lectures and small group activities on common diseases in the Philippines.
4. Emphasize primary care and a first-contact approach in lectures and clinical case discussions.
5. Incorporate community-oriented lay education and patient education on disease awareness and prevention.

Thanks to the active participation of all involved, we successfully achieved our objectives, and these changes will be implemented this school year. We extend our gratitude to the UNILAB Group for their assistance in this endeavor.

Preparations for the Medicine Alumni Homecoming on January 16-18, 2025, are in full swing. The scientific activities on January 16-17, 2025, will be held at Alfonso Hall of the FEU-NRMF Complex, while the grand Alumni Night on January 18, 2025, will take place at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. We warmly invite everyone to join us, reconnect with friends and classmates, and forge new connections. Our Alma Mater eagerly awaits your return to the FEU-NRMF Campus in Fairview, Quezon City.

Warmest regards to all.

**Rey H. de los Reyes MD, FPOGS, MSA, Class '78**  
Dean, School of Medicine



**VICE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FEU DR. NICANOR REYES  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION (FEUDRSMAF)  
Grace Averilla-Obena, MD, FFAFP, ABAARM, Class '85**

Wow! Time has flown by, and the reunion we've spent a year preparing for has been a resounding success—all thanks to you! It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, and it seemed like everyone had a fantastic time.

This year was a bit challenging, especially as it was our first time accepting Zelle payments, which made tracking funds a bit tricky. Some payments lacked notes specifying the events or the distribution of money, and some paid for their classmates without noting their names, leading to some confusion. I'm hopeful that next year will be smoother, but rest assured, we'll still be accepting checks and cash.

The class performances were fantastic! It was my first time dancing the "Rigodon." I want to extend a special thanks to everyone who helped with registration, selling t-shirts, and putting up banners and decorations. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate each of you—I couldn't have done it without your support.

I'd also like to thank my husband, Nelson Obena, for his patience and tireless assistance as my phone assistant, runner, driver, secretary, massage therapist, and for helping carry the heavy medallions from the Philippines to the USA.

Thank you for trusting me as the Executive Director. Although it came with much responsibility, it was well worth it as we successfully raised funds for our scholarship program.

Please save the date for next year's convention in my hometown—the city that never sleeps—LAS VEGAS! The event will take place from June 8-11, 2025, at the Tuscany Hotel, 255 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89169. It's just a 5-minute walk from the Strip, so bring your family! I managed to secure a great deal of \$79.00 per night on regular days, while weekends will cost us \$179.00 per night. The resort fee of \$39.00/day has been waived, and parking, including valet, is FREE—a huge savings compared to the \$50.00/day other hotels charge.

I've secured many more discounts for the event, so I'm hoping you'll all attend and support our foundation. On June 8, we'll kick off with a welcome party themed "FEU meets their Howdy Partners"—a Western Cowboy night, so come in shorts or jeans and don't forget your cowboy hats! We've prepared many surprise numbers, and it promises to be a lot of fun. June 9 will feature the Filipiniana and CME as usual, and June 10 will be the Grand Ball, followed by a Thanksgiving Mass on June 11.

The FEUDNRSMAF Nevada Chapter, led by the new President, Dr. Gerry Guzman, along with Las Vegas FEU and friends, has already begun preparations, so don't miss out! Start inviting all your classmates, and may all the presidents of the celebrating classes please contact me soon to coordinate your presentations and count attendance. We have only a limited number of blocked rooms, so the earlier you register and reserve, the better. Let's avoid the usual last-minute rush.

I'm anticipating fewer problems this time around—I want you all to enjoy the event without any hassles.

Please visit our website, FEUmedalumni.org, and take note of the booking link:

<https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16539&nights=1&checkin=6/8/2025&group=FEUDNRSMAF&lang=en-us>.

I'll also speak with Dr. Ted Tolentino, our website manager, to see if we can connect the booking link to the website for easier access. Remember, reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, and we have only a limited number of rooms available. Don't forget, this is Vegas—the entertainment capital of the world—and it's always busy!

Congratulations again to all the celebrants! To our next celebrating classes—1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015—grab your boots and hats, start packing, and get ready to party with us! Viva Las Vegas!!!

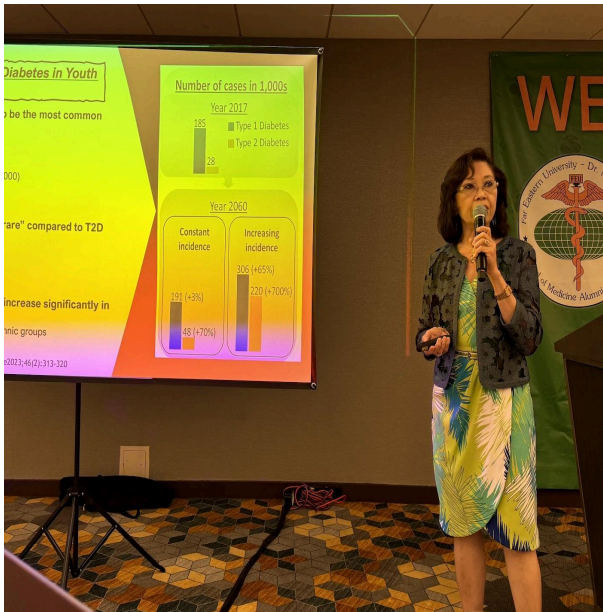
**Divina Gracia Averilla-Obena, MD., FAAFP, ABAARM '85**  
Phone 702-769-3042

## THE CONVENTION CME

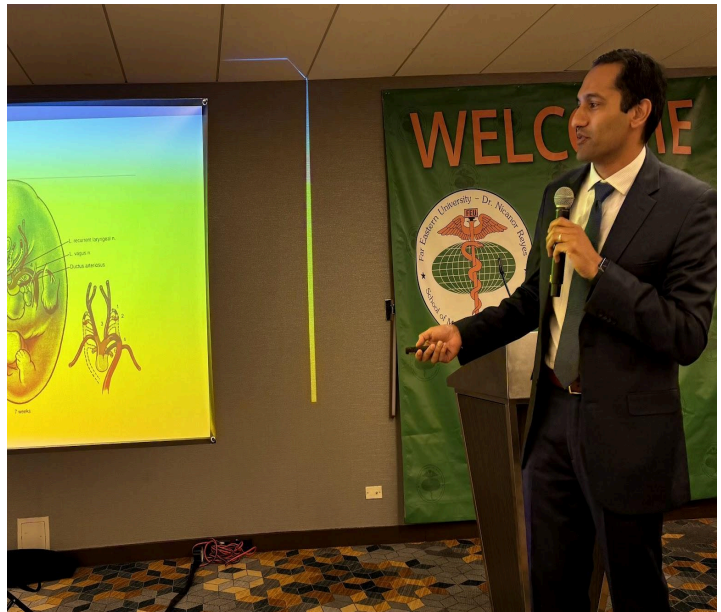
*Advancing knowledge together and shaping the future of healthcare...*



**First Speaker, Anna Garcia Wertz MD on *Simulating Therapy for OSA*. Beaming with pride: A memorable moment with family after receiving the convention speaker plaque.**



**Susan Balite-Nunez MD '81 on *Diabetes Management*.**



**Michael Farias MD on *Neonatal PDA*.**



**Kristin Farias MD on *Transition on the Transition from Peds to Adult Care***



**Philippine Secretary of Health, Hon. Teodoro J. Herbosa MD, the 8th Dr. Ricardo Alfonso Memorial Speaker on the *Philippine Health System & its Future***



**Bienvenido Yangco MD '72 on *Integrative Medicine*.**



**Emmanuel Sarmiento MD '86 on *Asthma therapeutics*.**



**Manolito Reyes MD '84 on *Cataract Surgery*.**



**William O'Neill MD, the 26th Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Jr. Memorial Speaker, on *Heart Valve Diseases Treatment*.**



**Ligaya Marasigan MD '74 on Menopause**



**Rebecca Salvani MD, Class '69, moderator.**



**Q/A Moderator Macario Corpuz MD '84 with Speakers DRS. Sarmiento, Yangco, Reyes & Marasigan (hidden).**



**Manuel Malicay MD-Chairman of the Board & Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD-President awarded the Convention Speaker Plaques to Susan Nunez MD, Michael Farias MD & Ligaya Marasigan MD. Moderator-Leilanie Mon MD.**



Convention Speaker Plaques given to Bienvenido Yangco MD, Emmanuel Sarmiento MD and Manolito Reyes MD.



1st pic L-R: Leilanie Mon MD, Manuel Malicay MD, William O’Neill MD- 26th Dr. Nicanor Reyes Jr Memorial Lecture, Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD and Renato Ramos MD-Chairman Emeritus. 2nd pic L-R: Lourdes Malicay MD, Leilanie Mon MD, Manuel Malicay MD, Dean Rey de los Reyes MD, Philip Chua MD & Richard Mon MD.



Secretary of Health, Hon. Teodoro Herbosa MD was awarded the 8th Annual Ricardo Alfonso MD Memorial Lecture Plaque from Dr. Malicay & Dr. Hernaez. Dr. Herbosa was surrounded by jubilarians for picture taking.



**L-R: Efren Rodriguez MD-Q/A moderator, Philip Chua MD-Chairman Emeritus, Manuel Malicay MD-Board Chairman, Rebecca Salvani MD-Moderator, Hon. Teodoro Herbosa MD, Susan Balite-Nunez MD, Michael Farias MD (holding plaque of his wife, Kristin Farias MD), & Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD-President/CME Chairman.**



**L-R: Philip Chua MD, Farida Chua MD, Hon. Teodoro Herbosa MD and his wife Grace Herbosa MD, Daniel Fabito MD and Melinda Fabito MD.**



**L-R: Leslie Farolan MD, Cheryl Sarmiento MD, Emil Sarmiento MD, Dean de los Reyes, Pearl Cabrera-Francisco MD, Chona Segismundo-Antonio MD, Emy Talag MD, & Malou de Leon MD.**



## CME INSIGHTS:



### From a CME SPEAKER

by **Manolito R. Reyes, M.D., D.P.B.O., FEU Class 1984**

#### **Intraocular Lenses – Which is Best for Me?**

Lens opacity is a natural part of aging eyes, often leading to cataracts. An intraocular lens (IOL) is a synthetic replacement for the clouded lens, typically implanted during a phacoemulsification procedure. There are four major types of IOLs, each with unique benefits and considerations.

##### **1. Monofocal Lens**

The monofocal lens is the most commonly implanted IOL worldwide. It has a single focal point, usually set for excellent distance vision. This lens is ideal for patients with retinal conditions such as diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, or other retinal issues. Typically, the ophthalmologist will correct distance vision and prescribe glasses for fine-tuning both distance and near vision. Patients may opt for "monovision" surgery, where one eye is corrected for distance and the other for near vision. However, it's important to note that this can affect depth perception, known as stereopsis.

##### **2. Multifocal IOL**

Multifocal lenses correct vision at multiple distances—far, intermediate, and near—offering the possibility of a spectacle-free life. However, they come with potential drawbacks, including complaints of glare and halos, especially during nighttime driving. While some patients may adapt to these issues over six months, it's not guaranteed. Multifocal IOLs are generally not recommended for patients with retinal disorders or those with overly high expectations for perfect vision.

##### **3. Extended Depth of Focus (EDOF) Lens**

EDOF lenses provide good distance and intermediate vision, reducing the need for glasses while driving or using gadgets. They are particularly well-suited for patients who rely on computers for work. Personally, if I were to undergo cataract surgery, this would be my lens of choice.

##### **4. Toric IOL**

Toric lenses are designed for patients with significant astigmatism (greater than -1.00 cylinder). These patients often require astigmatic correction in their glasses long before developing cataracts. Toric IOLs address this issue directly, providing clearer vision without the need for additional corrective lenses.

**In summary**, it's essential to have a detailed discussion—what I call “Chair time”—with your ophthalmologist to determine the ideal IOL for your needs. I hope this article helps you make an informed decision about the best type of IOL for you.



### **From a CME MODERATOR**

by **Efren Rodriguez, M.D., F.A.A.P., Diplómate ABP, Class '84**

### **CME Program Shines with Remarkable Success!**

I had the privilege of serving as a moderator at the most recent scientific convention in Chicago, Illinois. The last time I was a moderator was 15 years ago in Manila during our 25th Silver Jubilee for Class 1984. This time, we were jubilarians celebrating our 40th Ruby anniversary.

Moderating the morning Q&A session was particularly challenging due to the wide range of fascinating topics and the honor of having the Secretary of Health from the Philippine Department of Health in attendance. The topics covered were diverse, including OSA, Diabetes Management, Neonatal PDA, the Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care, and the Memorial Lecture on Universal Health Care (UHC) Implementation in the Philippines, delivered by Dr. Teodoro Herbosa. With so many questions submitted to the speakers, we had to carefully filter the most relevant ones, ensuring that each speaker had the opportunity to address a question.

The afternoon sessions were more relaxed, covering topics such as Integrative Medicine, Menopause, Updates on Asthma Therapy, and the Best Intraocular Lens for Cataract Surgery, presented by our co-jubilarian from the Philippines, Dr. Manolito Reyes. The 25th annual Dr. Nicanor Reyes Jr. Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. William O'Neill on the Percutaneous Treatment of Heart Valve Disease. During this session, the format allowed participants to introduce themselves and pose their questions directly to the speakers, fostering a more interactive discussion.

Overall, the CME program was a great success, with strong participation. We hope that in the future, more alumni will join the scientific convention—not just those seeking CME credits but also those interested in gaining fresh knowledge to stay updated in our ever-evolving profession!

## **Honoring the Milestones: A Jubilee of Legacy and Achievement**



### **DIAMOND CLASS '64**

**Fabulous Class '64 Diamond Jubilee Reunion:  
A Historical Perspective**

by **ENGRACIO CORTES, M.D., Class '64**

In 1964, 241 of us proudly received our medical degrees, though only 188 were featured in the class yearbook for reasons unknown. As students, we admired our professors and envied those who trained in the US, so it was no surprise that after passing the Philippines Licensure Exam and ECFMG, many of us applied for J-1 visas to pursue further training in the United States. Though the journey seemed financially daunting, American Airlines' *"Fly Now Pay Later"* program allowed us to reach the US, even without a cent in our pockets.

Before leaving, we had to pass a rigorous physical exam and were given a crash course on American daily life, including their obsession with weather changes and some quirky slang like *"I have the runs"* and *"somebody is cutting the cheese."* Our internships in the US were no picnic—on call every other night and weekend, we accepted the grueling schedule with no complaints, despite a modest stipend of \$3,000 a year. The training was tough, but we persevered. Upon completing our residencies, many of us planned to return home to establish private practices or join medical school faculties. However, martial law imposed by President Marcos on September 21, 1972, shattered those dreams. Stuck in limbo because our J-1 visas required us to return home after training, we were strongly encouraged by our families to stay in the US. Fortunately, on October 27, 1972, President Nixon signed a waiver allowing us to remain if we were married to an American or had children born in the US. Grateful for this opportunity, many of us chose to stay, opening private practices or becoming academicians and clinical researchers.

When FEUDNRSMAF was founded in 1971, Emilie Ongcapin and Danny Fabito played crucial roles in running the organization, with Cora Mendoza serving as Executive Director from 1984-1987. The Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention was established, and the Fabulous Class of '64 has participated every five years since. Emilie and Danny eventually became president and chairman of the organization, followed by Edmundo Relucio and Rick de Leon. Over the years, the Class of '64, under the leadership of Danny and Ed, was instrumental in relocating the FEUNRMF Institute of Medicine and Medical Center to Fairview, Quezon City. Emilie Ongcapin served as dean of the Institute of Medicine from 1987 to 1990, while Danny Fabito held prestigious positions, including President of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA) and the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America. Other classmates also achieved remarkable success, such as Amelia Cruz, who was elected President of the Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society and served as a Board Examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Norma Veridiano, who became a Diplomate of the American Board of OB/GYN, graduated from Fordham University School of Law, and earned a Master's in Health Care Management from Harvard University School of Public Health; Rosalina Liongson Abboud, the first Filipino consultant to join the Mayo Clinic's Department of OB-GYN, was recognized in its OB-GYN commemorative book in 2017 as a pioneer in Urogynecology; and Engracio Cortes, past president of the NY Cancer Society and a Traveling Oncology Consultant at the University of Southern California, gained "15 minutes of fame" when his research on Adriamycin in Osteosarcoma, which raised the cure rate from 20% to 55%, was published in the New England Journal

of Medicine (291:998-1000, 1974). His work on immunotherapy for lung cancer was also funded by the National Cancer Institute.

The 60th reunion of the Class of '64, held on June 27-30, 2024, in Chicago, was more than just a gathering—it was a profound occasion. Twenty of us attended, ten women and ten men, with some needing assistance such as canes or wheelchairs. Cora Mendoza, our artistic director, prepared a chorus line rendition of “*Let Us Entertain You*,” followed by the group singing “*You Raise Me Up*,” with Billy Pasia's beautiful baritone voice leading the refrain. The three days of rehearsals were memorable, exposing our out-of-tune and rhythm inadequacies, but by the end, we were all synchronized. We may not have been Ethel Merman, Josh Groban, or the Madrigal Singers, but our short performance celebrated our shared past experiences, creating a moment steeped in history, reflection, and deep personal and professional meaning. The reunion also allowed us to celebrate the enduring friendships we have built over the past 60 years.

Sixty years ago, we stood at the threshold of demanding but rewarding careers, filled with the optimism and uncertainty of young doctors just beginning their journeys. Over the ensuing decades, we navigated the rapidly evolving landscape of medicine, witnessing and contributing to transformative changes in healthcare. We saw the introduction of diagnostic ultrasound, CT scans, MRI, PET/CT scans, and, most recently, the liquid biopsy of ctDNA, which has replaced invasive biopsies. We also lived through the resurgence of the Hong Kong flu in 1968, the emergence of the Ebola virus in 1976, HIV/AIDS in 1980, SARS in 2002, swine flu in 2009, Zika virus in 2015, and COVID-19 in 2019, among others.

This 60th reunion serves as a lens through which we view the dramatic evolution of medicine. The advances that have occurred since we graduated and first donned our white coats are nothing short of extraordinary. We not only witnessed these changes but were often at the forefront of implementing them. We have seen the transition from handwritten patient notes to electronic health records, the rise of minimally invasive surgeries, the perfection of heart, lung, and liver transplants, and the explosion of knowledge brought about by the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003. The development of life-saving drugs and technologies has rendered "one size fits all" therapies obsolete, giving rise to personalized or targeted treatments and the evolution of cancer immunotherapy with the discovery of checkpoint inhibitors. Now, we face a new frontier with artificial intelligence (AI), a groundbreaking advancement comparable to the discovery of the nuclear bomb.

Over the course of 60 years, it is inevitable that some of our classmates have passed away. This reunion serves as a poignant reminder of life's fragility and the importance of cherishing the time we have left. Remembering those who have departed and reflecting on their contributions to medicine and their communities is an integral part of this reunion. This sentiment was beautifully expressed during our chorus presentation when Billy Pasia dedicated our song, "*You Raise Me Up*," to our departed classmates.

Looking to the future, this milestone is also an opportunity to consider the legacy that the Fabulous Class of '64 leaves behind. Almost all of us are retired, but our influence continues through the students we have taught, the colleagues we have mentored, and the patients whose lives we have touched. Under the leadership of Danny Fabito, who spearheaded and supported Class '64, we established the Professional Chair in Surgery, a Scholarship Fund for Economic Hardship, and continued our support of the Postgraduate Surgical Program in the Department of Surgery. Class '64 remains actively involved in the annual scientific CME program.

As the reunion came to an end, the Fabulous Class of '64 left with a renewed sense of connection and purpose. We carry with us the memories of our shared experiences and the knowledge that our contributions to medicine have made a lasting difference. This reunion, while marking the passage of time, is a powerful reminder that the bonds formed in medical school can endure a lifetime, and the impact of our work in medicine will resonate for generations to come.

**ENGRACIO CORTES, M.D., Class '64**



THE FOLLOWING ATTENDED THE CLASS 1964 DIAMOND  
JUBILEE IN CHICAGO, JUNE 27-30, 2024

LADIES:

1. ROSALINA LIONGSON-ABBOUD M.D.
2. CRISTETA BARBO-MENCIAS M.D.
3. CORAZON CABRERA-MENDOZA M.D.
4. CORA SUAREZ-VELEZ M.D.
5. ELLA PACIFICAR M.D.
6. HELEN LIM-PALAV M.D.
7. MANOLITA PAYOS-BALASSA M.D.
8. WILLETA DELOS REYES M.D.
9. DALISAY GARCIA M.D.
10. TITA GERONIMO M.D.

GENTLEMEN:

1. ROGELIO BAUTISTA M.D.
2. DANIEL C. FABITO M.D.
3. EBELLO PASIA M.D.
4. ENGRACIO CORTES M.D.
5. LEO SICAT M.D.
6. DIONOSIO POLICARPIO M.D.
7. DANTE MARTINEZ. M.D.
8. EDMUNDO RELUCIO M.D.
9. VIC SINGSON M.D.
10. MARTIN MENDOZA M.D.



**Diamond Class '64 Medallion Ceremony**

**L-R: DRS. Tita Geronimo, Dalisay Garcia, Helen Lim, Willeta delos Reyes, Dionisio Policarpio, Manuel Malicay-Board Chairman, Manolita Payos, Ebelo Pasia, Ed Relucio, Nida Blankas-Hernaez-President, Mar Mendoza, Dante Martinez, Dean Rey delos Reyes, Rosalina Liongson, Daniel Fabito, Engracio Cortes, Cora Cabrera, Roger Bautista, Cristeta Barbo, Ella Pacificar, Cora Suarez & Leo Sicat.**

**Not in picture: Vic Singson.**



**Sitting L-R: Dr. Edmundo Relucio, Dr. Dalisay Garcia, Dr. Tita Geronimo, Dr. Helen Lim, Dr. Rosalina Liongson, Dr. Cristeta Barbo, Dr. Cora Suarez, Dr. Manolita Payos, Dr. Cora Cabrera, Dr. Willeta delos Reyes & Dr. Ella Pacificar.**

**Standing L-R: Dr. Vic Singson, Dr. Roger Bautista, Dr. Ebelo Pasia, Dr. Dan Fabito, Dr. Leo Sicat, Dr. Mar Mendoza, Dr. Dionisio Policarpio, Dr. Dante Martinez & Dr. Eng Cortes.**



**L-R: Dr. Dalisay Garcia, Dr. Tita Geronimo, Dr.Helen Lim, Dr. Rosalina Liongson, Dr. Cora Cabrera, Dr. Cristeta Barbo, Dr. Manolita Payos, Dr. Cora Suarez, Dr. Willeta delos Reyes & Dr. Ella Pacificar.**



**L-R: Dr. Roger Bautista, Dr. Ed Relucio, Dr. Leo Sicat, Dr. Mar Mendoza, Dr. Ebello Pasia, Dr. Daniel Fabito, Dr. Dionisio Policarpio, Dr. Vic Singson, Dr. Dante Martinez & Dr. Eng Cortes.**



Diamond Class '64 Grand Parade Entrance  
led by Dr. Rosalina Liongson.



Dr. Daniel Fabito followed by Dr. Roger Bautista.



## EMERALD CLASS '69

Celebrating 55 Years of Class '69's Enduring Legacy

by CONRAD C. GONZALEZ JR., M.D. Class' 69

An emerald celebration of class '69 was a memorable event commemorating a significant milestone, typically the 55th anniversary of the class's graduation. It was a time for alumni to reconnect, reminisce about their shared experiences, and celebrate their enduring friendships. The event was celebrated with the Diamond, Sapphire, Silver, and Golden celebrants and was held at an Elegant venue, the Hyatt Hotel in O'Hare, Chicago, IL.

The usual CME was held on a Thursday, and it was refreshing to hear the up-to-date medicine topics. Our welcoming reception (planned separately) was held at a restaurant, with members of class '69 and their friends attending. The occasion was filled with joy, laughter, singing, dancing, and a sumptuous



dinner. Special guests, such as the children of our alumni, performed during dinner. Nikki Fogata played the violin, Eric Carampatan, a professional tenor singer, and guests from other classes,

We sincerely thank our Chicagoan classmates, Becky Salvani, Ofelia Ayuste, Naomi Fogata, and our leader, Flory Mangahas, including June Neri for organizing this event. Naomi could join us despite recuperating from an illness, and everybody was happy to see her.

The usual Filipiniana night was held at the grand ballroom, adorned with Philippine motifs on Friday night. Attendees were all in their beautiful Filipina dresses and Barong Tagalog. Dancing and Singing dominated the entertainment.

Saturday night, the gala night, was again held in the grand ballroom; this time, guests came with their formal attire of Tuxedos and Evening dresses. The event's highlight for the Emerald celebrants was the presentation of the medals commemorating the 55 years of celebration after the class's graduation. A medley of Filipino songs was enthusiastically done by class '69.

The program included speeches by prominent alumni, former teachers, and special guests who share their memories and highlight the school's achievements over the years. The music was provided by a live band playing hits from the graduation years, creating a lively and nostalgic atmosphere. A sumptuous dinner of surf and turf was served. We recognized our classmates who had passed away, ensuring they were remembered.

An emerald celebration is a cherished occasion, filled with joy, laughter, and nostalgia, as classmates come together to celebrate their journey and look forward to the future.

#### **CONRAD C. GONZALEZ JR., M.D. Class' 69**



**Standing L-R: DRS. Conrado Gonzalez, Manuel Mangahas, Victor Cruz, Alberto Clar, Renato Enriquez, Rebecca Salvani, Teresita Dionisio, Jose Mapalad, Miss Carampatan, Ernesto Carampatan, Ofelia Ayuste.**

**Sitting L-R: DRS. Florencio Neri, Florie Mangahas, Teresita Manubay**



**Standing L-R: DRS. Florencio Neri, Pablo Dantes, Antonio Toledo, Ernesto Carampatan, Victor Cruz, Manuel Hugo.  
Sitting L-R: Isabelo Castillo, Jose Mapalad, Renato Enriquez, Federico Jimenez, Manuel Mangahas, Floro Porcuincola, Alberto Clar, Conrado Gonzalez**



**L-R : DRS. Nita Toledo, Becky Salvani & Florie Mangahas.**



**L-R: DRS. Tessie Dionisio, Charita Daguca, Josephine Reyes, Tessie Manubay, Ofelia Ayuste, Emilita Ayos, Rebecca Salvani, Florie Mangahas.**



**Emerald class *Standing* L-R: DRS. Conrado Gonzalez, Jose Mapalad. Antonio Toledo, Alberto Clar, Pablo Dantes(facing sideways not 69er), Manuel Mangahas, Floro Porcuincola, Federico Jimenez, Ernesto Carampatan, Isabelo Castillo, Tito Yao, Renato Enriquez, Victor Cruz, Manuel Hugo, Florencio Neri. *Sitting* L-R: DRS. Teresita Dionisio, Rebecca Salvani, Josefina Reyes, Florinda Mangahas, Teresita Manubay, Charita Dagcuta, Ofelia Ayuste, Emilita Ayos.**



**Emerald Class '69 Medallion Ceremony and Showcase Presentation**





## GOLDEN CLASS' 74

### GRATITUDE: A REFLECTION

GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

by **LIGAYA V. MARASIGAN, M.D., FACOG, Class '74**

1974 was a sweet year, marking the end of our long journey through medical school. After years of hard work and countless late-night study sessions, we finally graduated. I have a special place in my heart for the pork and beans and kare-kare that my cousin would cook whenever I craved them. Then came residency, where we survived on unidentifiable yet surprisingly tasty hospital cafeteria food. And who could forget the sardines with a squeeze of calamansi? Those were to die for! Despite our lack of money, we always had good appetites. If memory serves me right, our batch achieved a 100% passing rate, with Guat Sy, MD, as our topnotcher. What a moment that was!

Some of us went on to train at FEU Hospital, while others pursued opportunities in the USA. I spent four years training in the OB-GYN Department at FEU, learning from magnificent attendings and co-residents. Fast forward to life in the USA, where I entered the residency program at Cook County Hospital, followed by three years of clinical fellowship in Ambulatory Obstetrics, Gynecologic Oncology, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Those three years felt incredibly long, especially after already completing four years of training at FEU. But looking back, they were crucial, particularly when I faced my oral examination to become a certified diplomate in Obstetrics and Gynecology. These challenges, though hard to understand at the time, turned out to be hidden blessings.

Following my mentor's advice, I stayed on as an attending at Cook County Hospital (now Stroger Hospital of Cook County), serving people from all parts of the world—often straight from O'Hare to the Emergency Room and then to labor and delivery. As a woman, a foreign graduate, and the only Filipina in the department, I had to quickly adapt, even learning idioms on the fly. I remember a patient saying, "*I need to puke,*" and me wondering what "*puke*" meant—until it was too late!

One morning, while scrubbing a case, I received a page from Kuya Cesar Reyes, asking me to speak at Navy Pier about women's health. That was my introduction to the Philippine Medical Association in Chicago and the Far Eastern University Medical Alumni Association in Northern Illinois. Thank God for Kuya Cesar! Friendships with other FEU alumni soon followed, and in 2006, Israel and I joined the mission group. Those mission years became significant parts of our lives. Beyond making new friends, we had the opportunity to serve our "*kababayan*" without expecting anything in return—a solemn privilege.

During my time as an attending at Stroger Hospital of Cook County, I was privileged to serve as the site director for residents from Northwestern Hospital and third-year medical students at the Cermak Correctional Center. I also served as the consulting OB-GYN attending for the Department of Justice at Cermak Correctional Service. Working with the 1,000 women at the start of my tenure taught me

valuable life lessons. I saw women share ramen noodle soup with joy and laughter, as if it were the best meal ever. After clinic hours at Cermak, my students and I would give lectures to groups of women in their “apartments,” each housing up to 38 individuals. Our goal was to prepare these patients for re-entry into the community. I did this for 14 years, and it was deeply rewarding. I remember receiving an email from a former student who was also working at a correctional center, and it made me realize the lasting impact of our work. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

We celebrated our 25th graduation anniversary in Atlantic City, NJ, surrounded by cherished memories, abundant food, and enlightening lectures. Now, in 2024, we are the Golden Jubilarians. The events in the Philippines at FEUNRMF were filled with lectures, dancing, fun, and bonding. Here in Chicago, nine of us from our group reunited, and despite our smaller numbers, the fun and laughter remained undiminished. Stiff joints didn’t stop us from putting together a dance. Thank you, my friends—we’re all game!

At this stage, we are all categorized as geriatrics, meaning 65 years old and above. Some of our friends are sick, and some have passed away. We remember our schoolmates and the lives we shared, learning from each other through tears and laughter. We lived harmoniously. Some planned to join us in Chicago for the 50th celebration, but due to physical and scheduling limitations, they sent their regards instead. Thankfully, technology has kept us connected and updated on each other’s lives through Zoom, Messenger, and Facebook.

In my conversations with fellow FEU graduates, I’ve noticed a heightened awareness of where we are in life. The thankfulness for being able to come together and celebrate is palpable. That’s why I chose to speak about Gratitude. Gratitude is defined as the “feeling of respect or affinity to objects other than self, either animate or inanimate, which are sources of happiness or benefit” (Academia Letters, article 4376). There are three aspects of Gratitude: “*gratitude itself*,” “*the results of gratitude*,” and “*the causes of gratitude*.”

Reflecting on the opening statement, “*Give thanks IN all circumstances*”—whether happy, sad, alone, or with friends—I encourage all of us to embrace this mindset. It’s not about giving thanks FOR all circumstances, but IN all circumstances. With all the experiences we’ve been through, whether painful, joyful, or sorrowful, let us be thankful. A grateful heart is rich in spirit, and that’s how we want to stay.

Until we meet again in five years for our Emerald Jubilee, I thank you for allowing me to write this article.

**Ligaya V. Marasigan, MD, FACOG,**

Associate Professor, OB-GYN, Chicago Medical School,  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science  
ligayavm@gmail.com



**Golden Class '74 Dance Presentation**

Third row - DRS. Ligaya Marasigan, Guat Sy, Jr., Second row - Victoria Ramos, Patricia Loot, Soledad Lee. First row - DRS. Victoria Sanchez, Mildred Rey, Erlinda Seli.



**Golden Class '74 Medallion Ceremony**

L-R: DRS. Soledad Lee, Patricia Loot, Ligaya Marasigan, Victoria Ramos, Mildred Rey, Victoria Sanchez, Erlinda Seli, Guat Sy, Jr., Board Chairman Manuel Malicay, President Nida Blankas-Hernaez & Dean Rey Delos Reyes.



L-R: DRS. Guat Sy, Jr, Mildred Rey, Soledad Lee, Patricia Loot, Ligaya Marasigan, Victoria Sanchez, Victoria Ramos, Erlinda Seli

Dr. Soledad Lee

## SAPPHIRE CLASS '79



L-R: Edgar Altares MD, Evelyn Sudaria Altares MD & Cynthia Asuncion Cabalfin



Cynthia Asuncion Cabalfin MD & Evelyn Sudaria Altares MD



Cynthia Asuncion Cabalfin MD & Edgar Altares MD



## Medallion Ceremony

L-R: DRS. Edgar Altares, Evelyn Sudaria Altares, Cynthia Asuncion Cabalfin, President Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Chairman Manuel Malicay & Dean Rey de los Reyes.



## RUBY CLASS '84:

*Celebrating with our Most Distinguished Attendees*

### ENERGETIC Ruby Jubilarian CLASS OF 1984

June 26-June 29, 2024, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

by **CRESENCIA DELEON BANZUELA, MD, Class '84**

Our Class Batch 1984, with or without attached partners, acknowledges the significant contributions of our batch partners, their selfless efforts, and their vital roles in this reunion.

1. **Laureano Agbisit Jr., MD** - Zelle transfer manager of check payments to the alumni account, transporter driver, tech guru and hydration (H2O) in charge. Our skin remains moist and supple, never dehydrated. Part of the Chicago host team.
2. **Ramon Alava, MD, with gracious wife Hilda** – Motivational speaker, keeping our spirits up and reinforcing our belief that we made the right choice in attending this reunion. They came all the way from the Philippines.
3. **Herminigildo Angeles, MD** – Internist and Geriatrician extraordinaire from the San Francisco area. One of our laughter and joke producers. Stay by his side if you're feeling blue.



4. **Ramona Antonio Mara, MD** – ALF specialist from Florida. She ensured that supplies of pencils and paper were distributed during the CME. Always at reunions courtesy of free flights American Airlines. Her ALF residents adore her.
5. **Candido Africa III, MD** – Distinguished Health Officer from Pennsylvania, avid wildlife hunter, bonsai cultivator, and another laughter producer during the bus ride and dance performer galore.
6. **Maria Teresa Avelino Shioda, MD** – Fashionista and our Grand Choreographer. She never missed a step, except once. A Vegas girl, classy, beauty queen material, part of the rich and famous.
7. **Cresencia De Leon Banzuela, MD** – A happy pediatrician from Corona, CA, self-proclaimed content writer of Batch 84 FB Messenger group chat. Quiet with witty brain synapses.
8. **Marita Y. Banzuela, MD** – A well-loved Internist by the State Correctional Hospital inmates from Corona, CA. She is the female lead laughter producer and assistant cash collection officer.
9. **Abraham Bayan, MD, and wife Boots** – A General Military Health Officer from the Republic of the Philippines. Giver of pasalubong tote bags and earrings, an accomplished doctor, silent but sharp.
10. **Nida Blankas Hernaez, MD, with husband Ed Hernaez, MD** – Current President of the FEUDNRS Medical Alumni Foundation, CME & Ectopic Murmur Chairman, PMAC CME Chairman (Past President), and PIWC Overall Chairman-elect, accomplished pediatrician and hospitalist with 29 years, having worked at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago and Advocate Children's Hospital in Park Ridge. A dedicated humanitarian, multi-awardee, fashionista, and the 2019 FEUDNRSMAF Most Outstanding Alumnus—she truly has it all!
11. **Jose Benigno Jr., MD, and wife Gigi** – A well-known physician in the big Lone Star State of Texas. Always present at our reunions, a hesitant but passable dancer, and a real trooper. Always a joy to be around.
12. **Taciano Bantatua Jr., MD, and wife Marita** – An exceptional physician from Australia, loved by his Aussie patients. He is a real mate to us, always present at most reunions. Living life at its best.
13. **Aida Bonoan Tamargo, MD** – Another Aussie physician extraordinaire. Lucky Australians to have her. She enlightened us with her romantic love story with her husband, John Tamargo, MD. Embracer of life enjoyment and a Mount Kilimanjaro climber.
14. **Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit, MD** – Our Chief Nourishment Officer, providing healthy foods like sweet, juicy cherries full of antioxidants for our bowel health, and lots of chips. Together with her husband, Dr. Agbisit, they are the tandem team that helped make this reunion flavorful and never hungry. Part of the Chicago host team. She is the apple of Dr Agbisit eyes.
15. **Erlinda Barcelona Yeh, MD, and husband David** – Representing North Carolina, her medical knowledge benefits Carolina residents. She is the calm that balanced our rowdy reunion participants, very feminine, cool, collected. Great time with David
16. **Jose Tirol Cocjin, MD** – An accomplished physician from Kansas City, our Chief Navigator as we walked around the Great Arch in Saint Louis, Missouri—never got lost. A revelation as a first-time reunion participant, a funny narrator, and another laughter producer. A far different persona from med school, so much better. Happy with our bonding time.
17. **Estela Cabigas Cabatu, MD, with her lawyer husband Arnel and son** – Our very famous OB-GYNE from the Ilocos region, a big-timer, very compassionate to patients, everyone knows her, even a stray dog knows the way to her clinic. Great bonding with her family. She accepts a bunch of onions as a fee during shortage .
18. **Cora Co Thien, MD, and husband Richard, MD** – Our youngest classmates. Cora practiced Family Med in Virginia and Los Angeles while Richard is an anesthesiologist of USAF. After 3 kids , she entered med school,

super focused and serious She is the great provider of costume props during dance and karaoke, never a dull moment with them. Both now retired in Los Altos CA

19. **Froilan De Castro, MD** – The greatest internist who occupied Gen San City, more benevolent than Pacman. Another famous internist, even the cat knows the way to his clinic. Another first-time reunion participant, he liked it, based on the profuse thanks he posted. Also our dancer extraordinaire, great bonding time.

20. **Methusa Mejia Serquina, MD, and husband Noe** – Pediatrician galore from the sizzling Palm Springs, CA. Always a regular at most reunions, lucky for us since Noe never missed photo action shots of our fun times. Noe created a video for our Batch 84. They are both troopers, helpful, travel-loving, a cooking-enthusiast couple.

21. **Franklin Montellano, MD, and wife Nette** – Semi-retired, working as a locum pathologist at Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital in Geneva, IL, and Texas Tech in El Paso, TX. Served as a pathologist at Tempus AI, consultant at GLG Consulting, and Medical Director at Delnor Hospital, where he also chaired Pathology and Radiation Oncology. Past president of the Philippine Medical Association in Chicago and the FEU Medical Alumni Association in Northern Illinois, leading several medical missions during his tenure.

22. **Evangeline Mendoza Roque, MD, and husband Jun** – Couples from New Jersey and Isabela, with their vast land holdings in Isabela. Eva is our Assistant Choreographer for our dance number, also a regular at most reunions. Jun is also our photo director, always a blessing that they are part of our batch.

23. **Delia Maceda, MD, with her 2 gorgeous daughters and sister** – Our Integrative Medicine expert, a beautiful presence in all our reunions. Dancing Queen, karaoke singer, and owner of a successful medical business empire.

24. **Beth Micael Atienza, MD, and husband** – She is an expert in the medical field in Northern CA. They provided the hotel suite for our dance practice. This couple is a real giver of their space, drinks, and food. Beth is the calm and collected team, balancing the super-excited Batch 84. Her husband was also the photo director of our reunion. Quiet but loaded pair.

25. **Nestor Hilvano, MD, and wife anesthesiologist Ayesa, MD** – Nestor is a respected Full Professor Emeritus of Medical Health Science at the University of Cincinnati, always had the gift of an educator even while still in FEU NRMF. He is good at his craft, strict with students but gentle on their grades. Ayesa is a practicing anesthesiologist in Cincinnati. Respectable couple, good at dancing and laughing at our jokes.

26. **Maria Assunta Gioconda Oca – Rubinstein, MD** – An accomplished internist in the New York area. Never left out at most of our reunions, an ankle sprain was not going to stop her. Still part of our dance performance and all the after-dinner parties, moving her arms only to every music beat. She is our religious connection to God above, with a sister and brother praying for us all.

27. **Manolito Reyes, MD** – A well-regarded ophthalmologist in Manila, UCLA subspecialist trained, and part of the CME speakers at this reunion. Very involved with FEUNRMF alumni events, well-respected in his field. An ever-constant presence at all reunions and wake visitations. He is the ophthalmologist for most relatives of Batch 84 classmates.

28. **Efren Rodriguez, MD** – An accomplished Pediatrician in Orange County, Anaheim, CA. He presided over the morning Q&A during the CME meet—job well done. Very professional, well-loved, active with our reunions, and an embracer of life enjoyment.

29. **Cyrela Ramirez Fermin, MD, with husband Butch** – A dedicated Pediatrician in Alexandria, Virginia. The couple enjoys what life has to offer—dancers, performers, life of the party. Also seldom missed our reunions.

30. **Elmarie Simangan Saban, MD, and husband Mario** – A very successful Pediatrician practicing in Fernandina Beach and Jacksonville, Florida, the only one in the area, well-respected and famous—even the alligators know the way to her clinic. She is a respected member of Hyatt Elite customers, and a lounge was reserved for us Batch 84. We call her Doña Elmarie aptly, deserving of it all. A constant reunion participant, just hang out with her and you never have to reach for your wallet.

31. **John Tamargo, MD** – The better half of Aida, all the way from Australia. Respected practicing physician, surprisingly lots of fun, very chatty, and generous with providing Panda Express dinner for us all. He won the heart of Aida through the game of Pusoy with all their other MD colleagues. We are happy he joined us this time, his first reunion. Climbed Mt Kilimanjaro too

32. **Jocelyn Tejada Guerrero, MD, with husband Raul Guerrero, MD Batch '83** – A generous, selfless couple. Also, part of the Chicago host team, provided all the logistics, and transportation, kept track of the treasury, the whole kit, and caboodle. The couple is part of the great provider couples, never blink an eye at contributing financially, most gracious, down to earth, and we are lucky to have them. Raul is a respected internist in Chicago.

33. **Herminigildo Valle, MD** – Former FEUNRMF Alumni President, San Francisco Chapter, former DOH Undersecretary, and very generous with his humanitarian efforts. A well-known community socialite in the San Francisco Bay area. An expert in his craft, sought-after speaker, and loyal Batch 84 friend. A presence in every reunion, fundraiser, and fun-raiser events of FEUNRMF Alumni. Most Outstanding Alumnus, Silver Jubilarian, FEUDNRSMAF.

34. **Florence Wandisan Rosete, MD, and husband Rollie Rosete, MD** – Both practicing Internists in Tracy, CA, healers of adult patients while doing cosmetic science on the side, win-win for both. A power couple, no outage, marathon runners, and the pair you want to hang out with if you LIKE to trek/hike. Always a great presence in every reunion, fun and funnier.

35. **Zoraya Zuniga, MD** – A practicing Family Practitioner in the Northern CA area. A famous singer at every event, classy lady, joyful, a great dancer, a laughter producer, just stay beside her and enjoy the time. She seldom misses our reunion.

This is just a glimpse of the incredible talents and camaraderie that made our Chicago reunion unforgettable. Our batch members' expertise and joy are scattered across the globe, but when we come together, the love and laughter are unparalleled.

### **Event Highlights:**

The reunion kicked off with a warm welcome dinner hosted by our beloved President, Nida Blankas Hernaez, and her family. The sumptuous food, beautiful lakeside setting, and lively conversations set the tone for the days ahead.



Front: Drs. Estela Cabigas Cabatu, Maria Teresa Avelino Shioda. 2nd Row L-R: Drs. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit, Erlinda Barcelona Yeh, Mrs. Hilda Alava. 3rd row L-R: Drs. Delia Maceda, Evangeline Mendoza Roque, Richard & Cora Co Thien, Mrs. Nanette Montellano, Drs. Abraham Bayan & Ramon Alava. Last row L-R: Drs. Jose Benigno Jr, Manolito Reyes, Froilan de Castro, Laureano Agbisit & Mr. Jun Mendoza.



Sitting front: DRS. Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit & Abraham Bayan. Standing 1st row L-R: Elmarie Simangan Saban, Evangeline Mendoza Roque, Cora Co Thien, Estela Cabigas Cabatu, Delia Maceda, Mrs. Nanette Montellano, Drs. Erlinda Barcelona Yeh. Standing 2nd row L-R: DRS. Candido Africa III, Manolito Reyes, Froilan de Castro, Jose Benigno Jr, Franklin Montellano, Efren Rodriguez, Ramon Alava, Laureano Agbisit, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Maria Teresa Avelino Shioda, Maria Assunta Gioconda Oca – Rubinstein, Jocelyn Tejada Guerrero.

Day 2 was filled with exploration, starting with a scenic boat tour showcasing Chicago's architectural marvels, followed by visits to Millennium Park, The Bean, and Navy Pier.



The Hawaiian-themed dinner that evening was a festive affair, with vibrant outfits, delicious pancit, and mesmerizing hula performances.



**Sitting L-R:** DRS. Estela Cabigas Cabatu, Elmarie Simangan Saban, Crescencia De Leon Banzuela, Marita Y. Banzuela, Evangeline Mendoza Roque, Aida Bonoan Tamargo. **Standing L-R:** Mrs. Hilda Alava, DRS. Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit, Methusa Mejia Serquina, Ramon Alava, Erlinda Barcelona Yeh, Laureano Agbisit, Cora Co Thien, Zoraya Zuniga, Ramona Antonio Mara, Candido Africa III, Beth Micael Atienza, Herminigildo Angeles, Delia Maceda, Efren Rodriguez, Nestor Hilvano, John Tamargo, Jose Benigno Jr.

The CME on Day 3 was a well-attended event, featuring expert speakers, including our very own Dr. Manolito Reyes. Not to mention, Dr. Efren Rodriguez as the CME Moderator.



**Sitting L-R:** Drs. Dean Rey de los Reyes, Franklin Montellano, Herminigildo Angeles, Elmarie Simangan Saban & Jose Benigno Jr. **Standing L-R:** Drs. Nida Blankas-Hernaez (President/CME Chairman), Crescencia De Leon Banzuela, Efren Rodriguez (CME Moderator), Manolito Reyes (CME Speaker), Herminigildo Valle (Past Undersecretary of Health), Hon. Secretary of Health Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, Jocelyn Tejada Guerrero, Zoraya Zuniga, Ramona Antonio Mara, Cyrela Ramirez Fermin, Aida Bonoan Tamargo & John Tamargo.

The Filipiniana Night that followed was the crown jewel of the reunion, with medallions, Rigodon dances, and a stunning array of traditional attire.



**Singing the National Anthem:** L-R: Drs. Erlinda Barcelona Yeh, Taciano Bantatua Jr, Jose Benigno Jr, Abraham Bayan & Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit.



### **RUBY CLASS '84 GRAND PARADE**

L-R: DRS. Candido Africa III, Laureano Agbisit, Ramon Alava, Herminigildo Angeles, Maria Teresa Avelino Shioda, Ramona Antonio Mara, Erlinda Barcelona Yeh, Taciano Bantatua Jr, Jose Benigno Jr, Abraham Bayan & Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit, Aida Bonoa Tamargo, Estela Cabigas Cabatu, Jose Tirol Cocjin, Froilan De Castro, Crescencia De Leon Banzuela & Nestor Silvano & Delia Maceda.



### **RUBY CLASS '84 MEDALLION CEREMONY**

Standing L-R: Drs. Zoraya Zuniga, Crescencia De Leon Banzuela, Methusa Mejia Serquina, Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit, Maria Teresa Avelino Shioda, Jocelyn Tejada Guerrero, Marita Banzuela, Cora Co Thein, Evangeline Mendoza Roque, Ramona Antonio Mara, Nida Blankas-Hernaes, Estela Cabigas Cabatu, Dean Rey de los Reyes, Chairman of the board Manuel Malicay, Aida Bonoan Tamargo, John Tamargo, Delia Maceda, Beth Micael Atienza, Erlinda Barcelona Yeh, Cyrela Ramirez Fermin, Maria Assunta Gioconda Oca – Rubinstein, Florence Wandisan Rosete & Elmarie Simangan Saban. Sitting L-R: Drs. Efren Rodriguez, Laureano Agbisit, Franklin Montellano, Froilan De Castro, Herminigildo Angeles, Abraham Bayan, Herminigildo Valle, Nestor Hilvano, Candido Africa III, Ramon Alava, Manolito Reyes, Jose Tirol Cocjin, Jose Benigno Jr & Taciano Bantatua Jr.



**RUBY Class '84 Dance Showcase: "Mileys Flowers Line Dance"**



Day 4 took us on a memorable journey to The Great Arch in Missouri, with a bus ride filled with laughter, stories, and spontaneous performances. The day ended with a cozy dinner at the Hyatt lounge, filled with heartfelt conversations and shared memories.



Sunday Brunch sponsored by Mr & Mrs. Fernando & Margaret Ereneta, arranged by Dr. Franklin Montellano.

Day 5 began with a mass graced by Dr. Giaconda Oca-Rubinstein, followed by a delightful brunch and a fun-filled karaoke session at 2 Pigs, where the laughter, singing, and dancing continued unabated.



L-R: DRS. Cora Co Thein, Zoraya Zuniga, Marita Banzuela, Cyrelda Ramirez Fermin, Mrs. Nanette Montellano, Drs. Maria Teresa Avelino Shioda, Florence Wandisan Rosete, Maria Assunta Gioconda Oca – Rubinstein, Aida Boboan Tamargo, Restituta Bumanglag Agbisit, Cresencia De Leon Banzuela, Jocelyn Tejada Guerrero, Nida Blankas-Hernaez & Elmarie Simangan Saban.

As we bid farewell, the memories of this reunion linger in our hearts. We look forward to an even grander gathering in January 2025.

See you all!

**Dr. Cresencia DeLeon Banzuela**



## CORAL CLASS '89: Simply the Best

Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence

by **LARRY RABANG, M.D. , Class '89**  
Vice-President- FEUDNRSMAF

The Class of '89 emerged from the turbulent times of the 1980s, witnessing the pivotal change in government during the People Power EDSA Revolution. Our resilience has led us to individual success, with members now thriving across the globe.

This year marks our Coral celebration—35 years of excellence—where, like fine wine, we've become more seasoned and experienced. We gathered in Rosemont, Illinois, for a memorable three-day celebration, with classmates coming from all over the United States and Canada.

Our festivities began with a Walkathon along the Des Plaines Trail, promoting health and raising funds for scholarships. Afterward, we enjoyed lunch at Max Restaurant in Chicago. The afternoon was spent practicing our dance presentation at the hotel, followed by a fun-filled batch night with karaoke at Two Pigs Karaoke in Des Plaines, IL.

On the second day, we attended a scientific seminar during the day, culminating in a vibrant Filipiniana night where we performed our dance and accepted plaques in recognition of our achievements.

The third day began with my attendance at the Board of Trustees meeting, while the rest of the group explored downtown Chicago. They enjoyed the city's many attractions, including the Architectural River Tour, a visit to "The Bean," and lunch at MingHin.

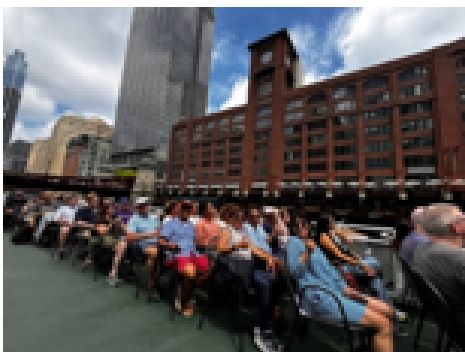
**Batch '89 remains committed to maintaining our excellence and continuing our dedication to our Alma Mater, FEU.**

### **Coral Celebrants:**

1. Donna Marie Abarcar-Estari-Ontario, Canada
2. Maria Azylea Alcosoba -Plano, TX
3. Cheryl Ann Arjonillo-Canto- Port Huron, MI
4. Joel Cheong -Muskogee, OK
5. Cecilia Concepcion -Santa Fe, NM
6. Alejandro Dizon - Jacksonville, FL
7. Liberty Dizon -Jacksonville, FL
8. Rowena Dotig-de Perio - Buffalo, NY
9. Roeliza Ebbah-Pascual -San Jose ,CA
10. Leonardo Fugoso - Eau Claire , WI
11. Mamerto Gapultos - Henderson, NV
12. Angel Layugan - St. Louis, MO
13. Maria Ofelia Manue-Enriquez -Janesville, WI
14. Larry Rabang - West Des Moines, IA
15. Zoraida Reynoso-Soriano -Roseville, CA
16. Angelito Sajor - St. Paul, MN
17. Wilhelmina Santiago - Vancouver, WA
18. Maria Bet Santos-Montemayor - Arcadia, CA
19. Julie Sim - Fredericksburg, VA
20. Marianne Yu-Du - Plano ,TX

## CORAL CLASS '89 MEDALLION CEREMONY





**Celebrating 35 Years of Excellence**

# WALKATHON for SCHOLARSHIP

by **LARRY RABANG, M.D., Class '89**

Vice-President: FEUDNRSMAF, Walkathon organizer

The inaugural FEU scholarship walk along the scenic Des Plaines Trail near the Hyatt Regency O'Hare on June 27, 2024, was a fantastic start. Funds were raised through registration fees, vibrant shirt sales, and generous donations. It was the perfect way to kick off the reunion—staying fit while soaking in the beauty of the trail. Next year, we're turning up the excitement in Las Vegas with fundraising pickleball and golf tournaments!



**L-R: Mr. Ferdie Angeles, Dr. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Dr. Leslie Farolan, Dr. Larry Rabang(VP), Dr. Cheryl Arjonillo Canto & Dr. Emmanuel Canto.**



**Step by Step, together we make a difference!!!**

# HAWAIIAN WELCOME NIGHT

*An evening of camaraderie where Aloha fills the air!*



**Diamond Jubilarians '64: L-R: DRS. Bert Velez, Norma Pasia, Billy Pasia, Cora Velez, Mrs. Lilia Cortes, Engracio Cortes, Mrs. Leo Sicat, Leo Sicat, Vic Singson, Mrs. Vic Singson, Cora Mendoza, Martin Mendoza, Manolita Panos Balassa.**



**Sitting L-R: DRS. Ed Relucio, Vic Singson, Norma Pasia, Billy Pasia.  
Standing L-R: Mrs. Marizon Relucio, Cora Velez, Bert Velez, Cora Mendoza, Mrs. Leo Sicat, Leo Sicat, Mrs. Vic Singson, Martin Mendoza,- -, Manolita Panos Balassa, -**



Hawaiian Dance by  
Leilanie Mon MD.



L-R: DRS. Cora Co Thein, Cyrelida Fermin, Lin Rupley, Leilanie Mon,  
Ligaya Marasigan (EMCEE), Leslie Farolan, Grace Averilla-Obena.



## Dancing the Hawaiian!



**1st row L-R: DRS. Rosemary Aquiler, Dave Villanueva, Manuel Malicay, Lourdes Malicay.  
2nd row: L-R: DRS. Evelyn Altares, Grace Averilla-Obena, & Leslie Farolan.**



**L-R: Drs. —, —, —, —, Leilanie Mon, Cyrela Ramirez Fermin, Grace Averilla-Obena, Leslie Farolan, Ligaya Marasigan, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles. Back: Mr. Nelson Obena, Dr. Richard Mon and Mr. Ferdie Angeles.**





**Sitting L-R: DRS. Farida Chua, Philip Chua, Hon. Sec of Health Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, Dr. Grace Herbosa, Dr. Lourdes Malicay. Standing L-R: DRS. Israel Labao, Virgilio Jonson, Herminigildo Valle, Manuel Malicay, Ligaya Marasigan-Labao.**



**Standing L-R: DRS. Leslie Farolan, Remedios Sales, Pascual Sales, Virgilio Jonson, and guests. Sitting L-R: DRS. Emy Talag, Dr. Malou De Leon, guest, Dr. Ted Tolentino, Ernie Lardizabal & Mrs. Norma Lardizabal.**



**L-R: Mr. Butch Fermin, Dr. Cyrelida Fermin, Dr. Lin Rupley, at her back-Dr. John Heil, Grace Pamela and partner, Dr. Evelyn Altares, Dr. Edgar Altares & Dr. Vincent Santangelo.**

# FILIPINIANA GALA

*Honoring our Jubilarians with Elegance, Tradition & Filipino Pride*

## The PROGRAM

**FEUDNRSMAF 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion  
Filipiniana Gala Program**  
June 28, 2024 (Friday) at 6 PM (Rosemont Ballroom)  
Honoring Sapphire Class '79, Ruby Class '84, Coral Class '89, Pearl Class '94, Class '2004, Class '2009 & Class '2014

**Grand Entrance:** Sapphire Class '79, Ruby Class '84, Coral Class '89, Pearl Class '94 Class '2004, Class '2009 & Class '2014

**National Anthems and FEU Hymn:** FEUMALANI led by Manuel Sanchez, M.D. '68

**Invocation:** Virgilio Jonson, M.D. '65  
Convention Vice-Chairman

**Welcome Remarks:** Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D. '84, FAAP  
President, FEUDNRSMAF, Overall Convention Chairman

**Short Messages:** Manuel A. Malicay, M.D. '72, FACP, FAHA  
Chairman of the Board, FEUDNRSMAF  
Rey de los Reyes, M.D. '78  
Dean, FEUNRMF-DM

**Induction of Officers Ceremony:** Rey de los Reyes, M.D.  
Inducting Officer

**Dinner** **Dance** **Entertainment**

**"Rigodon de Honor" Led by Drs. Manuel & Lourdes Malicay & Drs. Edward & Nida Hernaez.**  
Mr. Nelson & Dr. Grace Averilla-Obena, Dr. Larry Rabang & Dr. Phoebe Tim, Mr. Ferdie & Dr. Rosemary Aquilar-Angelot, Drs. Richard and Lelande Mon, Dr. Jay Magallan & Marilyn Lopez, Dr. Virgilio & Mrs. Lina Jonson, Drs. Aladin & Evelyn Mariano, Drs. Miguel & Leslie Farolan, Drs. Terod & Ligaya Manalang-Lalao, Drs. Pascual & Remedios Salic, Mr. Eduardo & Dr. Cynthia Realis, Dr. Manuel & Mrs. Cinlita Sanchez, Mr. Pol Dagosta & Dr. Charita Dagosta, Dr. Candido Africa III & Dr. Elmarie Simangin, Sabina. Choreographed by Norma Mananil

**Clarinet & Violin Rendition:** Eusevendo Yango, M.D., MPH & Natalie Fogata, M.D.

**Medallion Ceremony & Showcase Presentation:** Sapphire Class '79, Ruby Class '84, Coral Class '89, Pearl Class '94 Class '2004, Class '2009 & Class '2014. Announcers: Grace Averilla-Obena, M.D. '85 & Richard Mon, M.D. '70  
Presenters: Manuel Malicay, M.D., Dean Rey de los Reyes, M.D., And Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D.

**Closing Remarks:** Noemi Fogata, M.D. '69  
Convention Chairman, FEUMALANI President

**Dance** **Dance**

**Master of Ceremonies:** Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, M.D. '72 & Philip S. Chua, M.D. '61  
Music by: Muzik Engine

Step into the Filipino spotlight at our Jubilarian Gala

## GRAND PARADE



### Carrying the Philippine Flag

Grand Parade led by Virgilio Jonson MD, Convention Co-Chairman.



### Carrying the FEUDNRSMAF Banner

L-R: President Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD, Board Chairman Manuel Malicay MD, Dean Rey de los Reyes MD & Grace Averilla-Obena MD-Exec VP and Director.

## Parade of the Board of Trustees



**DRS. Rosemary Aquiler-Secretary & Larry Rabang-Vice President. Followed by BOT Renato Ramos (Emeritus) & Daisy Ramos.**



**DRS. Vincent Santangelo & Grace Rabadam, Pedro Florescio Jr (Past-Chairman) & Guadalupe Florescio, Felipe Ambas & Milagros Ambas, Philip Chua (Emeritus), Eugene Siruno, Richard Mon, Guat Sy Jr, Dionisia Sy & Wilson Morales (hidden).**

## PARADE OF THE CELEBRATING JUBILARIANS

### SAPPHIRE CLASS '79



**The Sapphire '79 led by DRS. Evelyn Sudaria Altares MD & Cynthia Asuncion Cabalfin & followed by Dr. Edgar Altares.**

### RUBY CLASS '84



**The Ruby '84 led by Drs. Candido Africa III, Laureano Agbisit. Ramon Alava, & Herminigildo Angeles.**



# THE RUBY CLASS '84



## THE CORAL CLASS '89





**The Ruby, Coral & Sapphire Jubilarians**



## Singing the National Anthems



Manuel Sanchez MD led the Philippine National Anthem.



FEU Banner with the BOT



## Singing the FEU HYMN



## Sitting at the Head Table



**Manuel Malicay MD**  
Chairman of the Board



**Lourdes Malicay MD**



**Philip Chua MD**  
BOT Emeritus



**Farida Chua MD**



**Rey de los Reyes MD**  
Dean, FEU-NRMF IM



**Edward Hernaez MD**



**Grace Averilla-Obena MD**  
VP/Executive Director



**Rosemary Aquiler MD**  
Secretary





**Mr. Ferdie Angeles**



**Virgilio Jonson MD:  
Convention Co-Chairman**



**Mrs. Lina Jonson**



**Richard Mon MD  
Treasurer**



**Leilanie Mon MD-EMCEE**



**Philip Chua MD-EMCEE**



**Virgilio Jonson MD- The Invocation**

*Words that Inspire, Moments that Unite, and a Future illuminated by shared Dreams!*



**President Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD  
Welcome Address**



**Board Chairman Manuel Malicay MD  
Chairman's Message**



**Dean Rey delos Reyes MD  
Dean's Message**

# INDUCTION OF BOT OFFICERS

by Dean Rey delos Reyes MD

*With honor & commitment, we pledge to lead with integrity, serve with compassion,  
and inspire with vision....*



**L-R: Vincent Santangelo MD, Eugene Siruno MD, Grace Rabadam MD, Felipe Ambas MD, Pedro Florescio Jr MD (Past Board Chairman), Larry Rabang MD-Vice President, Manuel Malicay MD- Board Chairman, Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD-President, Grace Averilla-Obena MD-VP/Executive Director, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles-Secretary, Richard Mon MD-Treasurer, Dionisia Sy MD, Guat Sy Jr MD, Virgilio Jonson MD, & Edgar Altares MD. Dean Rey de los Reyes-inducting officer.**



**L-R: Vincent Santangelo MD, Eugene Siruno MD, Grace Rabadam MD, Felipe Ambas MD, Pedro Florescio Jr MD (Past Board Chairman), Larry Rabang MD-Vice President, Manuel Malicay MD- Board Chairman, Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD-President, Grace Averilla-Obena MD-VP/Executive Director, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles-Secretary, Richard Mon MD-Treasurer, Dionisia Sy MD, Guat Sy Jr MD, Virgilio Jonson MD, & Edgar Altares MD.**

# Rigodon de Honor

led by Board Chairman Manuel Malicay MD & President Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD





**L-R: Leilanie Mon MD, Richard Mon MD, Mrs. Lina Jonson, Virgilio Jonson MD, Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD, Edward Hernaez MD, Phoebe Tan MD & Larry Rabang MD**



**L-R: Charita Dacguta MD, Pol Dacguta, Ophelia Rallos MD, Mr Ed Rallos, Rallos, Ligaya Marasigan MD, Israel Labao MD Leslie Farolan MD & Miguel Farolan MD.**



**L-R: Elmarie Simangan Saban MD, Candido Africa III MD, Mrs. Carlota Sanchez, Manuel Sanchez MD, Remedios Sales MD, Pascual Sales MD, Evelyn Mariano MD & Aladdin Mariano MD.**



**L-R: Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles MD, Mr. Ferdie Angeles, Lourdes Malicay MD, Manuel Malicay MD, Grave Averilla-Obena MD & Mr. Nelson Obena. Not in picture: Mrs. Marylyn Lopez & Jose Mapalad MD.**



**Mrs. Marylyn Lopez & Jose Mapalad MD.**



**Elmarie Simangan Saban MD & Candido Africa III MD**



**Charita Dacguta MD & Pal Dacguta**



**Manuel Sanchez MD & Mrs Carlota Sanchez**



**Richard Mon MD & Leilanie Mon MD**

*“Rigodon de Honor”: a timeless celebration of tradition, elegance and harmony.*



**Ligaya Marasigan MD & Israel Lababo MD**



**Ophelia Rallos MD & Mr. Eduardo Rallo**



**Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles MD & Mr. Ferdie Angeles**



**Mrs. Lina Jonson & Virgilio Jonson MD**

**The ENTERTAINERS**



**Bienvenido Yangco MD on the Clarinet**



**Natalie Fogata MD on the Violin**



**Jelly Ann Barimbao, Miss Philippines 2025 PIWC performing a cultural dance**

**THE FIRST MEDALLION CEREMONY on the Filipiniana Gala**  
*Honoring Heritage, celebrating excellence*



**Announcers: Grace Averilla-Obena MD & Richard Mon MD**



**Herminigildo Valle MD & Herminigildo Angeles MD received the Ruby Medallion from the Chairman, Dean & President.**

**Medallion Walk in Style .....**



**Standing Ovation: Celebrating a Platinum year of Excellence  
Pedro Nartatez MD Class '57**



**SAPPHIRE CLASS '79 Medallion Ceremony**



**RUBY CLASS '84 MEDALLION CEREMONY**



**CORAL CLASS '89 MEDALLION CEREMONY**





**SHOWCASE JUBILARIAN PRESENTATION**



**THE RUBY CLASS '84 DANCE SHOWCASE....*Full of Energy***





**THE CORAL CLASS '89 DANCE SHOWCASE Below**





**An exuberant Jubilee Celebration....**



**A Night of Dance and Delight....**



**CELEBRATION IN FULL SWING!**

More Pictures.....



Capture the Spirit of MABUHAY:  
*Joy, Unity & Filipino Pride in Every Frame*



**MABUHAY ang FEUDNRSMAF!!!**









# GRAND BALL

*Celebrating Timeless Traditions and Creating Unforgettable Memories Together*



## FEUDNRSMAF 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion Grand Ball Program

June 29, 2024 (Saturday) at 5:30 PM (Rosemont Ballroom)

Honoring Diamond Class '64, Emerald Class '69, Golden Class '74, Silver Class '99

<b>Grand Entrance:</b>	Diamond Class '64, Emerald Class '69, Golden Class '74, Silver Class '99	
<b>National Anthems &amp; FEU Hymn:</b>	Mannuel Sanchez, M.D. '68 & FEUMAANT	
<b>Invocation:</b>	Virgilio Jonson, M.D. '65, <i>BOI, Vice-Chairman, Convention</i>	
<b>Welcome Address:</b>	Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D. '84, FAAP <i>President FEUDNRSMAF, Overall Convention Chairman</i>	
<b>Short Messages:</b>	Mannuel A. Malicay, M.D. '72, FACP, FAHA <i>Chairman of the Board, FEUDNRSMAF</i> Rey de los Reyes, M.D. '78 <i>Dean, FEUNRMF-MI</i>	
<b>Introduction of the Guest Speaker</b>	Grace Averilla-Obena, M.D. <i>Executive Vice President, FEUDNRSMAF</i>	
<b>Consular Message:</b>	Hon. Consul General J. Susana V. Paez <i>Consul General of Illinois</i>	
<b>Awards Ceremony:</b>	Daisy Ramos, M.D. '62 <i>Awards Chairman</i>	
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dance</b>	<b>Entertainment</b>
Dance Medley "Only You"		Melinda Sibulo-Tolentino, M.D. '73 & Gregorio Tolentino, M.D.
<b>Medallion Ceremony &amp; Showcase Presentation:</b>		
Diamond Class '64, Emerald Class '69, Golden Class '74, Silver Class '99		
Announcers: Rose Aquilar-Angeles, M.D. '86 & Larry Rabang, M.D. '89		
Presenters: Hon. Consul General J. Susan V. Paez, Mannuel Malicay, M.D., Rey de los Reyes, M.D., Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D.		
<b>Closing Remarks:</b>	Noemi Fogata, M.D. '69 <i>Convention Chairman, President FEUMAANT</i>	
<b>Dance</b>	<b>Raffle Tickets</b>	
<b>Master of Ceremonies: Remedios Sales, M.D. '65 &amp; Aladin Mariano, M.D. '72</b> <i>Music by: Musik Engine</i>		

Enjoy an enchanting evening of elegance!



### **Grand Parade ... Marching in Honor & Pride**

**Led by Pedro Florescio Jr MD (Past Board Chairman) & Larry Rabang MD (Vice President)  
Followed by Board Chairman Manuel Malicay MD, Dean Rey delos Reyes MD,  
President Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD and the rest of the Board of Trustees.**





**THE BOARD of TRUSTEES**

# THE CELEBRATING JUBILARIANS GRAND PARADE

*Parade of Distinction and Joy*



**Platinum Class '57**  
Pedro Nartatez MD



**Diamond Class '64**



**FABULOUS DIAMOND CLASS '64**

**Emerald Class '69**



**Golden Class '74**



**Singing National Anthems & FEU Song**



**Manuel Sanchez MD led the National Anthems and FEU Song**





**Our Beloved FEU HYMN... *Far Eastern Onward***

*Words that Inspire, Moments that Unite, and a Future illuminated by shared Dreams!*



**Virgilio Jonson MD**  
Invocation



**Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD**  
President Welcome Address



**Manuel Malicay MD**  
Chairman's Message



**Dean Rey delos Reyes MD**  
Dean's Message



**Grace Averilla-Obena MD**  
Guest speaker Introduction



**Consul Melvin Almonguera**  
Guest Speaker



**Noemi Fogata MD:**  
Closing Remarks



**Remedios Sales MD**  
EMCEE



**Aladin Mariano MD**  
EMCEE

## ENTERTAINERS



**Vocal Solo by Mr. Eric Carampatan,**  
son of Ernesto Carampatan MD,  
Emerald '69



**Dance Performance by**  
Gregorio Tolentino MD &  
Melinda Sibulo Tolentino MD



**Medallion Ceremony Announcers:**  
Sec. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles MD  
& VP Larry Rabang MD

## Platinum Class '57 MEDALLION CEREMONY



**Pedro Nartatez MD stronger, now walking without support! Receiving his second Medallion!**



## DIAMOND CLASS '64 MEDALLION CEREMONY



## FABULOUS DIAMOND CLASS '64



**Diamond Class '64 Showcase Presentation**





**FABULOUS DIAMOND CLASS '64**

# EMERALD Class '69



**Celebrating 55 Years of Class '69's Enduring Legacy**

*UNITY + FELLOWSHIP + ADVOCACY + PHILANTHROPY*

*Together We Can84*



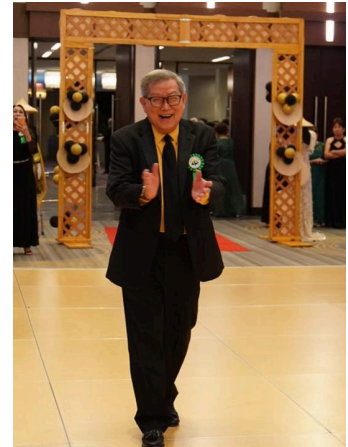
**EMERALD CLASS '69 MEDALLION CEREMONY**



**EMERALD CLASS '69 SHOWCASE PRESENTATION**  
*Celebrating its Legacy*

# GOLDEN CLASS '74 MEDALLION CEREMONY

*Celebrating in Gratitude with appreciation for legacy and excellence*



L-R: DRS. Soledad Lee, Patricia Loot, Ligaya Marasigan, Victoria Ramos, Mildred Rey, Victoria Sanchez, Erlinda Seli, Guat Sy, Jr., Board Chairman Manuel Malicay, President Nida Blankas-Hernaez & Dean Rey Delos Reyes.

Guat Sy Jr MD



Victoria Sanchez MD



Patricia Loot MD



Mildred Rey MD



Erlinda Seli Lopez MD



Victoria Ramos MD



## GOLDEN CLASS '74 DANCE PRESENTATION

MORE PICS....









## OUR GUESTS



*GRATEFUL for your presence which makes our celebration truly remarkable!*

# THE AWARDS & RECOGNITION



## Most Outstanding Alumnus Award (MOA) 2024

Dr. Abigail DG-Castro, Vice Dean Class '84, Ruby Jubilarian.



## Philanthropy Award

Drs Roy & Cita Cabrera

### Leadership Awards

### Award of Excellence

### Plaques of Appreciation



**Pedro Florescio Jr, MD**  
Past-Chairman of the Board



**Cesar Jimenez, MD**  
Past-President



**Rey delos Reyes, MD**  
Dean, FEU-NRMF IM



**Hon. Teodoro Herbosa, MD**  
Secretary of Health, Phil.



**Juan Enrique Reyes**  
President FEUNRMF

*Honoring Excellence and Dedication!*



Daisy Ramos MD, Awards Chairman announced the Most Outstanding Alumnus Award (MOA) 2024: **Vice Dean Abigail De Guzman Castro MD, Ruby Class '84**



Dean Rey delos Reyes MD & Ruby Class '84 Abraham Bayan MD received the MOA Award on behalf of Vice Dean Abigail DG Castro. L-R: President Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD, Dean Rey de los Reyes Daisy Castro MD, Abraham Bayan MD, Board Chairman Manuel Malicay MD & Renato Ramos MD.



Philanthropy Award to Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera, received by Hernani Tansuche MD on their behalf.



Leadership Award given to the Past Board Chairman, Pedro Florescio Jr MD

*Your achievements light the path for others to follow...*



Excellence Award given to Dean Rey delos Reyes MD.



Plaque of Appreciation given to Consul Melvin Almonguera.



**Message from the  
MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD 2024:  
A Note of Appreciation**

The Journey that was.....

**By Abigail Elsie De Guzman-Castro, MD, MaEd, FPOGS, FPSUOG**

I belong to Medicine Class 1984. To be included into the roster of Class 1984 Most Outstanding Alumnus awardees is indeed an achievement. To be receiving the award is a momentous occasion, with

me looking back to my personal and professional life. It surely recognizes an individual's achievements, but it would also highlight the impact of one's contributions to the community, profession and most of all, to the alma mater. Different schools have different criteria for the award. The FEUDNRSMAF has the following criteria, to wit: professional achievements, service to the institution, community involvement, personal attributes as well as recognition and endorsement.

FEU-NRMF has been instrumental not only in the education I garnered, but also in the values inculcated as well as meaningful experiences from Morayta to Fairview. It was not a solo endeavor, albeit a collective one. I learned resilience, perseverance, and the importance of staying true to my values after medical school.

I am only one of those few classmates who has remained with our alma mater for 34 long years, rising from the ranks of Instructor up the scale of Professor, from a faculty member to Department Chairman to Chief of Clinics and now Vice Dean of the School of Medicine. My service to the Foundation was mainly on the work on Scholarships.

Recognitions received from the school, the Phil OB-GYN society and its affiliate societies, and the Pharmaceutical Agencies range from being a most outstanding faculty, attendee, meritorious service, speaker, researcher and module maker, to name a few. I accepted the award with grace and humility with accompanying reflection and a sense of responsibility for which the award stands for.

To the foundation, the honor is not just a validation of the work on scholarships we've done. It is a reminder of the impact that we can have when we are united in purpose and passion, making a great difference in the lives of others—our students who are academically gifted but most of all to our students who are financially constrained to continue the dream of becoming a doctor. The scholarships that the Foundation gives, demonstrate the willingness to give back. This not only strengthens the connection to the alma mater, but also sets an example for other alumni.

A food for thought – *“This institution has given me so much, and therefore, I am committed to giving back in any way I can.”*

Ad Astra per Aspera!



### **Grand Ball Highlights: “Voice of Celebration”**

**by Aladin Mariano, MD**

The Grand Alumni Reunion on June 29, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare in Rosemont, Illinois, was a resounding success. Hosted by the FEU Medical Alumni of Illinois, the event brought together officers and members of the FEU Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical School Alumni Foundation (FEUDRNRMAF) for an evening of celebration and camaraderie.

The joy and excitement were palpable, as evident in the smiles and expressions of the attendees. The inspiring speeches and presentations not only entertained but also spurred generosity, significantly boosting support for medical missions aimed at indigent communities. The funds raised will also help ensure that FEUDRNR Medical School remains one of the premier medical institutions in the Philippines through sponsored grants, scholarships, and faculty development programs.

Special thanks are due to all the officers and members of FEUDRNRMAF, the jubilarians who participated, and most notably, the leadership of the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Manny Malicay, and his spouse, Dr. Lourdes Malicay, as well as to Dr. Nida Blankas Hernaez, President of FEUDRNRMAF, and her spouse, Dr. Ed Hernaez.

As an emcee alongside Remy Sales, the experience was both challenging and rewarding. It took countless hours of preparation and coordination to ensure the schedule was seamless and that the reunion participants were truly highlighted. We made sure to honor those in attendance and remember those who have passed on for their unwavering dedication, service, and sacrifice.

The highlight of the evening was the much-anticipated Medallion presentation for the jubilarians—a beacon of hope and inspiration that proceeded flawlessly. The evening was further enlivened by jubilarians' dance presentations and a special performance by Drs. Melinda and Greg Tolentino.



## **SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT:**

### *A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION*

Dear Dr. Nida,

I would humbly like to inform you po doc that i was again accepted as an Alumni Academic Scholar for my 4<sup>th</sup> year based on my performance last semester. I had a GWA of 1.48 and ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> amongst my batch during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year second semester.

I would like to use this opportunity doc to thank you, along with the Alumni Association for the support you have given us. Your words of encouragement during our meeting last Foundation day was very helpful doc. Every time I feel the pressure of having to get the highest grades during our exams, your advice on just doing my very best even if I fail, keep going. I also try to practice your 5Ps doc. Especially being "prepared". So in my Achievements doc, a big part of it was because of your guiding words. So thank you doc!

As I graduate next year, I am proud to say that I am an Alumni Academic Scholar of FEU-NRMF.

Take care po. I hope to see you again doc!

Sincerely,

Dominic T. Falcon

PICTURES from the FILIPINIANA GALA & GRAND BALL link:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AE0JgsmUJL2Q36Q&id=BBCBE7F1C0B08815%214296&cid=BBCBE7F1C0B08815>

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AhWIsMDx58u7pTx8RiHaMFWpSiBd>

## Ways Alumni Can Contribute to Our Alma Mater:

**Financial Support:** Donate for scholarships and facility upgrades.

1. **Mentorship and Networking:** Guide and connect students.
2. **Guest Lectures and Workshops:** Share expertise.
3. **Clinical Preceptorships:** Provide hands-on experience.
4. **Advocacy and Public Relations:** Promote achievements.
5. **Volunteerism:** Help with events and outreach.
6. **Research Collaboration:** Advance medical science.

*By giving time, talent, and treasure, alumni shape our school's success and impact, nurturing future healthcare professionals.*

**Engaging with the FEUDNRS Medical Alumni Foundation:**

1. **Strategic Planning and Governance:** Contribute to planning.
2. **Fundraising and Development:** Support initiatives.
3. **Program Development and Evaluation:** Innovate together.
4. **Advocacy and Public Relations:** Represent the school.
5. **Continuing Education and Professional Development:** Foster learning.
6. **Alumni Engagement and Networking:** Build community.

*Active involvement advances our Alma mater's mission.*

*Join us in making a difference!*

**Be an active member of the foundation!**



## ECTOPIC MURMURS: Guidelines for Article Submission

Ectopic Murmurs (EM) serves as the official publication of the FEUDNRSMAF-USA, founded by the late Dr. Jesus Nolasco to uphold our Foundation's identity and disseminate pertinent information

regarding our activities. Following Dr. Nolasco's vision, the late Dr. Cesar V Reyes helmed EM until his passing in December 2017. Subsequently, from August 2018 to July 2023, Drs. Hernani Tansuche and Amethyst Cureg served as editors until their resignations.

*In August 2023, Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez as the FEUDNRSMAF President, stepped in as interim editor, later becoming the chairman of the EM Committee, supported by esteemed members: Drs. Ted Tolentino, Philip Chua, and Daniel Fabito.*

**Publication Details:** Ectopic Murmurs (EM) will soon be published on the website. EM invites original article submissions closely aligned with the mission, goals, and activities of FEUDNRSMAF, including content relevant to the FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine and Medical Center. Articles must be submitted in Word format. We encourage diversity among authors/contributors, prioritizing alumni who haven't previously contributed. Authors are kindly asked to withhold submitting articles that have been published in the past 12 months.

The Editors retain the discretion to accept or reject submissions and may edit for brevity, clarity, and conformity. While the EM team reserves the right to edit, authors remain accountable for content accuracy. Medical articles undergo peer review, requiring validated statements for copy-editing.

**Special Sections:** **CME Corner** is a dedicated space for CME activities, insights, research highlights and resources. **Alumni Spotlight** highlights our alumni's notable achievements. **Faculty and Medical Students News** provides updates on faculty members & outstanding students. **Wellness Insights** captures the essence of promoting overall wellbeing.

We invite FEUDNRSMAF alumni and field experts to submit contemporary, relevant medical articles adhering to community standards. Articles must be accurately referenced with applicable permissions granted prior to submission. Articles can be emailed to Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez at [nidablankashernaezmd@yahoo.com](mailto:nidablankashernaezmd@yahoo.com) or [feumedalumni@gmail.com](mailto:feumedalumni@gmail.com). Please call 8476687385 for inquiries.

*Thank you for your contributions to Ectopic Murmurs (EM) and our community.*

**In crafting this edition of the Ectopic Murmurs, we've aimed for utmost accuracy. Despite our efforts, errors or omissions may have occurred due to unforeseen limitations. Any oversights were unintentional. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.**

***The Editorial Board***



# SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT REUNION & CONVENTION:

JUNE 8-11, 2025, LAS VEGAS, TUSCANY HOTEL!!!



## Update your Information!

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Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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Niles, IL 60714

Phone: 847-668-7385

Email: [nidablankashernaez@yahoo.com](mailto:nidablankashernaez@yahoo.com)



UNITY + FELLOWSHIP

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*Please indicate donation for Academic Scholarship, EH scholarship, Student Achievement Award (SAA), Professorial Chair Award, Faculty Incentive, Jubilarian Class, and others.*



Together We Can97