



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 51st FEU-NRMF Annual Homecoming Reunion and Convention

Leadership Messages



**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD & IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
FEU DR. NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION
(FEUDNRSMAF)**

Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D., FAAP, Class '84

Chairman's Message

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

**The future of our Alma Mater will not be shaped by chance—
it will be shaped by commitment, courage, and collective action.**

As both Chairman of the Board and Editor-in-Chief of the Ectopic Murmurs, I view leadership and communication as complementary responsibilities—to guide our shared mission and to preserve the story of how that mission continues to unfold. This role is not about position—it is about stewardship. It is about honoring the legacy entrusted to us, strengthening the foundations laid by those before us, and ensuring that what we build today empower generations yet to come.

51st FEU Homecoming, January 15-17, 2026. The Grand Gala *"Under the Stars"* was a magnificent celebration of our jubilarians—*Congratulations to all!* The vibrant class dance presentations, the proud receipt of Certificates of Achievement, and the laughter that echoed through the evening reminded us that beyond titles and accomplishments, it is friendship, shared memories, and enduring camaraderie that bind us. The joy in the room was palpable—a beautiful tribute to the years that shaped us at *Far Eastern University – Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation School of Medicine*.

Special recognition goes to the Silver Jubilarians, whose leadership energized this celebration, and to the FEU-NRMF Medical Alumni Society (MAS) for their dedication and tireless coordination. Congratulations to the new officers! Congratulations as well to our Faculty

Achievement Awardees and Student Achievement Awardees—your excellence reflects the strength and promise of our institution.

I am deeply proud to acknowledge our **Class of 1984**—my own class— for the generous donation of one million pesos toward the improvement of the library which reflects the true spirit of gratitude to our Alma Mater under the leadership of **Dr. Manolito Reyes**. Likewise, congratulations to **Dr. Cesar Ong**, Class '84 for serving as the Dean Panganiban Speaker. Kudos to our Class '84—for leading with generosity, excellence, and pride.

Stakeholders' Meeting. Equally meaningful and significant was our Annual Stakeholders' Meeting—a gathering that truly reflected the strength of collaboration within our FEU-NRMF community. Present were the FEUDNRSMAF Executive Officers: Dr. Manuel Malicay (Immediate Past Chairman), Dr. Grace Obena (President), Dr. Vincent Santangelo (Vice President), Dr. Rosemary Aquiler (Executive Director), and Dr. Hernani Tansuche (Assistant Executive Director and Past Chairman), together with yours truly as Chairman of the Board.

We were honored to meet with the leadership of FEU-NRMF led by President and COO Juan Enrique Reyes, faculty leaders headed by Dean Dr. Pio Esguerra and Vice Dean Dr. Mari-Ann Bringas and FEU-NRMF Medical Alumni Society, led by President Elizabeth Ah Yong-Reyes.

More than just a meeting, it was a meaningful convergence of leaders united by a shared commitment to our Alma Mater. The discussions reflected not only collaboration but also a clear sense of purpose—to ensure that FEU continues to thrive, innovate, and remain a leader in medical education amid an increasingly complex and competitive academic landscape.

Strategic Priorities Discussed. Our discussions were focused, forward-looking, and mission driven:

- Strengthening the Physician Licensure Examination (PLE) program, review systems, and impact monitoring
- Elevating our board passing rates and reclaiming our place among the top-performing medical schools
- Advancing faculty incentive and faculty development initiatives
- Establishing a proposed Simulation Laboratory to enhance hands-on clinical excellence
- Expanding scholarship programs to widen access and opportunity
- Engaging in meaningful dialogue on the Post Graduate Medical Education (PGME) pathway in the United States—opening doors to global exposure and expanded opportunities for our graduates

At the core of these discussions was one unifying principle: **alignment of mission and vision.**

Moving Forward. As Chairman, my commitment remains anchored in strong governance, prudent financial stewardship, meaningful alumni engagement, academic support, and unity

within our ranks. Progress requires partnership. Excellence demands intention. Legacy calls for leadership.

Let us step forward together—with courage in our vision, generosity in our support, and pride in our heritage. The best chapters of FEU's story are still ahead of us. Let us write them—together.

Looking Ahead: Detroit 2026. I warmly invite our alumni, jubilarians, families, and friends to join us for the **45th FEUDNRSMAF Reunion and Convention on July 19–21, 2026 in Detroit, Mi.**

Let us gather once again—not only to celebrate milestones, but to renew friendships, inspire one another, and recommit to the mission that unites us. Whether you graduated five years ago or five decades ago, you remain an essential part of our story. This will not simply be a reunion—it will be a reaffirmation of who we are and what we stand for.

Together, we will continue to serve.

Together, we will continue to build.

Together, we will ensure that FEU's legacy endures.

Continuity in Purpose, Legacy in Action.



Nida Blankas-Hernandez, M.D., FAAP
Chairman of the Board, FEUDNRSMAF
Phone 847-668-7385



PRESIDENT, FEU DR. NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION (FEUDNRSMAF)
Grace Averilla-Obena, M.D., FAAFP, ABAARM, Class '85

President's Message

The 51st Annual Homecoming and Convention was truly a successful and meaningful event. The Class of 2000 did an excellent job in preparing the venue and organizing the convention, including the selection of outstanding speakers. The lectures were highlighted by Dr. Cesar Ong, our Dr. Lauro Panganiban lecturer, whose talk on Resilience and Preparing the Physicians for a Changing World was both timely and inspiring. The lectures on AI and Health Care reminded us that while technology continues to evolve, robots can never replace the human touch, empathy, and the importance of shared decision-making in patient care. Likewise, the lectures on dermatology, diabetes, and professional personal health care were exceptional, particularly in addressing life after the academe and nurturing mental health.

The Barrio Fiesta event, complete with lechon and Taho, once again met the much-anticipated, mouth-watering expectations of the Balikbayans!

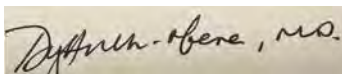
We were also grateful for the opportunity to engage with our Academic Scholars, listening to their achievements, struggles, and aspirations. We reiterate the importance of remembering their alumni roots and giving back to FEU once they complete their training.

During the stake holders' meeting, the school emphasized the importance of the simulation laboratory in enhancing students' learning and clinical skills. As the facility is currently non-functional, discussions were initiated on sharing expenses with the nursing program and further reviewing the budget to make the simulation lab available for students as soon as possible. We also affirmed the importance of maintaining FEU's standing as one of the top medical schools in the country.

The Grand Alumni Night was graced not only by our Golden and Silver Jubilarians but also by the other Jubilarians. The venue at Solaire Hotel North in Quezon City was truly grand, and the accommodations were excellent. I was especially pleased with the attendance of our Silver Jubilarians and could not help but wish for similarly strong participation of our Silver Jubilarians at our conventions in the United States. I shared with them how much we miss them and encouraged them to help strengthen our alumni community.

I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the recipients of the Student Achievement Awards and Professorial Chair Awards. It is through individuals like them that FEU continues to stand at its best!

Sincere appreciation is extended to the organizing committee, alumni society, officers, sponsors, speakers, and all alumni who generously gave their time and support to make this event truly memorable and successful. Mabuhay!!



Divina Gracia Averilla-Obena, M.D., FAAFP, ABAARM
President, FEUDNRSMAF
Phone 702-769-3042



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

President's Message

To our beloved FEUDNRSMAF,

For this edition of Ectopic Murmurs, I write with a heart overflowing with gratitude for all we have achieved between now and the two most recent homecomings, as well as the different forms of support given by our esteemed alumni to their Alma Mater. Previously, we appealed to your kindness to help restore the former glory of FEU-NRMF in the licensure examinations, and financial aid to keep our institution's facilities at par with the best in the country. Needless to say, your response, willingness, and spirit of generosity have been overwhelming.

And, because of your organization, we worked tirelessly to deliver on our promises and realize the aspirations of our community. Addressing the most pressing matter, the elephant has finally left the room. **From a 63.16% overall passing rate in March 2025, our performance soared to 91.32% in the October 2025 PLE, with FEU-NRMF obtaining 6th place among the country's Top Performing Schools, and repeaters making one of the most historic comebacks in our storied history.**

How'd we do it, you may ask. There has been a significant change at the deanship level. A different result required a different lens and way of thinking. Whether it be a 180-degree turn or a collection of the best practices over the years, we were desperate and willing to try anything for the sake of returning to familiar territory. We're glad we did with Dean Pio T. Esguerra II at the helm, and Vice Dean Mari-Ann Bringas. We also thank the previous dean, Dr. Rey Delos Reyes, Vice Dean Abigail Castro, and their department chairs for helping establish a solid foundation for the takers, and for continuing to nurture our students and remain as our faculty.

It is difficult to imagine any other medical school in the Philippines that can pull off a feat similar to ours, given the circumstances. Other top performing schools require an NMAT percentile of 90, a close to perfect GWA, Latin honors, and limit their admission intake to 100 students. In contrast, FEU-NRMF requires complete documents, interview attendance, and an NMAT percentile of 40, which is negotiable at times. Leading to a 78% admission rate as opposed to their single-digit, highly selective process. You place the smartest kids in any school, even the newest ones, and we're willing to wager that they'll pass or even top the boards with minimal intervention.

So why don't we make our admission standards more competitive? When there were five medical schools, we had that luxury. Now, we have 79 with more than ten pending applications. We go back to FEU's humble beginnings in 1928. It was established mainly for those turned away by elite institutions, yet still wanted access to quality education. Because our founder believed education was the great equalizer. We take pride in being able to transform our alumni into the professionals they are today because everyone deserves the opportunity to work toward their dreams and being given the chance to prove they can do it.

This only means one thing. I've said it before and I'll say it again. **FEU-NRMF has the best medical faculty in the Philippines, and most of them are proud alumni passing the torch of knowledge to succeeding generations.**

Moving on, we take this opportunity to highlight the FEUDNRSMAF for donating close to \$60,000 for the PLE crash course, faculty incentives, students academic achievement awards, economic hardship scholarships, contributions for the new school bus, and faculty awards.

Finally, we ask you to join us in realizing our new vision - FEU-NRMF aims to be the pre-eminent medical and allied school in Southeast Asia by 2030. We're no longer up against the likes of UP, UST, UERM alone. We've set our sights on being the best in the entire region, a crown the National University of Singapore holds at the moment. And we can only do this with your help. We need your courage. **We need your belief and your connections to link FEU-NRMF and your fellow alumni to opportunities beyond the Philippines to show that through placements and employment, we can compete with the best.**

By working toward this lofty ambition, we hope it entices you to send your kids and friends here for the medical and allied health professions. For this is a challenge we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to win!

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

Sincerely,



JUAN ENRIQUE J. REYES, MHM
President and COO



DEAN, FEU NICANOR REYES MEDICAL FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Pio T. Esguerra II, M.D., FPCP, FPCCP, FACCP, DIH Class '96

Dean's Message

Academic Year 2025–2026 marks not merely another chapter in the life of the FEU-NRMF School of Medicine. It signals a season of renewal, resilience, and resurgence.

Our institution stands firmly on foundations of excellence. We celebrate our reaccreditation at PAASCU Level III, recertification under ISO 9001:2015 (QMS), certification under ISO 21001 (EOMS), and continued recognition under WFME standards. Our application for Center of

Excellence (COE) status reflects not only our compliance with benchmarks, but our aspiration to help define them. As an autonomous Higher Education Institutions are entrusted with both freedom and responsibility—to lead, to innovate, and to transform.

When I assumed the Deanship of the Doctor of Medicine Program in June 2025, we faced a sobering reality. The Physician Licensure Examination (PLE) performance had declined steadily over several years, reaching its lowest point in April 2025. Yet statistics do not define an institution, they challenge it.

From that challenge emerged resolve.

After thoughtful institutional reflection and careful analysis, we launched the Academic Uplift Program—a bold and comprehensive strategy anchored on accountability, mentorship, curricular refinement, strengthened faculty incentives, and expanded student support systems. This initiative was never solely about improving examination results; it was about restoring confidence, reinforcing systems, and reigniting belief in our shared capacity for excellence.

The results became a powerful testament to what unified purpose can achieve:

- 93% passing rate for first-time takers
- 89% passing rate for repeaters
- Over 91% overall passing rate

A remarkable **28% increase in performance**, propelling FEU-NRMF to **6th place** among top-performing medical schools nationwide, with one examinee placing 5th overall. These are more than statistics. They represent redemption, resilience, and renewal. The October 2025 cohort demonstrated that adversity, when met with discipline and unity, can be transformed into achievement.

Foundation Week 2026 became a celebration not only of milestones, but of mission. Students, faculty, alumni, and partners gathered in gratitude and solidarity. A defining highlight was the medical, surgical, ophthalmologic, optical, and dental mission in Sarangani, Philippines, where local and international alumni generously served underserved communities. In those clinics and operating rooms, we witnessed the true essence of medical education—not only competence, but compassion.

The School of Medicine proudly awarded Certificates of Recognition to FEUDNRSMAF, its officers, and members for their unwavering support and enduring partnership. Their commitment reflects a community that continues to give back to the institution that helped shape their professional journeys.

For Academic Year 2025–2026, total monetary donations from the US Alumni Foundation reached almost USD 60,000, thoughtfully allocated to initiatives that directly advance our academic mission: PLE Crash Course (December 2025) – USD 5,000 Faculty Incentives –

USD 17,500 (benefiting more than 215 faculty members) Student Academic Achievement Awards – USD 2,550 Economic Hardship Scholarships – USD 17,000 School Coaster Contribution – USD 11,000 Faculty Awards – USD 6,100.

These contributions are not merely financial figures; they are investments in excellence, equity, and empowerment. They ensure that deserving students can continue their education, that faculty remain inspired and supported, and that institutional initiatives move confidently from vision to realization.

We extend special recognition to Dra. Nida Bankas-Hernaez, Chair of the Board; Dr. Manuel Malicay, Past Chair of the Board; and Dr. Hernani Tansuche, Past Chair of the Board and current Chair of the Student Scholarship Program. Their leadership exemplifies stewardship grounded in gratitude and service.

Our students likewise continue to demonstrate global competitiveness. Representing **FEU-NRMF at the KKU-ICEM** (International Competition in Emergency Medicine) in Thailand and earning **3rd** place affirms that our learners are not merely participants on the international stage—they are formidable contenders.

Yet our vision extends beyond present achievements.

A renewed medical curriculum will be implemented in Academic Year 2026–2027—one shaped by innovation, relevance, and responsiveness to the evolving landscape of healthcare. This reform reflects our enduring commitment to developing physicians who are not only clinically competent, but adaptive, ethical, collaborative, and future ready.

In parallel, we are advancing a strategic proposal for the construction of a Simulation Laboratory for the School of Medicine. Initial discussions are underway in collaboration with the FEU-NRMF administration, the School of Medicine, the Medical Alumni Society, and FEUDNRSMAF. This facility will serve as a transformative learning environment—bridging theory and practice, enhancing clinical decision-making, strengthening patient safety competencies, and preparing our students for the realities of modern healthcare. It represents not merely infrastructure, but investment in the future standard of medical training at FEU-NRMF.

The road ahead will not be without challenge. Growth never is. But this past year has revealed a powerful truth: when guided by shared vision, disciplined strategy, and collective commitment, we do not simply recover—we rise.

We rise stronger. We rise wiser.

We rise together.

Ad Astra per Aspera!

The future of the FEU-NRMF School of Medicine is not something we wait for—it is something we build.



FEU-NRMF 6th Top Performing School for Oct. 2025 PLE



Certificate and Plaque of Distinction for FEU-NRMF



FEU-NRMF Placed 3rd in the KKU ICEM 2026 Competition

KKU ICEM is an International competition of Emergency Medicine and related Basic Sciences focusing particularly on emergency conditions. This was held in **Khon Kaen University (Thailand)** during the first week of February 3, 2026. Asian countries were represented-Thailand, Japan and the Philippines. **Team members are Jeanne Rachel Rafael, Alyzsha Louis Angelrick Abella, Cyrene Gail Cruz, Jane Mickaela Ramos.**

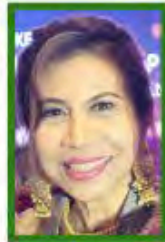


The whole team (L-R): Jeanne Rachel Rafael, Alyzsha Louis Angelrick Abella, Cyrene Gail Cruz, Dr. Eleazar Daet (Adviser), Jane Mickaela Ramos & (Daniel Caballero- observer).

Meet the 2025-2027 FEUDNRSMF Leadership Team



GRACE AVERILLA-OBENA, MD
PRESIDENT



NIDA BLANKAS-HERNAEZ, MD FAAP
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



MANUEL MALICAY, MD
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN



VINCENT SANTANGELO, MD
VICE PRESIDENT

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY DR NICANOR REYES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION
FEUDNRSMF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LEADERSHIP 2025-2027



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PARLIAMENTARIAN



LEILANIE NARCELLES-MON, MD
SECRETARY



HERNANI TANSUCHE, MD
ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RICHARD MON, MD
TREASURER



AMETHYST CUREG, MD
ASST. TREASURER



DIONISIA SY, MD
AUDITOR



ROSEMARY AQUILER-ANGELES, MD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
DR. NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
ALUMNI FOUNDATION (FEUDNRSMF)



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Leilani Narcelles-Mon, MD
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Larry Rabang, MD

Mildred Rey, MD
Gene Siruno, MD
Hernani Tansuche, MD

BOT 2024-2027

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Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, MD
Nida Hernaez-Blankas, MD
Cesar Jimenez, MD
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Grace Averilla-Obena, MD
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BOT 2025-2028

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Ligaya Marasigan, MD
Wilson Morales, MD
Vincent Santangelo, MD
Dionisia Sy, MD
Guat Sy Jr, MD

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Lourdes Malicay, MD: Illinois
Arnel Clarin, MD: Michigan
Grace Averilla-Obena, MD: Nevada

Chairman Emeritus

Renato Ramos, MD
Philip S. Chua, MD
Edmundo Relucio, MD

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Leilani Narcelles-Mon, MD
Guat Sy Jr, MD

Cesar Jimenez, MD

Adviser: Renato Ramos, MD

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Chairman: Grace Rabadam, MD

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Cesar Jimenez, MD

Melinda Fabito, MD

Wilson Morales, MD

Adviser: Pedro Florescio Jr., MD

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Gerardo Guzman, MD

Virgilio Jonson, MD

Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, MD

Vincent Santangelo, MD

Adviser: Renato Ramos, MD

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Grace Averilla-Obena, MD

Honorio Benzon, MD

Macario Corpuz, MD

Leslie Farolan, MD

Cesar Jimenez, MD

Ligaya Marasigan, MD

Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, MD

Adviser: Manuel Malicay, MD

Convention 2026

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Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, MD

Chairman: Arnel Clarin, MD

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Edgar Altares, MD

Evelyn Altares, MD

Cheryl Canto, MD

Chona Lastimosa, MD

Dionisia Sy, MD

Guat Sy, Jr, MD

David Villanueva, MD

Advisers: Renato Ramos, MD

Hernani Tansuche, MD

Ectopic Murmurs

Chair:

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Members: Ted Tolentino, MD

Roy Cabrera, MD

Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, MD

Guat Sy Jr, MD

Adviser: Pedro Florescio Jr MD

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Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, MD

Dionisia Sy, MD

Amethyst Cureg, MD

Observer: Rogelio Mupas, MD

Advisers: Renato Ramos, MD

Manuel Malicay, MD

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Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, MD

Grace Averilla-Obena, MD

Milagros Cuaresma-Ambas, MD

Lourdes Manzano-Malicay, MD

Mildred Rey, MD

Victoria Bal, MD

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Adviser:

Hernani Tansuche, MD

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Co-Chair: Larry Rabang, MD

Members: Rey Abejuela, MD

Guadalupe Florescio, MD

Vincent Santangelo, MD

Araceli Sweeney, MD

Adviser: Pedro Florescio Jr., MD

Memorial Lectures

Dr. Nicanor Reyes Mem:

Renato Ramos, MD

Dr. Jesus Nolasco Mem:

Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD

Nomination/Election
Chairman: Virgilio Jonson, MD
Members: Felipe Ambas, MD
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Ligaya Marasigan, MD
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PGME: Larry Rabang, MD

SAA/Professorial Chair
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Hernani Tansuche, MD
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Richard Mon, MD
Wilson Morales, MD
Larry Rabang, MD

Dionisia Sy, MD
Araceli Sweeney, MD
Adviser: Renato Ramos, MD
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Members:
Nida Blankas-Hernaez, MD
Richard Mon, MD
Guat Sy Jr, MD
Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, MD
Adviser: Manuel Malicay, MD

Organizational Updates: Committee Reports



**CONVENTION COMMITTEE OVERALL CHAIRPERSON, FEUDNRSMAF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rosemary M. Aquiler, M.D., FACP Class '86

An Invitation to Celebrate, Learn & Reconnect

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the **FEUDNRSMAF 45th
Anniversary Reunion and Scientific Convention.**

I am proud to present to you that this year, it will be held in **Detroit, the City of Resilience.** Known as the “*Motor City*,” is one of the most iconic cities in the U.S. It is a place with a rich history, deep roots in innovation, and a culture that has shaped the American music industry. We hope you will join us to reconnect with colleagues, reminisce and celebrate the milestones we have achieved in our careers. **The 45th Anniversary Reunion and Scientific convention is scheduled on July 19-21, 2026 at the Motor City Hotel – Casino located at 2901 Grand River Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48201.**

The FEUDNRSMAF-Michigan Chapter, with **Dr. Arnel Clarin** as the current chapter President will be hosting the Welcome Night in a **Motown Magic** theme held on July 19, 2026. To start our celebration, there will be a Catholic Sunday Mass scheduled at 4:45-5:45 PM. The Barrio Fiesta - Filipiniana Night honoring Class '81, Class '86, Class '91, Class '96 is on July 20, 2026. The 45th Grand Ball honoring Class '61, Class '66, Class '71, Class '76, and Class '01 is on July 21, 2026. *Kindly dress accordingly for all occasions.*

I encourage everyone to help secure advertisements for the souvenir program, which serves as a key source of support for our initiatives. Please refer to the form available on this issue for details.

This year's CME features *"The heart of healing: Wellness, Awareness, Innovation and Advocacy in Clinical Practice"* This is a 1-day comprehensive, ACCME accredited program that covers a broad spectrum of the latest updates in Medicine, Pediatrics, Human Trafficking, Physician Wellness and Artificial Intelligence. This is designed for physicians and specialists to improve competence, performance, and patient outcomes. This is a dedicated 8 credit hour CME Seminar in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. This CME is complimentary to everyone to attend but breakfast and lunch are not complimentary.

I assure you; it will be a worthwhile visit. Detroit offers **key attractions** that include **Motown Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts and the Henry Ford Museum**. Visit **Solanus Casey Center**, the Official home of the Cause for Canonization of Blessed Solanus Casey. Catch a game at **Comerica Park** (Tigers) or **Little Caesars Arena** (Red Wings/Pistons), or see a show at the historic **Fox Theatre**.

You can go for a relaxing walk at the **Detroit Riverfront, Campus Martius Park, Belle Isle Park** and you can also take a quick trip across the border to **Windsor, Canada!** Just minutes away via the Ambassador Bridge or Detroit – Windsor Tunnel.

We have the registration form and brochure available in this issue. Please try to register early. I hope to see all of you soon.

Sincerely,

Rosemary M. Aquiler, M.D. , FACP Class '86
Overall Convention Chairperson
Executive Director - FEUDNRSMAF
248-872-7716



AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON, FEUDNRSMAF

Grace B. Rabadam, M.D. Class '63

MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD (MOA) 2026

Criteria for Nomination

1. Active participation in our Alumni Foundation and/or medical school (35%).
2. Academic achievements: Titles, research, publications, teachings (30%).
3. Community involvement and service: Local, national, or international (30%).
4. Other special or unique personal attributes to supplement consideration (5%).

The award is usually given annually and awarded to celebrating jubilarians during the highlight of the **Grand Ball**.

Nomination letters and nominees resume/CV be sent by mail or e-mail to the Awards Committee Chairperson by May 31, 2026.

Awards Committee:

Chairperson: **Grace B. Rabadam, M.D.**

52 N. Pinelake Dr.

Patchogue, NY 11772

Mobile: 1-516-523-5996

E-mail: rabadam20@gmail.com

Members: **Rey Abujuela, M.D.**

(909-967-8176)

Cesar Jimenez, M.D. (626-977-6455)

Melinda Fabito, M.D. (702-622-2976)

Wilson Morales, M.D. (562-889-7497)

Adviser: **Pedro Florescio, M.D.**

(714-423-8811)



**ECTOPIC MURMURS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN &
FEUDNRSMAF**

Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D., FAAP Class '84

Write, Share, Inspire—Help Us Build a Stronger Alumni Voice

The *Ectopic Murmurs* editorial team—**Drs. Roy Cabrera, Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, Guat Sy Jr., Ted Tolentino, Adviser Dr. Pedro Florescio and yours truly the Chairman**—continues to serve as a vibrant voice of the FEUDNRSMAF community, sharing stories, insights, and milestones that connect us across generations. As we prepare for our 45th Reunion in Detroit, we warmly invite every alumnus to help make our newsletter more engaging, informative, and meaningful.

We encourage you to:

- Submit original articles (Word format) related to our profession, alumni life, and community service
- Share original photos from events, practice, outreach, or personal milestones
- Become a regular contributor and add your voice to our shared story
- Join the committee to help generate ideas and enhance content
- Volunteer as a writer, editor, or layout assistant

Our mission is simple yet ambitious: to produce a publication that is engaging, insightful, timely, and rich in content that truly serves our alumni. With your participation, *Ectopic Murmurs* will continue to reflect the excellence, compassion, and leadership of our alumni family. To contribute, volunteer, or share ideas, please email: **FEUMedAlumni@gmail.com** or contact the Editor-in-Chief at 847-668-7385.

We look forward to your positive response.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

.....Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez

CME Scientific Convention – Join the 45th Reunion

The FEUDNRSMAF 45th Reunion will be held July 19–21, 2026 in Detroit, Michigan. The Scientific Convention takes place on Monday, July 20, with the theme “*The Heart of Healing: Awareness, Innovation, and Advocacy in Clinical Practice.*”

Nine distinguished faculty members will share timely, practice-relevant insights across a dynamic program designed to strengthen clinical excellence and patient advocacy. This is a complimentary CME activity offering **8 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the American Medical Association (AMA). Below is the Convention program.

Scientific Convention 2026 Program

“The Heart of Healing: Wellness, Awareness, Innovation and Advocacy in Clinical Practice”

Monday, July 20, 2026

7:00 am - 7:20 am Registration, Breakfast

7:20 am - 7:30 am Welcome addresses

Amel Clarin MD[®] FEUDNRSMAF Michigan Chapter President

Rosemarie Aquiler-Angeles MD[®] FEUDNRSMAF Overall Convention Chairman, Executive Director

Grace Averilla-Obena MD[®] FEUDNRSMAF President

Nida Blankas-Hernaez MD[®], FEUDNRSMAF Chairman of the Board/CME Committee Chairman

MORNING CME SESSION:

Leslie Farolan, MD[®], Moderator



7:30 am-8:15 am *Recognizing Human Trafficking in Clinical Practice*

Mr. William Luker, Criminal Investigator

Wayne County Sheriff Office, Michigan



8:15 am-9:00 am *Physician Wellness: Caring for the Caregivers*

Nida B. Blankas-Hernaez, MD[®], FAAP, Pediatrician

Emeritus, Advocate Children's Hospital, Parkridge, IL



9:00 am-9:45 am *Protecting our Youngest:*

Advances in RSV Prevention Across the Lifespan

Jocelyn Y. Ang, MD[®], FAAP, FIDSA, FPIDS, Infectious Disease Specialty

Chief, Infectious Disease, Children's Hospital in Michigan,

Professor of Pediatrics, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI



9:45 am-10:30 am *Pediatric Asthma: What's New?*

Emmanuel U. Sarmiento, MD[®], FAAP, Pediatric Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

Greenville, South Carolina



10:30 am-11:15 am *Comprehensive Adult Wellness:*

Evidence-Based Screening and Prevention

Macario C. Corpuz, MD[®], FAAFP, Family Medicine

St Vincent Hospital, MA

11:15 am-11:45am Questions and Answers, Moderator: Cesar Jimenez, MD[®]

11:45 am-12:00 pm Break



AFTERNOON CME SESSION: Leilanie Narcelles-Mon MD⁷², Moderator

1:00 pm-1:45 pm *ADHD in Children & Adults*

David J. Villanueva, MD⁷², Adult & Child Psychiatrist
Sterling Heights, Michigan



1:45 pm-2:30 pm *Precision Pathology: Integrating Genomics and Histopathology in Genito-urinary Cancers*

Gladell P. Paner, MD⁹⁶, Pathologist, GU specialty
Professor in Pathology, University of Chicago, Medicine, IL



2:30 pm-3:15 pm *The Heart and Breath of Healing: Integrating Medical Education, Pulmonary Care, and Patient Advocacy*

Dean Pio T. Esquerra II, MD⁹⁶, FPCP, FPCCP, FACCPC, DIH, Pulmonologist
Dean, FEU-NRMF School of Medicine, Philippines



3:15 pm-3:20 pm Introduction of the 28th Nicanor Reyes Jr MD Memorial Lecture by Renato G Ramos, MD⁶³, Chairman Emeritus

3:20 pm-4:15 pm 28th Annual Dr. Nicanor Reyes Jr, Memorial Lecture:

Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Care
Minsig Choi, MD⁹⁸, Medical Oncologist, GI specialty
St. Elizabeth Cancer Center, Edgewood, Kentucky

We warmly invite all alumni and colleagues to participate in this meaningful day of learning, collaboration, and renewal of our shared mission in medicine.**Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez**



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, FEUDNRSMF

Macario Corpuz, M.D. MBA, FAAFP, Class '88

Building Engagement, Expanding Reach, Sustaining Legacy

My Fellow Alumni,

Inspired by the success of the recent FEU-NRMF School of Medicine 51st Annual Scientific Convention held on January 15–17, 2026, in Quezon City, Philippines, the Membership Committee of our USA Chapter convened via teleconference on February 18, 2026. Our goal was to explore more effective ways to reach out to non-member alumni in the United States, invite them to join our organization, and strengthen engagement among our valued existing members.

Dr. Rabang, our Committee Co-Chair, and I extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the recent Zoom meeting. The discussion reflected not only our shared commitment to the organization but also our deep concern for its continued growth, relevance, and impact.

A central focus of our conversation was the recruitment of both young physicians and physicians who have not yet joined our organization. We recognize that engaging the next generation is essential to sustaining our legacy. We plan to actively reach out, create meaningful opportunities for involvement, and clearly demonstrate the professional, academic, and personal value of membership.

Equally important is strengthening relationships with our current members. Continued engagement requires intentional effort—through relevant programming, consistent communication, appropriate incentives, and, most importantly, fostering a genuine sense of community. When members feel valued and connected, they are far more likely to remain active, participate in meetings and conferences, and support our social advocacies for the community and our Alma Mater.

Committee Vision: To cultivate a dynamic and engaged community of FEUDNRSMAF physicians united in excellence, service, and lifelong connection—empowering future generations while strengthening our shared legacy.

Committee Mission: Our mission is to inspire active membership and meaningful participation by fostering collaboration, supporting academic and professional development, advancing programs that benefit our Alma Mater and future physicians, and creating impactful opportunities—such as our upcoming 45th Reunion in Detroit—that strengthen fellowship, recognition, and continued commitment to service.

Until then, stay safe and healthy, my friends. Let us continue building our legacy—and make lasting memories together in Detroit. **Dr. Macario Corpuz**



**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PAST CHAIRMAN, FEUDNRSMAF**
Hernani Tansuche, M.D., Class '68

Scholarship Committee Report March 15, 2026 (Zoom)

School Year 2026–2027 Second Semester

For the current semester, we have a total of 11 scholars:

- 4 Academic Scholars
- 7 Economic Hardship (EH) Scholars

First Year (Level I)

1. Maki Cera (EH)
Sponsor: Dr. Emerlinda Arriola (UE), in honor of her husband, the late Dr. Pete Arriola, an FEU graduate
2. Nicole Palao* (EH)
Sponsor: The late Drs. Cesar & Eliza Reyes Endowment Fund

Second Year (Level II)

3. Jesseica Co (Academic)
Sponsor: The late Drs. Cesar & Eliza Reyes Endowment Fund
4. Julieanne Quiban (EH)
Sponsor: Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera Endowment Fund

Third Year (Level III)

5. Adrian Limpin (Academic)
Sponsor: Drs. Rene & Aurora Estrella Endowment Fund
6. Paolo Diolola (Academic)
Sponsor: Dr. Brenda Narcelles-Banez
7. Cyrene Gail Cruz (Academic)
Sponsor: Class '77 (c/o Dr. Araceli Sweeney)
8. Ethel Gepulango (EH)
Sponsor: Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera Endowment Fund
9. Ian Mandani (EH)
Sponsor: Drs. Renato & Rory Estrella Endowment Fund

Fourth Year (Level IV)

10. Aimee Montes (EH)
Sponsor: Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera Endowment Fund
11. Jan Denise Olaso (EH)
Sponsor: Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera Endowment Fund

Notes

- *Newly accepted EH scholar for the current semester
- One Academic scholar was dropped due to failure to maintain eligibility in the program.

Total Fees for the Current Semester

- Academic Scholars Total: USD \$6,420.97
- EH Scholars Total: USD \$14,760.21
- EH Year Level IV: USD \$5,107.30

Grand Total: USD \$26,288.48

Other Updates

- For the upcoming First Semester of SY 2026–2027, the Committee will interview applicants from the AP Med 7-Year Program (6 years plus Post-Graduate Internship).
- During the January 2026 SAA Awards, no Foundation scholars placed among the Most Outstanding Students per year level, including the overall top student.
- Our Board Chairperson, Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, hosted a dinner for the Foundation scholars on January 16, 2026, at a local eatery in Quezon City. Most current scholars and several past scholars were present, along with Foundation officers (Drs. Obena, Aquiler, and Tansuche).
- The March 2026 Physician Licensure Examination (PLE) is scheduled for late March 2026.

.....Dr. Hernani Tansuche



PRESIDENT, FEUDNRSMAF Michigan Chapter
Arnel Clarin, M.D. Class '86

Michigan Chapter Inaugural Ball

On September 20, 2025, we had the FEU Michigan Chapter Inaugural Ball, which was well attended by FEU alumni, friends and families. Our guest speaker and inducting officer is the current Chairman of the Board, Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez. The evening was highlighted by vibrant singing and dancing, making it a truly memorable celebration of fellowship and unity.



Induction of Officers by Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Chairman of FEUDNRSMAF.

L-R: Drs. David Villanueva, Arnel Clarin, Renato Ramos, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Evelyn Altares, Edgar Altares, Ethel Villanueva, Rodolfo Son, Emmanuel Canto, Cheryl Canto & Chona Lastimosa



L-R: Drs. Renato Ramos, Chona Lastimosa, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Arnel Clarin, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Edgar Altares, Evelyn Altares, Emmanuel Canto, Cheryl Canto, Ethel Villanueva, David Villanueva & Rodolfo Son.



**Guest Speaker
Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez**



**Gavel Ceremony- Dr. Esther Aoigan,
outgoing President.**



**Speech-incoming President
Dr. Arnel Clarin**



Front row L-R: Drs. Renato Ramos, Angela Catapang, Ed Hernaez. 2nd Row L-R: Dr. Esther Aoigan, Annabelle Clarin, Aileen Gacho, Drs. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Chona Lastimoso, Jacqueline Gamiao, Ethel Villanueva, Cheryl Canto. 3rd Row L-R: Rose Villaruel, Peter Ramirez, Dr. Arnel Clarin, Harold Guiam, Dr. Raul Montante, Ferdie Angeles, Dr. Michael Gamiao, Dr. David Villanueva, Dr. Emmanuel Canto & Jed Villaruel.

This coming July 19–21, 2026, we will host the 45th Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention at MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit, Michigan.

We look forward to seeing you there!

.....Dr. Arnel Clarin

THE 45th ANNUAL REUNION & SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION INVITE & REGISTRATION

Far Eastern University Dr. Nicanor Reyes
School of Medicine Alumni Foundation

45th Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention

July 19-21, 2026 | MotorCity Casino-Hotel
2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, MI 48201



Honoring

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Diamond Jubilarians Class of '66</p> <p>Gold Jubilarians Class of '76</p> <p>Emerald Jubilarians Class of '81</p> <p>Coral Jubilarians Class of '91</p> <p>Pearl Jubilarians Class of '96</p> | <p>Platinum Jubilarians Class of '61</p> <p>Silver Jubilarians Class of 2001</p> <p>Sapphire Jubilarians Class of '81</p> <p>Ruby Jubilarians Class of '86</p> |
|---|--|



Detroit

Herbert Yansuete, MD
12489 Forest Run Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89158

*This registration form will also serve as an updated directory.
*Please print legibly and fill up the entire page including (class year, cell phone number and actual address)

Name: _____

Graduating Class Year _____ Course _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mobile Phone _____ Office Phone _____ Email _____

| Registration | Type | Fee | # of attendees | Subtotal (# of Attendees x Fee) |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Annual Membership (Required to attend all events) | Regular Alumni Member | \$79 USD | | |
| | Lifetime Member (on official list) | Exempt | | |
| Events | | Fee | # of attendees | Subtotal (# of Attendees x Fee) |
| CME Breakfast - (July 20) | | \$40 | | |
| Gen. Membership (Break Lunch) - (July 20) | | \$50 | | |
| Welcome Reception (Motown Magic) - (July 19) | | \$90 | | |
| Filipiniana Night - Dec 2020 - May 23, 2020 May 25 - June 27, 2020 June 29 - July 13, 2020 *On site only after July 13, 2020 | | \$140 | | |
| | | \$160 | | |
| | | \$180 | | |
| | | \$200 | | |
| Grand Ball Night - Dec. 2025 - May 29, 2026 May 31, 2026 - June 27, 2026 June 29, 2026 - July 13, 2026 *On site only after July 13, 2026 | | \$150 | | |
| | | \$170 | | |
| | | \$190 | | |
| | | \$200 | | |

General Schedule of Events

Sunday, July 19, 2026

- 1:00 PM—4:30 PM Registration (*Lobby Conference*)
- 4:45 PM—5:30 PM Catholic Sunday Mass (*Amnesia Room*)
- 6:00 PM—11:00 PM **Welcome Night “Motown Magic”** (*Amnesia Room*)

Monday, July 20, 2026

- 7:00 AM—1:00 PM Registration (*Conference Foyer*)
- 7:00 AM—8:30 AM Breakfast (Paid Attendees) (*MCC 2&3*)
- 7:30 AM—4:45 PM **Scientific Convention Sessions** (*MCC 1*)
- 12:00 PM—1:00 PM Annual Gen. Membership Meeting (*MCC 2&3*)
- 3:15 PM—4:15 PM **28th Annual Dr. Nicanor Reyes Memorial Lecture**
- 5:00 PM—6:00 PM Photo Sessions Class Jubilarians
- 6:00 PM—12:00 AM **Filipiniana Gala “Barrio Fiesta”** (*Salon A&B*)
- Honoring: Sapphire Class '81, Ruby Class '86, Coral Class '91
Pearl Class '96 Classes 2006/2011/2016

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

7:00 AM—6:00 PM Exhibits & Product Displays (*Conference Foyer*)

8:00 AM—4:00 PM Free Time

9:00 AM—2:00 PM **Annual Board of Trustees Meeting** (*MCC 1*)

4:30 PM—5:30 PM Photo Sessions Class Jubilarians

5:30 PM—12:00 AM **45th Grand Ball** (*Salon A&B*)

Honoring: Golden Class '76, Silver Class '01

Platinum Class '61, Diamond Class '66, Emerald Class '71

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

8:00 AM—9:00 AM Executive Committee (*Boardroom*)

2026 Annual Meeting Registration

Hotel Reservation:

Room Rates: \$169/day from July 17-23, 2026 (*discounted rates available two days prior and after the reunion*)

1. Call the hotel directly at (313) 237-7711 and reference the account 'FEU' (no processing fee for reservations via phone).

2. Follow this link for online booking:

<https://booking.motorcitycasino.com/?package=071926FEUA>

- **Confirm check-in and check-out dates** (*adjust if needed*)
- **Click "check availability"**
- **Find desired room type and click "Book Now"**

Discounted block rate cutoff date is June 28, 2026.

Registration Form:

- **Check Payment: Make checks payable to FEUDNRSMAF**
- **Must be mailed with a complete registration form to:**

Hernani Tansuche, MD

12449 Foxtail Run Ave

Las Vegas, 89138

- **Zelle Payment:** Send payment to feusmaf@gmail.com
- **Must be accompanied by a complete registration form e-mailed to iloilo16@aol.com.**
- **Name of Zelle recipient: "FEUDNR Alumni Foundation"**

Late registration forms must be received by mail postmarked on or before **July 13, 2026**. Late online registration forms will require additional fees

and no guarantee of preferred seating with classmates and served a different menu option.

Cancellation requests must be received in writing postmarked by July 13, 2026 or e-mailed to Dr. Tansuche at iloilo16@aol.com.

A cancellation fee of \$100 will be deducted from the refund. **Cancellations received on or after July 19, 2026 will not be refunded.** If attendee does not cancel in advance, no refunds will be issued.

SOUVENIR BOOK ADVERTISEMENT & SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM CONTRACT

Thank you for supporting our mission!



FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY DR NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI FOUNDATION

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feumedalumni@gmail.com. Tax exempt ID: 23-7171686

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I/We, _____, hereby authorize the Far Eastern University Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation (FEUDNRSMAF) to print and publish our advertisement in the Souvenir Program on the occasion of its 45th Annual Reunion and Convention on July 19-21, 2026, at the Motor City Hotel, Detroit, Michigan. This fundraising project will benefit scholarships for deserving students of our Alma Mater. Thank you for your generous support.

Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Chairman of the Board, FEUDNRSMAF

Sponsorship Levels and Advertisement Rates (applicable for Filipiniana Gala or Grand Ball):

- Platinum Table Sponsor – \$1500 with 1 Platinum ad (Prime Table)
- Platinum Sponsor – \$1000 with 1 Platinum ad and 3 free dinner tickets
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- Silver Sponsor – \$250 with 1 Silver ad
- Bronze Sponsor – \$100 (name listed in the Bronze sponsor page)
- Back Cover – \$600 (taken)
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- Regular Full Page Advertisement – \$150
- President's Chapter Message – \$100

Please check the rate desired above, attach the advertisement format/artwork & email to: aquilormd@gmail.com. Tel: (248) 872-7716. (1) Provide a print-ready PDF file of your advertisement that will be printed on a page as is. (2) If you need help in laying out your message or advertisement, please provide the following: digitized (scanned) company logo or a photo of 300 DPI resolution JPEG along with the message that you want to include. We will take the liberty of laying out your page at our discretion. **Only pre-paid advertisements received on or before June 10, 2026 will be included in the souvenir program.**

Payment Options:

- Check payable to FEUDNRSMAF. Mail to: FEUDNRSMAF c/o Rosemary Aquiler, MD 23510 Scott Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.
- Zello to FEUSMAF@gmail.com.

Acknowledgment & Signature of the Advertiser:

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FEUNRMF Convention and Alumni Homecoming Feature

Dean Lauro Panganiban Speaker:

Cesar Ong M.D. '84, Chairman, Dept. of Pediatrics-FEU-NRMF



Convention Speakers

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

Anna Liza Mauricio-Yalung MD '00 Danilo Cruz MD '76 Eva Reyes Espanol MD '00 Gierson Criste MD '00



Joseph Olivar MD '00



Katherine Mariano MD '00



Manuel Malicay MD '72



Marjorie Ramos MD '00



Nela Porciuncula MD '76



Rey de los Reyes MD '78



Vicente Mendoza II MD '00



Speakers' Certificates of Appreciation





Silver Jubilarians Class 2000 remarkable enthusiasm & support for the reunion!

Drs. Maria Quevedo, Elizabeth Ah Yong-Reyes, Renato Yuzon,
Jackie Escalona & Grace Obena

Others in attendance...



STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING January 15, 2026

Aligning Vision, Goals, and Opportunities

The spirit of homecoming, gratitude, and shared purpose was evident during the FEU Homecoming Celebration on January 15–17, 2026, as alumni, faculty, and partners reunited and reaffirmed their commitment to FEU's mission and future.

A highlight was the **Stakeholders' Meeting**, where faculty welfare and institutional sustainability were discussed. Central to this was the Faculty Incentive Program, launched over 25 years ago under President Dr. Emelie Ongcapin and Chairman Dr. Renato Ramos, with an approved USD 15,000 from the endowment fund to encourage and retain dedicated faculty service. In the past three years, FEUDNRSMAF ensured consistent support, augmented by Dr. Manuel Malicay's generosity: • 2024: USD 17,500 • 2025: USD 20,000 • 2026: USD 17,500



It was also emphasized that the Faculty Incentive Program, which recognizes service, is distinct from a proposed Faculty Improvement/Enhancement Program focused on professional growth—an urgent priority requiring collaborative planning and funding.



The **Simulation Laboratory Program** was a major agenda item, recognized as vital to modern medical education. With many schools already equipped with simulation labs, FEU must evolve to stay competitive. Discussions covered possible locations (including the library area), funding, operations, sustainability, and the need for a formal needs assessment. The School of Nursing's existing simulation lab was cited as a benchmark. Options included acquiring refurbished manikins, potentially the female version of Apollo, and fostering collaboration among partner foundations and medical society. Dean Pio Esguerra will submit a formal proposal.

The **Physician Licensure Examination (PLE)** was also reviewed, with the shared goal of restoring FEU's top-tier standing. Emphasis was placed on closely supporting students in the free review program, to which FEUDNRSMAF contributed USD 5,000. Broader academic strategies to sustain strong board performance were likewise discussed.

Scholarships & PGME were also discussed.

Foundation officers present included Drs. Grace Obena, Vincent Santangelo, Rosemary Aquiler, Hernani Tansuche, Manuel Malicay, and myself.



Following the meeting, we proceeded to the Balik FEU **Welcome Party**, themed “Barrio Fiesta,” where the Silver Jubilarians comprised the majority of attendees, adding warmth and nostalgia to the evening.

Standing L-R: Drs. Edward Hernaez, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Grace Obena, Vincent Santangelo, Rosemary Aquiler & husband, Mr. Ferdie Angeles. Thanks to Vincent for our green T-shirts.



The Welcome Party: Food, Fun, Friendship and Dancing

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (SAA) CEREMONY

Celebrating Excellence and Inspiring Success

On the second day, the **SAA Ceremony** was held, with Plaques and USD 2,550 awarded. The student who received the most top 6 subjects was YL2-**Jane Michaela Ramos**. Most Outstanding Students are: YL1-**Gwyneth Balde**, YL2- **Sydney Jansen Trinidad** and YL3-**Jeanne Rachel Rafael**. Overall, **TOP Student: Gwyneth Balde**. Legal medicine and Ophthalmology donor is **Dr. Noli Guinigundo** (in honor of his father-Serafin Guinigundo). Medicine A & B donor is **Dr. Paul Dantes'69** (in memory of Dr. Rhodora Palacio '69).



Plaques were given by **Dean Pio Esguerra**. Money gifts were also given. Standing L-R: Drs. Pio Esguerra, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Grace Averilla-Obena, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Hernani Tansuche & Vice Dean Dr. Mari- Ann Bringas.



**Overall Top Student:
YL1 Gwyneth Balde.**

Most top performing student YL2-Jane Michaela Ramos with 6 subjects.

Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Chairman of the Board, concluded the program with brief inspiring remarks on excellence, perseverance, and service.



Dean Esguerra presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the SAA Fund to FEUDNRSMAF.

Standing L-R: Dean Dr. Pio Esguerra, Chairman Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, President Dr. Grace Averilla-Obena, Exec. Director Dr. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Asst. Exec. Director Dr. Hernani Tansusche, donor Dr. Paul Dantes '69 & Vice Dean Dr. Mari-Ann Bringas.

DINNER with the FEUDNRSMAF SCHOLARS. Drs. Hernani Tansuche, Grace Averilla-Obena, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, and yours truly shared a meaningful dinner with our Academic and Economic Hardship (EH) Scholars, along with four former scholars who are now Post-Graduate Interns (PGIs). A total of 13 scholars attended. Each received a token of PHP 1,000 during the gathering held at Livestock Restaurant in Quezon City—famously known for its perfectly crisp *crispy pata*, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

More importantly, the evening evolved into a productive and open forum about their academic experiences, learning needs, areas for improvement, and the support systems that can help them succeed. Mental health was also strongly emphasized, with a clear message that self-care and emotional well-being should be an essential part of their daily routine.



1st pic Left row: Benedict Anagbogu, Dominic Falcon, Dr. Tansusche, Paolo Diolola, Drs. Hernaez, Obena & Aquiler. Right row: Clau Guerrero, Kierson Barbosa, Jesseica Co, Julieanne Quiban, Ethel Gepulango. Cyrene Gail Cruz, Ian Mandani, Nicole Palao, Adrian Limpin & Maki Cera. 2nd pic reverse.

51st FEU-NRMF ANNUAL ALUMNI GALA *An Evening of Timeless Elegance*



The Gala "Under the Stars" in the Grand ballroom of Solaire Quezon City



Welcome Message



Singing of the FEU Hymn

LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

Words that Inspire, Moments that Unite, and a Future Illuminated by Shared Dreams!

Mr. Juan Enrique Reyes
President/COO FEU-NRMF



Nida Blankas-Hernaez, MD
Chairman, FEUDNRSMAF



Grace Averilla-Obena, MD
President, FEUDNRSMAF



Elizabeth Ah Yong-Reyes, MD
Outgoing President
FEU-NRMF MAS



Maria Quevedo, MD
Incoming President
FEU-NRMF MAS



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AWARDS. FEUDNRSMAF donated \$6,100 for these awards.

| FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2025-26 | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| AWARD | DETAILS | AWARDEEE | DEPARTMENT |
| Dr. Jesus B. Nolasco | Most Outstanding Senior Faculty - Clinical | Dr. Nathaniel W. Yang | OHNS |
| Dr. Horacio A. Ilagan | Most Outstanding Senior Faculty - Basic Science | Dr. Joseph U. Olivar | Physio/OB |
| Samuel Green | Most Outstanding Junior Faculty - Clinical | Dr. Cherry Go-Palomar | OB |
| Samuel Green | Most Outstanding Junior Faculty - Basic Science | Dr. Sheila T. Magpale | Physio/OB |
| | Professorial Chair | Dr. Kim Shi Tan | Surgery |
| | | Dr. Maria Carmen H. Quevedo | OB |
| | Most Outstanding Faculty Alumnus | Dr. Sylvia D. Carnero | OB |
| | PLE October 2025 topnotcher | Dr. Zairah D. Monjardin | 5th place |
| | PLE April 2025 topnotcher | Dr. Jhovan C. Pascual | 4th place |

Legacy of Excellence: Honoring Outstanding Achievements



Most Outstanding Senior Faculty-Clinical
Nathaniel W. Yang, M.D., Dept. of OHNS



Most Outstanding Senior Faculty-Basic Science
Joseph U. Olivar, M.D., Dept. of Physio/OB



Most Outstanding Junior Faculty-Clinical
Cherry Go-Palomar, M.D., Dept. of OB



Most Outstanding Junior Faculty-Basic Science
Sheila T. Magpale, M.D., Dept. of Physio/OB



Most Outstanding Professorial Chair
Kim Shi Tan, M.D., Dept. of Surgery



Most Outstanding Professorial Chair
Maria H. Quevedo, M.D., Dept. of OB



Most Outstanding Faculty Alumnus
Sylvia D. Carnero, M.D., Dept of OB



PLE October 2025 Topnother
Zairah D. Mojardin, M.D., 5th Place

Donor Acknowledgement to FEUDNRSMAF



The Faculty Incentive donation of **USD 17,500** (P1,006,250) was formally accepted—**USD 15,000** from the FEUDNRSMAF and **USD 2,500** donated by Dr. Manuel Malicay.

The Foundation's commitment to our Alma Mater and its mission was evident throughout the celebrations.



Three (3) Certificates of Appreciation presented to FEUDNRSMF for the PLE Course, Faculty Incentive & Faculty Achievement Award Funds accepted by Drs. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Grace Averilla-Obena & Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles.



Dr. Hernani Tansuche received a Certificate of Recognition for his dedication and service as Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

Donor Acknowledgement: Class 1984



Donation of 1 Million pesos from Class '84 for Library improvement presented to President/COO Juan Enrique Reyes by Class '84: Dr. Manolito Reyes-Class President, Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, Dr. Herminigildo Valle & Dr. Abigail Castro-Former Dean.

Induction of Officers/Members L-R: Drs. Elizabeth Ahyong-Reyes (outgoing Pres.), Maria Quevedo (incoming Pres.), Cerelyn Dacula (VP), Celia Ravelo (Sec.), Lyla Reyes (Asst. Sec.), Cherry Palomar (Tres.), Humphrey Bitun (Auditor) & Board Members: Drs. Alvin Vibar, Ana Belen Alensuela, Mari-Ann Bringas, Michelle Gamboa, Abelardo Lucas.



Service Award given to Mrs. Cely Ocampo, Secretariat, by FEU-NRMF MAS



The Presentation



JUBILARIAN SPOTLIGHTS & REFLECTIONS

Embrace the Journey, Celebrate the Legacy, Honoring Success, and Treasuring Memories

Golden Jubilarians Class 1976

50 year of Wisdom and Triumph





Golden Jubilarians Dance Showcase

Silver Jubilarians Class 2000

25 years of Friendship, Excellence & Impact



A Reunion Weekend That Sparked a Celebration of Friendship

by Marjorie A. Ramos, M.D., FPCP, FPCEDM, President, Class 2000

Head, Diabetes, Thyroid & Endocrine Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, Q.C.

Twenty-five years have flown by since we added two letters to the end of our names and walked across that familiar stage. It feels like yesterday, yet it's half a lifetime ago. So much has changed—us, our careers, the world around us, and, of course, the beloved alma mater we still root for. Yet the pull to come back, to reconnect with old friends, mentors, and the family that shaped who we are, was stronger than ever. Even more than a month out, the buzz in the air was electric.



Kickoff: The Golf Day That Started It All

We opened the Grand Alumni Homecoming with a sunny roar: an invitational golf tournament on January 13, 2026, at Royal Northwoods Golf and Country Club in San Rafael, Bulacan. The fairways woke up with us as the sun rose, and the course quickly

filled with familiar faces—alumni from different batches, mentors, and lifelong friends. Early risers arrived with hugs, old nicknames resurfaced, and the tee boxes turned into a rolling reunion stage. The weather cooperated: blue skies, a gentle breeze, and a course that welcomed players



of all levels. The day blended friendly competition with plenty of laughter and stories that only time with great friends can write. We wrapped up after lunch, but the real prize was the fellowship that lingered in the air and the renewed sense of belonging.

Scientific Convention: Brainpower, Heart, and Shared Vision

The scientific convention—one of the weekend’s highlights—took place January 15–16, 2026, on the fourth floor of the Josephine R. Reyes Building. The event began with a Thanksgiving Mass, setting a grateful, forward-looking tone for what followed. The FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation School of Medicine hosted the 48th Dean Lauro Panganiban Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. Cesar M. Ong, a respected professor and pediatric pulmonologist from Batch 1984. His talk, *Building a Resilient Medical Curriculum: Preparing Future Physicians for a Changing World*, landed with timely insight and practical takeaways.



The convention itself was a labor of love, with topics thoughtfully curated to reflect the best of our alumni’s experiences across batches and specialties. The Scientific Committee, led by Dr. Joseph Olivar, crafted a program that wasn’t just informative but also energizing—sparking conversations that continued long after the sessions ended. The field was rich with voices from our own rosters: diverse paths, shared challenges, and the ongoing pursuit of excellence in medicine.

Grand Gala Night: An Evening Under the Stars

January 17, 2026 capped the weekend with a grand finale at Solaire North Vertis, in a setting that truly felt like a celebration of journeys and friendships. The ballroom glowed with a magical atmosphere as lights danced and the room hummed with anticipation. We hung up our stethoscopes and hospital gowns—figuratively, of course—and slipped into dancing shoes ready for a night of celebration. The collaborative dances from the different batches wove a tapestry of joy, pride, and a touch of playful competition that left everyone smiling. Being in one big ballroom with all the celebrating batches, alumni, mentors, and administrators was a powerful reminder

that, after all these years, we remain part of one family—bound by shared beginnings and a future we're still building.



Why This Weekend Truly Matters

This isn't just nostalgia with confetti. It's a living reminder that our alma mater didn't just teach us skills; it created a community that travels with us—through careers, cities, and decades. We

aren't merely looking back fondly; we're stepping forward with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and a stronger commitment to mentor, support, and inspire the next generation.



The alumni network is a living thing, and this weekend proved how powerful it can be when we come together. The memories flourish not just in photos and stories but in everyday moments—mentoring a student, reconnecting with an old classmate, or simply keeping the flame of curiosity burning bright. Let us stay connected: watch for next year’s calendar, share your memories, and contribute ideas for future gatherings.Dr. Marjorie Ramos

Diamond Jubilarians Class 1966

Pillar of our Shared Heritage

Dr. Milagros Leyva & Dr. Juanita Mendiola



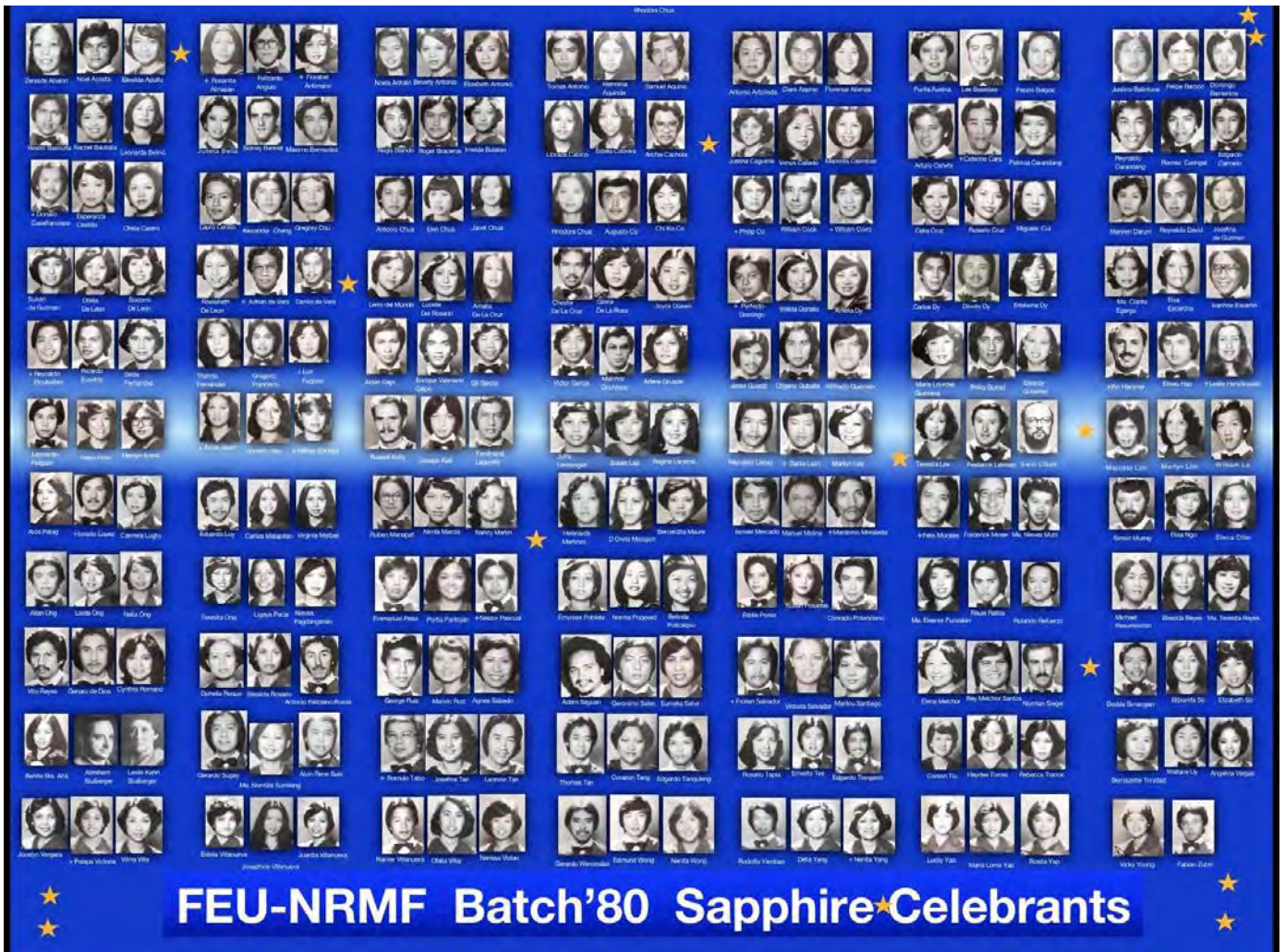
Sapphire Jubilarians Class '80

30 Years of Strength & Unity

by Maria Lorna Yap Wong, M.D., MMHoA, FPCP, FPSN Class'80

FEU-NRMF Batch '80, the Sapphire Jubilarian Celebrants last Jan 15-17, 2026 was a fantabulous reunion preceded by 6 months of planning and a collaboration across the globe. The 'core or working' group were volunteers who took charge in the organization, scouting for venue, budget allocation, mode of transportation, food and entertainment, souvenirs, keepsakes, registrations and many more.

Reconnection of our batch started during the Pandemic. Staying home, I came across our yearbook and started scanning the pages one by one. I ask the question, 'kumusta kaya sila?' and started taking pictures of each and everyone and pasted all pictures in one powerpoint slide. Then one classmate provided family pics, called another classmate who knew the whereabouts of other classmates and so on and so forth.... It created a ripple effect and with social media platforms like messenger and viber, FEUNRMF batch'80 was established.



FEU-batch '80 Sapphire celebration kicked off at Subic Bay Hotel last Jan 13 with white attire, a perfect match with the yacht tour ambiance. The sunset view speaks of the beauty of days gone by and the presence of divinity encircling us all as we continue on with our lives thankful for FEU-batch '80. The band was awesome, with the food and wine, the music of the 80's were simply irresistible and everyone was on the floor dancing and enjoying to the hilt. A masquerade Fellowship night brought us closer and we started with rehearsal for our dance presentation. Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar in Bataan, a stunning place with beautifully preserved heritage houses and breathtaking views transported us back in time the following day, Jan 14.





On Jan 15, we were thrilled to be back to FEU-NRMF and attended the opening activities – a mass, scientific sessions, a picture at the helipad with 360° view of the city and the Barrio Fiesta welcome reception filled with sumptuous dinner and more `dauncen.'



The 51st FEU-NRMF Annual Grand Alumni Night at Solaire Resorts North, Vertis North, Quezon City last Jan 17 dubbed *'The Gala Under the Stars'* was an evening of timeless elegance. To once again meet our legendary mentors, classmates, friends reminds us of the journey of life. It was a night filled with stories, laughter, and even tears as we caught up with everyone. Alumni showcased different talents and twirled the night away.





The Sapphire Celebrants with 60-70 attendees were truly filled with treasured memoirs and forever grateful first to our Lord Almighty and to our Alma Mater, FEU-NRMF.

Maria Lorna Yap Wong, M.D., MMHoA, FPCP, FPSN
FEU-batch'80



Ruby Jubilarians Class '85

40 years of Passion & Legacy

by Renato D. Yuzon, M.D. Class '85

Hematologist/Oncologist & Hospitalist, Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center
Merced, Central California

I had the privilege of attending our Ruby Celebration in January 2026 at our medical school and the gala night at Solaire Hotel. It was truly an unforgettable experience. Walking into the school that once shaped my dream brought a flood of memories - late-night study sessions, nerve-wracking examinations, clinical rotations, countless moments of camaraderie.



What made the celebration so special was seeing my classmates and friends again after all these years. We have each taken different paths, faced different challenges, and built our own journey in medicine. Yet, when we gathered together, it felt as if no time had passed. There was so much laughter, so many stories shared, and an overwhelming sense of pride in what we have all become. From idealistic students in white uniform to dedicated physicians serving our communities, the transformation is something truly worth celebrating.



I am deeply grateful to our university and its medical school for the strong foundation it gave me - not only in knowledge and clinical skills, but in values, compassion and resilience. Most of all, I am thankful for our professors. Their passion for teaching, their patience, and their unwavering commitment to shaping future doctors make them a rare breed. They did not simply lecture; they mentored, guided and inspired us to strive for excellence while remaining humane and grounded.



The Ruby Celebration was more than just an anniversary event - it was a reminder of how far we have come and of the shared roots that continue to bind us. My heart is full of gratitude, pride and renewed inspiration to carry forward the legacy of my alma mater in the best way I can: by serving with integrity, compassion and dedication.Renato D. Yuzon, M.D.

Coral Jubilarians Class 1990

35 years of Fellowship & Service



FEU-NRMF Imprimis of '90 Celebrates 35 Years of Fellowship and Service

by Jocelyn Ang, M.D., FAAP, FIDSA, FPIDS Class '90

Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital of Michigan

The FEU-NRMF Imprimis of '90 (Batch 1990) proudly celebrated its 35th Anniversary during the 51st FEU-NRMF Annual Alumni Homecoming, highlighted by the Imprimis Alumni Event themed "The Gala Under the Stars."



The milestone gathering brought together classmates from different parts of the world to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate a shared medical journey that began at FEU-NRMF more than three decades ago.

The formal anniversary celebration during the Grand Alumni and Jubilarians' Night was marked by elegance, warmth, and camaraderie. Members of Imprimis of '90 gathered in formal attire for the commemorative program and group photographs, symbolizing enduring friendships and the strong bonds forged during medical school. Despite diverse paths in clinical practice, academics, leadership, and service, the reunion reaffirmed the unity and shared identity of the class.





Adding vibrancy and celebration to the gala was a special dance performance by Imprimis of '90 dancers, who wore distinctive tie-dye class shirts created specifically for the number. The performance was enthusiastically

received and reflected the creativity, unity, and joyful spirit that continue to define the batch after 35 years.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to FEU-NRMF Imprimis of '90, honoring the batch for 35 years of excellence in medicine. The certificate was formally conferred during the 51st Grand Alumni & Jubilarians' Night on January 17, 2026, at Solaire Resort North, Vertis North, Quezon City, recognizing the collective contributions of the batch to the medical profession and to the FEU-NRMF alumni community.



The recognition of outgoing and incoming officers of Imprimis of '90 was held a day earlier during Batch Day, providing a dedicated and meaningful occasion to

acknowledge leadership, service, and commitment to the class. This gathering allowed classmates to express appreciation for those who have stewarded batch initiatives and to welcome new officers who will continue strengthening alumni engagement.

As FEU-NRMF Imprimis of '90 marks this 35-year milestone, the reunion served not only as a celebration of shared memories, but also as a reaffirmation of commitment—to one another, to the alumni community, and to the enduring values of excellence, compassion, and service instilled by FEU-NRMF.



Mabuhay ang FEU-NRMF Imprimis of '90!
Submitted by **Dr. Jocelyn Ang** (standing in maroon gown) on behalf of FEU-NRMF Imprimis of '90 (Batch 1990)

Decennial Jubilarians Class 2015

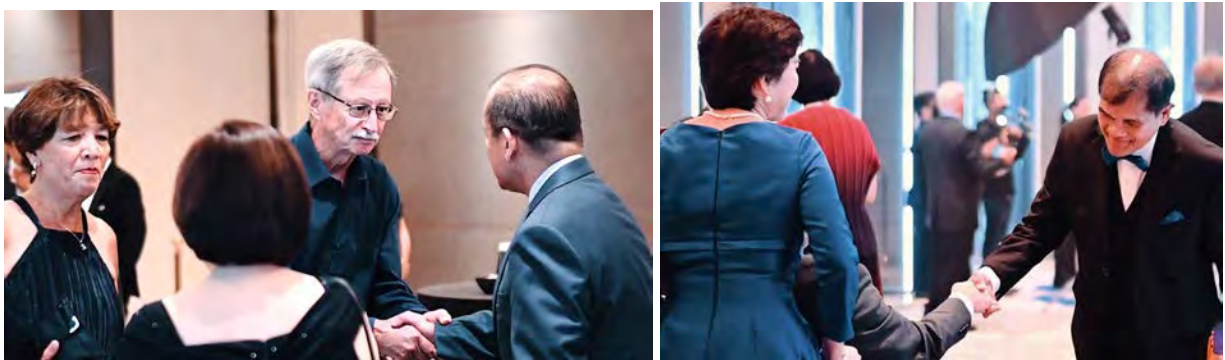
Celebrating a Decade of Professional Journey





Dr. Justine Natividad, Class 2015 Jubilarian singing for his class.

GALA “Under the Stars”
An Evening of Elegance, Dancing and Camaraderie



The Handshakes



The Smiles



The Poise



The Fun & Laughter



Thumbs up with the Ruby Jubilarians



and The Hugs



The Dancing



The T-O-A-S-T-S



The Silver Jubilarians Parade



Dr. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, & Nida Blankas-Hernaez with Coral Jubilarians.



Group pic with the Ruby Jubilarians. Decennial Jubilarians Drs. Sheryl Yang-Zamora & Justin Natividad.. Golden Jubilarian Dance.



Dr. Obena, Kevyn Reyes & Pres. Richie Reyes.



Dr. Hernaez with the Reyes family



Dr. Natividad and Hernaez couple.



Dr. Malicay, Hernaez with Golden Jubilarian ...with Dr. Mari-Ann Bringas & Denise Isidro



Dr. Heil, Rupley, Ahiong-Reyes, Quevedo & Reyes



Drs R. Aquiler-Angeles & Cerelyn Dacula Dr. Rosemary Aquiler -Angeles & Mr. Ferdie Angeles Mr. Nelson & Dr Grace Obena



Drs. Ed & Nida Hernaez

Drs. Lylah Reyes, Maria Quevedo, Nida Hernaez

Dr. Alvin Vilbar with Dr. Nida Hernaez

BUILDING A RESILIENT MEDICAL CURRICULUM FOR A CHANGING WORLD: PREPARING FUTURE PHYSICIANS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

48TH Dean Lauro Panganiban Memorial Lecture



Cesar M. Ong, M.D.

Chair, Dept. of Pediatric, FEUNRMF
Batch '84

On January 15, 2026, I had the honor of delivering the 48th Dean Lauro Panganiban Memorial Lecture at FEU-NRMF. The memorial lecture series continues to celebrate a leader who believed that medical education must be both rigorous and compassionate –‘medicine with a heart.’

In reflecting on Dean Panganiban’s legacy, I chose an important issue in contemporary medical education: how we can intentionally build resilience into our curriculum to prepare future physicians for an increasingly complex and demanding world.

Why Resilience, and Why Now?

While medical education has always been challenging, the pressures confronting today's students are broader in scope and more persistent than in previous generations. Local evidence showed that a significant proportion of early-year medical students experience depressive symptoms, with certain groups at even higher risk. Chronic stress has been associated not only with poorer academic performance but also with burnout, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and declining overall well-being.

These realities compel us to move beyond viewing stress as an inevitable rite of passage. We must ask how our institutions can create structures that protect and strengthen our learners.

From 'Bouncing Back' to 'Bouncing Forward'

Resilience is often described as the ability to 'bounce back' from adversity. In the lecture, I highlighted a broader perspective: resilience is the capacity to 'bounce forward' – to transform difficulty into growth.

Setbacks in medical school (failed examinations, challenging rotations, emotionally taxing clinical encounters, and moments of self-doubt) are intrinsic to professional formation. The goal is not to eliminate adversity but to ensure that students are supported in ways that allow them to emerge stronger, wiser, and more grounded.

Understanding Today's Learners

Any meaningful reform must begin with understanding who our students are. Many of today's medical learners belong to Generation Z. They are collaborative, technologically adept, and responsive to interactive and visually engaging learning strategies. They value timely feedback and authentic mentorship, and they are more open about mental health concerns than previous cohorts.

At the same time, constant digital connectivity and heightened social comparison can amplify anxiety and self-doubt. Recognizing both the strengths and vulnerabilities of this generation allows us to design curricula that are responsive rather than rigid. If we are to build resilience into medical education, we must first align our approaches with the learners we serve.

Moving Beyond the Myth of Individual Grit

Historically, resilience in medicine has been framed as a matter of personal toughness. Students were expected to withstand stress independently, and difficulties were often interpreted as personal shortcomings. I emphasized during the lecture that this perspective is no longer sufficient. When resilience is treated solely as an individual responsibility, systemic contributors to stress may remain unexamined.

Resilience must therefore be institutionalized. It is not enough to encourage students to 'be stronger.' We must design systems that are wiser. Medical schools carry a professional and

ethical obligation to protect the well-being of their learners. A resilient student body ultimately translates into more competent, compassionate physicians and strengthens the institution as a whole.

Institutional Strategies for Building Resilience

There are several practical strategies that institutions can adopt. First, faculty development is essential. Educators play a critical role in modeling resilience. When faculty provide timely, constructive feedback and intervene early when students struggle, they foster psychological safety. When teachers share how they navigate their own professional challenges, they normalize growth through adversity.

Second, academic practices matter. Breaking lectures into digestible segments, clarifying connections between topics, encouraging thoughtful questioning, and integrating clinical narratives can enhance intrinsic motivation – a key correlate of resilience. Assessments should be rigorous but professionally conducted, with feedback mechanisms designed to promote learning rather than fear.

Third, robust support systems are indispensable. Structured mentorship programs, peer mentoring from senior students, accessible and confidential counseling services, and organized resiliency workshops can significantly reduce isolation. Workshops that teach mindfulness, cognitive reframing techniques, stress management, and time management equip students with practical tools for self-regulation.

Clerkship-specific resilience training is equally important. Students must learn how to process medical errors constructively, manage team dynamics, and find meaning in daily clinical work without succumbing to destructive self-criticism.

The Role of Students Themselves

While institutions must lead structural change, students remain active participants in cultivating resilience. I encouraged learners to adopt growth mindsets, prioritize physical health, schedule protected downtime, nurture peer networks, normalize help-seeking, and engage in reflective practices such as journaling. Resilience is strengthened through connection. When students feel supported by faculty, peers, and institutional systems, adversity becomes formative rather than overwhelming.

Honoring a Legacy

I concluded the lecture by reflecting on the enduring maxim *Ad Astra Per Aspera* – “To the stars through difficulty.” Competence – the stars – is not achieved despite adversity but forged through it. The challenge before us is not to shield students from every hardship, but to ensure that hardship refines rather than diminishes them.

In honoring Dean Lauro Panganiban’s legacy, we reaffirm that ‘medicine with a heart’ extends beyond patient care. It must also define how we educate those who will care for patients in the future. By intentionally embedding resilience into our curriculum and culture, we prepare physicians who are not only clinically excellent but also emotionally grounded and professionally sustainable.

The 51st Dean Lauro Panganiban Memorial Lecture thus served not only as a tribute to the past but also as a call to action for the future – a reminder that institutional compassion is as vital as individual strength in shaping the doctors our communities deserve.

.....Dr. Cesar Ong



127th Commencement Exercises

The **127th Commencement Exercises** of the doctors, nurses, laboratory technology services, physical therapy, marked a defining milestone for our graduates—and a deeply meaningful moment in my own journey, as I had the distinct honor of serving as Commencement Speaker. With humility and heartfelt conviction, I endeavored to inspire our newest physicians to embrace their calling with competence, compassion, and courage.



I remain profoundly grateful for the standing ovation and the parents' generous words of appreciation following the ceremony. My sincere thanks to **Juan Enrique Reyes, Magdalena Natividad,** and **Pio Esguerra** for the gracious invitation to serve as Guest of Honor.



It is likewise a privilege to accept Dr. Esguerra's invitation to be next year's **Josephine Reyes Speaker**, an honor I was unable to fulfill this year due to my concurrent medical mission in Sarangani.

Attached is the full Commencement Message for your reflection and continued inspiration.

L-R: Drs. Magdalena Natividad (VP Academic Affairs), Dr. Edward Hernaez & Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez (Guest Speaker), Pres.COO Juan Enrique Reyes, and Dean Dr. Pio Esguerra.

127th Commencement Address

"Be the Change: Healing a Nation, One Life at a Time"

Greetings & Thanks

Congratulations to our Honored Graduates of the 127th Commencement Exercises!

Standing before you today feels both like a homecoming and a true privilege. Thank you, President **Juan Enrique Reyes**, Dean **Dr. Pio Esguerra**, and VP Academic Affairs **Dr. Magdalena Natividad** for this honor.

A Moment of Recognition

Let us pause for a moment. Graduates, look to your right... and now to look to your left. These are your classmates—the ones who shared your journey: review puyat, exam panic, last-minute cramming, and moments of uncertainties and victories.

Now, think of the people who stood behind you. May I ask the parents and families to please stand.

Congratulations po. Today is not only their graduation—it is your graduation, too. *Nagpuyat din kayo. Gumastos. Kinabahan.* Thank you for your love, prayers, and sacrifices. *Don't worry, in no time, sila na rin ang magbibigay sa inyo nang pera at mag-aalaga sa inyo. Am I right, graduates?*

Let us give them a big round of applause. Thank you. Please be seated.

To our faculty and mentors—please stand. Thank you for your selfless dedication to your calling. We need you! As **Nelson Mandela** said, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* In your hands rest the future of these graduates and the future of healthcare.

Let us give them a well-deserved round of applause. Please be seated. Thank you.

Purpose: The Beginning of a Calling

How many of you entered healthcare because you wanted to make a difference—because you wanted to help save lives?

I was seven years old when I was hospitalized—sick and frightened. But I recovered quickly. Amazed. And...*I want to be a doctor.*” Some smiled. Some laughed. To them, it seemed impossible—being the youngest of nine children. But I believed then, and I believe now: “*Where there is a will, there is always a way.*”

I did not take a university entrance exam. FEU opened its doors to me as an Entrance Scholar. I had a vision—and in time, I graduated as a Doctor of Medicine, filled with dreams and a sincere desire to serve.

I chose Pediatrics for a very honest reason: “*I was afraid of caring for the very premature babies, and I wanted to conquer my fear.*” That was my answer in my very first—and last—interview. I got in. Despite being a foreign graduate and being pregnant twice during training, I completed my residency training and went on to spend decades caring for children.

That is the power of purpose. When armed with determination and hard work, it leads you exactly where you meant to be.

A Calling Beyond Career

Purpose, however, does not end with a dream. It demands responsibility.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “*Be the change you wish to see in the world.*”

In healthcare, that change rarely begins with positions or policies. More often, it begins with one person choosing to care.

Graduates, our Philippines is calling you to serve. **Are you ready?** Today, you are not merely receiving a diploma. You are accepting a responsibility.

Allow me to share a moment that forever redefined mine. As a hospitalist, I vividly remember being called to the Emergency Room to resuscitate a lifeless infant—unwanted, abandoned, thrown in a dumpster. It was heartbreaking! Luckily, that infant survived. Not only survived—but with long term follow up, the child thrived. At that moment, I had a chance to teach our paramedics and emergency staff how to save a life. The story reached newspapers and television—but the headlines did not matter. What mattered was this: **One life was saved. And many more were empowered to save lives.** That, dear graduates, is the true power—and weight—of our calling.

The Reality We Face

Let us speak honestly. Our country faces a serious healthcare crisis:

- Only 8 doctors for every 10,000 Filipinos
- A shortage of over 127,000 nurses
- Overall shortage of healthcare workers.
- Only 60% of doctors and 50% of nurses are actively practicing.

Many leave the country. Many remain in cities. Meanwhile, families in rural and far-flung communities are left waiting—sometimes never seen at all. For them, healthcare still means: mahabang biyaha, mahabang pila, at minsan, mahabang pasensya. Behind every statistic is a Filipino family waiting—not just for treatment, but for hope.

Did you know that Filipino doctors, nurses, medtechs, physical therapists, and respiratory therapists are in demand worldwide? They love Filipinos for we are skilled and hardworking and yes, they also love our *pancit*.

Ethics, Integrity, and Trust

Hippocrates once said: *“Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.”*

Healthcare is not merely a career. It is a public trust. *“Hindi man agad gumaling ang sistema, pero may gumagaling na tao—dahil sa inyo.”*

Do not be part of a corrupt system. Easy money fades. Integrity lasts a lifetime.

Education & Giving Back

Being the youngest, I learned to listen—but also to stand up for what is right. I never imagined I would lead many organizations or serve as the first female Chairman of the Board of the FEU-DNRSMA Foundation in the USA in its 44-year history. For over four decades, our Foundation has worked hand in hand with our Alma mater and we remain deeply committed to its mission.

FEU gave us more than knowledge—it gave us resilience and the Tamaraw spirit... *matatag, masipag, at mapagmalasakit.*

Graduation does not end your relationship with your alma mater—it deepens it. Never forget where you came from. Honor FEU. Don't forget to give back through mentorship, service, and leadership.

Service Beyond Self

For more than twenty years, I have led or joined yearly medical missions, seeing firsthand the impact of healthcare in underserved communities.

Fifteen years ago, while leading a medical-surgical mission, a middle-aged woman approached me, with tears in her eyes and said: *“Doctor, I was blind all my life. Now, I can see. Thank you for bringing this mission.”* I had goosebumps and I thanked God—that we made a difference.

As **Mahatma Gandhi** once said: *“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”*

I hope you will find your own way to serve—through missions, advocacy, or leadership. Service reminds us why we chose this path. Service is the greatest gift we can give to mankind.

Caring for the Healer

As you enter into a life of service, remember this: *“You cannot pour from an empty cup.”*

In the United States alone, 42% of physicians experience burnout, nearly 20% struggle with depression, and suicide rates among healthcare professionals continue to rise. This is very alarming! More importantly, Burnout and mental health challenges are for real!

Caring for yourself is not optional. It is an essential part of caring for others.

Let me leave you with these guiding principles:

Rest is not weakness.

Asking for help is not failure.

Challenges do not break you—they strengthen you.

Protecting your mental health is professionalism.

A Promise for the Future

Graduates, may I now ask you to stand. Congratulations. Today, you have reached a milestone-but your journey has just begun. Harness your education, your creativity, your voice and your valor to make the world better. Keep your purpose and passion burning—and yes, pass your boards. The world needs you ready.

As you go forward, hold on to these 3 anchors:

First: **Never forget God**—the source of all healing. Remain grateful. Do your best and let God do the rest.

Second: Never lose your compassion. Knowledge makes you competent; compassion makes you unforgettable.

Lastly: Never stop learning. Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Machines are reshaping the horizon. Healthcare will keep evolving—and so must you.

Today, you carry not only the pride of your families, but the legacy of generations of FEU graduates who have served humanity with excellence.

Now, please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I PROMISE to treat every patient with dignity.

I PROMISE to uphold truth, even when it is difficult.

I PROMISE to lead with humility, courage, and compassion.

I PROMISE to care for my own wellness and well-being. So help me God.

By this promise, you are not merely graduating— you are committing to be true health care professionals.

Go forward with courage. Serve with humility. Lead with the heart of a true Tamaraw. *and...**Be the hope of our nation.***

Let us give them a big round of applause. Graduates, please be seated.

As I close, let me leave you with the words of **Mother Teresa**: “*Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.*”

God bless. Mabuhay tayong lahat. Mabuhay ang FEU!

.....Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez



What's The Score?

by Roy Cabrera, M.D. '65

Member, Board of Trustee, FEUDNRSMAF
Primary Scholarship Donor & Editorial Team Member

INEVITABLE: Loneliness, Aging, and Staying Proactive

Whether you are young or advancing toward your senior years, **loneliness and isolation** can happen to anyone. The loss of a loved one — a spouse, partner, family member, or close friend — can trigger both in profound ways.

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General compared the health impact of loneliness to **smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day**, linking it to risks similar to obesity and physical inactivity. Loneliness has

been associated with a greater risk of dementia (from lack of meaningful interaction), cardiovascular disease, depression, and even premature death.

Isolation increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people worked from home, students shifted to virtual learning, and social connections were disrupted. Alarmingly, some teenagers experienced suicidal ideation, and others tragically took their own lives.

The Importance of Socialization

Socialization is one of the most important things a person can cultivate and intentionally maintain. Start by meeting regularly with a friend, neighbor, or family member. Mutual support matters — you can rely on one another for various needs.

For medical students, this is especially eye-opening. An article published in BioMed Central (United Kingdom) reported that social isolation among medical students is associated with an increased risk of dropping out of medical school.

Loneliness and the Brain

Loneliness and isolation unfortunately showed changes in the brain. In the journal of *Microgravity*, Mathias Basner, M.D., PhD and David Raolf, PhD., published their findings in the brains of individuals in Antarctica who were isolated and experienced very little daylight. They observed that there was a decrease in the cell volume in certain areas of the brain after the winter compared to scans taken before the winter. However, the cell volume went back to normal six months after the individual returned from Antarctica. They also found that better sleep had its advantages regarding cell volume recovery.

Aging and Night Driving

Another inevitable stage in our life as we age is difficulty driving at night. This is because you start to lose rod photoreceptors before you lose cone (daylight) receptors. Difficulty driving at night is even worse with age related macular degeneration. Adding to this problem is that our pupils shrink with age. Reaction times are slowed as you age and the presence of cataracts make it worse.

Have you noticed it is hard for many older people to drive at night because of the blinding front vehicle lights? This is because the industry changed the old dim halogen bulbs to intense blue-white LED and Xenon HID lighting systems which scatter the beam of lights widely causing severe glaring. **Be cautious when driving at night. Know your limitations and practice defensive driving.**

Women's Health

Conventional mammograms may miss up to 40-60% of cancers in dense breasts and a so-called 3D mammography or Tomosynthesis improves detection rates. Another technology, SoftVue, uses sound waves to create a 360-degree image of the breast. Is any one technology better for a

dense breast looking for cancer? According to an AI Overview, SoftVue is “*considered a superior supplemental screening tool to 3D mammography as it uses no radiation or compression to find 20% more cancer*”. (Not scientifically proven). However, should a woman offer mastectomy and needed breast reconstruction, always ask the doctor to follow the 45-55 breast rule. This is a rule in plastic surgery that an attractive breast shape has 45% of its fullness above the nipple and 55% below it.

Men’s Health

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men. For high-risk cancer, treatment options typically include radical prostatectomy or external beam radiation therapy combined with long-term androgen deprivation therapy (ADT). Treatment decisions depend on cancer stage, overall health, and potential side effects such as incontinence or erectile dysfunction (ED).

However, in 2019, a procedure other than radiation or surgery was cleared by the FDA for LOW and INTERMEDIATE risk prostate cancer. It is called TULSA-PRO (Transurethral Ultrasound Ablation of the Prostate). An applicator is inserted into the urethra delivering ultrasound energy, or soundwaves ablating a focused tumor or the entire gland. The urologist can explain this a lot better.

Accordingly, a robotic procedure with minimal side effects. Results from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas showed the PSA dropped 75% or more within a year. By 3 years after the procedure, 13% needed additional prostate cancer treatment. None had severe ED problems and only 1% needed pads for incontinence. In contrast, according to the report by the Prostate Cancer Foundation, 25 to 33% who undergo standard surgery or radiation treatment see their cancer return. Up to 23% may have incontinence and up to 50% had ED a year or more after RT or surgery.

For Benign Prostate Hypertrophy, there is a drug-coated balloon that expands in the prostate gland opening so the urine will flow easily. The drug coating the balloon is called Paclitaxel to help prostate tissue heal. Paclitaxel is actually a chemotherapy drug used to treat cancer of the breast, lung, ovaries to name a few.

For those who are suffering with erectile dysfunction, the FDA approved a gel made by Futura Medical called Eroxon that is available as an OTC (over the counter) drug. Accordingly, it is effective for 65% of men with ED and for female sexual dysfunction. Go to futuramedical.com and decide. Who knows – you might end your platonic relationship and enjoy more of each other. See you in Michigan!!!

Final Thought

Loneliness, aging, and health challenges are inevitable parts of life — but suffering in silence is not.

Stay connected.

Stay informed.

Stay proactive.

And most importantly, take care of one another.

.....Dr. Roy Cabrera

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL MISSIONS



MEDICAL MISSION TO MASBATE 2026:

A triumph of the human spirit

Led by Herminigildo Valle, M.D. Class '84

In a powerful demonstration of compassion, unity, and professional excellence, the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California (PMSNC) successfully conducted its 40th annual Medical-Surgical Mission, this time in Masbate City from January 26–30, 2026, serving thousands of indigent patients with limited access to essential healthcare services.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Herminigildo Valle**, an alumnus of Far Eastern University – Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation (FEU-NRMF) Medicine Batch 1984, the five-day humanitarian effort brought together 156 dedicated volunteers (including other members of FEU-NRMF Medicine Batch 1984), united by a shared calling to heal and serve.

The volunteer corps included 41 physicians (various medical and surgical specialties), 3 dentists, 1 chiropractor, 1 optometrist, 40 nurses, and 70 clinical and administrative support staff. In an inspiring act of generosity, each volunteer personally covered their own airfare and lodging expenses to participate in the mission—demonstrating profound commitment and selflessness in service to their fellow Filipinos.

The mission delivered an impressive total of 7,293 patient encounters, including 6,977 outpatient consultations and 316 surgical procedures performed at the Masbate Provincial Hospital. From general medical consultations and dental care to life-changing surgical interventions, the team addressed a wide range of urgent and chronic health conditions affecting underserved communities across the province.

Patients began lining up before dawn each day, many traveling hours from remote barangays in hopes of receiving care. For countless families, the mission represented not only access to much-needed medical attention but also renewed hope and reassurance that they had not been forgotten.

“This is more than a medical outreach—it is a mission with a heart,” shared Dr. Valle. “Our volunteers exemplify compassion in action. They give not only their expertise but also their time, resources, and love for our people.”

The spirit of camaraderie and dedication among the volunteers was evident throughout the mission. Physicians, nurses, and support staff worked tirelessly side by side, united by their oath and guided by a deep sense of purpose. Their service embodied the highest ideals of the healing profession—compassion, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to care.

As PMSNC continues its decades-long tradition of humanitarian service, this year’s mission stands as another milestone of impact and inspiration. The organization calls upon the community to keep its volunteers in prayer, that they may continue this noble work for many more years to come.

Indeed, the 2026 Masbate Medical-Surgical Mission was not only a success in numbers—but a triumph of the human spirit.



Dr. Herminigildo Valle in Action.



Cases done.



Major Surgical Team



.....Dr. Herminigildo Valle



A Mission of Love in Sarangani Province

Healing Through Service, Learning & Community Partnership

Led by Nida Blankas-Hernaez, MD, FAAP Class '84

In a powerful expression of service and solidarity, 87 medical missionaries from the United States and the Philippines united to deliver comprehensive healthcare across Sarangani. Guided by Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, the mission integrated clinical excellence, education, and meaningful community partnership.

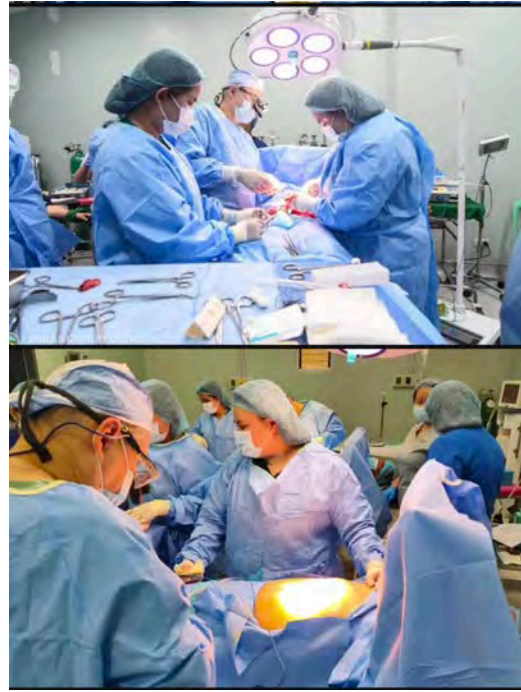
Patients were identified through a two-month pre-mission screening program across surrounding communities, ensuring timely access to specialized care. The initiative was carried out in close collaboration with provincial leadership, including Governor Rogelio Pacquiao, the Provincial Health Office, and hospital administrators — partnerships that supported continuity of care before, during, and after the mission. There were 3,663 patients served for 3 days.



Thank you to all the missionaries, donors, sponsors, LGU led by Gov. Rogelio Pacquiao, PHO & Chief of Hospital

Multidisciplinary Care in Action. Comprehensive services included surgery and anesthesia, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, pediatrics, internal medicine, dental care, optical services, Continuing Medical Education (CME) & patient education. The surgical and anesthesia team from Healthway FEU-NRMF Medical Center led by **Dr. Alexander Lat '94**, Surgery-Section Head. The rest of the FEU team: Ophthalmology led by **Dr. Manolito Reyes '84**, Plastic Surgery by **Dr. Enrico Valera '84**, OB-Gyne by **Dr. Estela Cabigas-Cabatu '84** with **Dr. Susan Tan '88** & Dr. Patrick Chao. Among FEU alumni MD's include **Drs. Abraham Bayan '84, Pia Donna Buenconsejo-Teh '84, Brigitte Adricula Alcalde '84, Tess Avelino-Shioda '84, Manuel Malicay '70, Lourdes Hilao '63** & yours truly.

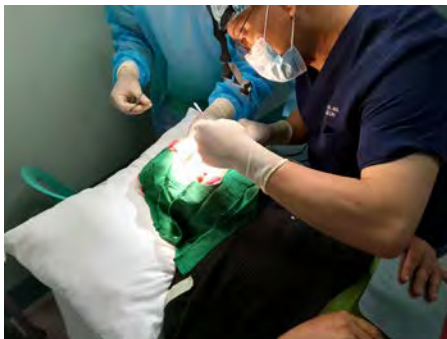
Below is the Healthway-FEU Surgical-Anesthesia team: Drs. Alexander Lat (leader), Carl de Castro, Denise Guibani, Katreena Aquino, Margeaux Espinosa, Fatima Chaudhry, & Carlo Rimando.



Dr. Enrico Valera Class '84, Plastic surgeon

Drs. Brion, Escalona, Chao, Susan Tan Class '88 & Hernaez

The crowded venue



Dental team (19) led by Dr. Charlston Uy

Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez in action.

Outpatient venue





FEU MD Class '84



Boxer Manny Pacquiao photo shoot



Sarangani group photo

Education and Capacity Building. A four-hour ACCME Continuing Medical Education program equipped local physicians and nurses with updated knowledge in varicose vein management by **Dr. Alexander Lat**, cataract care by **Dr. Manolito Itok**, artificial intelligence in dental diagnostics by **Dr. Charleston Uy**, and diabetes management by **Dr. Yolanda Escalona**— extending the mission’s impact beyond direct patient care.

Partnership and Community Connection. Collaboration among healthcare professionals, community volunteers, and alumni benefactors made the mission possible. Fellowship with local leaders and a memorable courtesy meeting with the Governor and photo opportunity with Manny Pacquiao symbolized the strong community support for humanitarian service. Compassion, collaboration, and service transformed this mission into a lasting expression of hope.

Indeed, this was a mission of love — advancing health, strengthening partnerships, and embodying the global spirit of FEU-NRMF service. ...Nida Blankas-Hernaez, M.D.



Restoring Sight, Renewing Hope:

Ophthalmology at the Sarangani Grand Mission of Love

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

At the invitation of my batch mate, Nida Blankas-Hernaez, and her husband Dr. Ed Hernaez of the Green Oaks Medical Mission Foundation of Illinois, I had the privilege of serving as lead ophthalmologist during the Grand Medical-Surgical-Ophthalmological-Optical-Dental Mission held January 9–14, 2026 in Alabel, Sarangani Province.

This remarkable undertaking was made possible through close collaboration with the Provincial Hospital leadership and the dedicated logistical planning of Dr. Abraham Bayan. Patient pre-screening began months in advance—an effort that reflected the mission’s careful preparation and deep commitment to service.

Building an Operating Room from the Ground Up

Establishing a fully functional ophthalmology surgical unit in a setting with limited eye-care infrastructure was a formidable challenge. With only minimal equipment available locally, support from partners and volunteers proved essential. The ophthalmic company Appasamy Surgicals generously lent a surgical microscope and biometer, along with technical expertise.

Additional critical support came from volunteer ophthalmologist Drs. Noel Tongson, Noel Alolod, Noel Tongson, Heerim Soeigco, Alex Villanueva, Seyer Legazpi, Crisanto Torrijos, Beatrice Torrijos and Jojo Sinolingding (Department of Health Secretary of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region), who mobilized specialized nurses and essential instruments. Through these combined efforts, what began as an ambitious vision became a fully operational eye surgery suite staffed by dedicated volunteer specialists.

Measurable Impact, Life-Changing Outcomes

Over five days, the ophthalmology team worked tirelessly—averaging nine hours daily—to deliver:

- 324 eye consultations
- 39 pterygium surgeries
- 52 cataract surgeries
- 3 glaucoma procedures

Beyond the numbers were moments of profound human impact. Patients once facing permanent blindness regained vision and independence. One particularly moving case involved a young woman who had been bilaterally blind. Following surgery, she saw her husband for the first time in years—an emotional reunion marked by tears of gratitude and joy.

A Mission of Compassion

The restoration of sight is among the most transformative forms of healing. Each successful procedure reaffirmed the mission's purpose: to bring hope where access to care is limited and to serve with compassion, excellence, and faith.

All glory to God, and heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, partners, and the people of Sarangani whose trust made this mission deeply meaningful.

.....**Dr. Manolito Reyes**

Ophthalmology team



Led by Dr. Manolito Reyes



The Cataract cases.





*A Husband's Tribute to His Beloved Wife, Dr. Daisy Castro,
Colleague, and Inspiration*

by **Licerio V. Castro, Jr., M.D. '73,**
Past Chairman, FEUDNRSMAF

Our Love Story (Living is without You)

I would like to honor and celebrate the life of my beloved wife, Daisy. To me, she was so much more than a partner- she was my best friend and the love of my life.

For several years, Daisy fought illness with strength and grace that inspired everyone around her. But today, I want to focus on the love we shared and the incredible woman she was.

Where did it begin: 2 scores and 16 years ago, Daisy and I caught a glimpse of each other along the mystic halls of our alma mater. Forthwith, I was conquered by "Love at first sight" so to speak. There, we were inseparable ever since. Hence our true love story commenced. Then, August 16, 1975, the Lord blessed our bodies and soul as one, full of love, understanding and trust as we pledged our sacred promise that no earthly flesh could tarnish a divine creation, not then, not now, not ever. That, I am very proud of.



Daisy was a very unique person, had a strong mind and was a straight shooter but compassionate and ever ready to lend a helping hand. She was so kind, fiercely intelligent and had a way of making everyone feel seen and valued. In every opportunity, we partnered in humanitarian endeavors, delivered free medical and surgical services to the needy people of the Philippines, together with the vast majority of volunteer physicians, nurses and allied health personnel, who are with us today. Our goal was to render care for our brothers and sisters in need.

Our love was built on trust, laughter and an unshakable bond. Daisy was my rock, the person I turned to in every moment of joy and every moment of struggle. She had this incredible ability to

calm my fears and remind me of what truly mattered in life. She believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and she pushed me to be a better person every single day.

On a beautiful day, last August 16, 2025, The Lord gifted us with a wondrous celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary in a manner beyond belief. With answered prayers, Daisy opened her eyes, engaged with guests all around us and even uttered the names of some of our friends. It was a miracle granted by God. I truly wished it would be eternal.

Even with illness, Daisy never lost her spirit for love of life. She showed me what real strength looks like and I will carry her courage with me always. Complaints never existed but her desire to get better was exhibited magnanimously. Her pain was overshadowed with her smiles and glitters of hope as days passed. With her acknowledgment, I am so glad that she heard the words, "I love you dearly", the tender loving touches, the warm kisses and embraces, the endless sight and feeling of love as I sat down beside her with our hands together.

Daisy, my love, you were my everything. I will miss your smiles, your laughs and the way you made everything better just by being there. But I know you're still with me--- in the memories we made, in the love we shared and in the lessons you taught me. The long hours that I was at your side were the happiest memories of my life, priceless moments.

Daisy, I'm so thankful and so blessed for the times we have spent together; the pleasant memories we have savored together; the services we have rendered together; the guiding missions we have fulfilled together; but most of all the laughter and tears we have shared together.

Daisy, as you journey to the promised land I will always love you, and I am with you always for I'll never find another you. Death is not the end as I will continue to love you more. Till I have you in my arms again my love.

.....Licerio V. Castro Jr., M.D.

🕯️ Prayer for the Soul of Our Dear Daisy Castro

Loving and merciful God,

We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude and sorrow — gratitude for the precious gift of Daisy's life, and sorrow for the deep loss we now feel.

Lord, You called Your faithful servant Daisy home to Your eternal embrace. We thank You for the love, kindness, and joy she shared with everyone she met. Her gentle spirit, her laughter, and her compassion reflected Your light in this world.

We entrust her soul to Your boundless mercy. May Your angels welcome her with songs of peace, and may she find eternal rest in Your presence, where pain and tears are no more, and love endures forever.

Comfort, Lord, those she leaves behind — her beloved husband, Licerio, her family, her friends, and all who love her. Wrap them in Your strength and peace, and remind them that one day, in Your time, they will be reunited in joy everlasting.

Daisy, may you rest in the arms of our Lord, bathed in His light and surrounded by His love. You will be forever remembered, and forever missed.

Amen.

*Jun,
Our prayers and condolences to you and family. May Daisy rest in peace.
From your BOT family.
Nida*

Daisy De Guzman Castro, M.D. Class '73

**Former BOT member of the
FEUDNRSMAF**

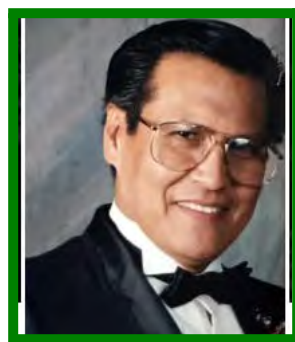


Together We Can 73

In Memoriam: To our dear Alumni Class '66



Renato Parungao, M.D.



Napoleon Belo, M.D.

ADDENDUM: Updates & Announcements

FEUDNRSMAF *Donations Update*

For transparency, we would like to clarify that while previously reported figures were accurate, the scholarship donation amount required correction.

The total support extended to FEU-NRMF for Academic Year 2025–2026 is \$85,422.81, allocated as follows:

- **Scholarships – \$43,272.81 (corrected from \$17,000)**
Donors: Drs. Roy & Cita Cabrera (total \$450,000); Drs. Renato & Aurora Estrella; Dr. & Mrs. Cesar Reyes Fund; Dr. Emerlinda Arriola; Dr. Brenda Narcelles-Banez & Class '77 (% Dr. Araceli Sweeney)
- **Faculty Incentives – \$17,500 (including \$2,500 from Dr. Manuel Malicay)**
- **Faculty Awards – \$6,100 (including Michigan Chapter)**
- **PLE Support – \$5,000**
- **Student Achievement Awards (SAA) – \$2,550 (including from Class '69 & Dr. Noli Guinigundo)**
- **Building/Institutional Support (BUS) – \$11,000**
(Donors: \$5,000 from Dr. Manuel Malicay; \$2000 from Class '75; \$500 each from Dr. C. Lim and Dr. Marie Pearl Francisco; & other alumni donors)
- **Plus MAS CME Subsidy – \$1,500** **Total Donations: \$86,922.81**

While this year's total is lower than last year's \$124,000—which included a one-time library renovation project—it nevertheless reflects our sustained commitment to academic excellence, faculty development, and student support.

With deepest gratitude to our steadfast donors—our true pillars—whose generosity continues to uplift lives and strengthen our alma mater.

“Our collective support continues to empower education and service.”

Class Reunions in the Philippines



Class '72 Mini Reunion in March 8, 2026

L-R Standing: Dr. Tess Viola-Ogerio, Dr. Danilo Mariano (Urologist), Dr. Leilanie Narcelles-Mon (IM), Dr. Azora Capuccino (Ophthalmologist), Dr. Rolando Cayetano (Pediatrician), Mrs. Menchi Cayetano, Dr. Generosa de Leon (FM-Australia), Dr. Aida San Jose, Dr. Lynn Orpilla (Anesthesiologist), Dr. Mary Gormafe-Escamilla, Dr. Lolita Padilla-Ordinario (Surgeon). Seated L-R: Mr. Ogerio & Dr. Richard Mon '70.

"Lifelong bonds and shared memories"





Class '86 Cherished moments on a scenic backdrop

FEU-NRMF batch 1986 celebrated their 40th-year Ruby class reunion, held at Modala Beach Resort in Panglao, Bohol, Philippines, on January 29-31, 2026. Sixty-five (65) batchmates attended from the USA (22), Australia, Taiwan, and Philippines.

First Row L->R: Drs. Fe Jocelyn Merced, Leslie Ralleca-Farolan, Evelyn Roque, Rowena Guinto-Vega, Nerissa Perez, Marvie Pastoral-Cabrera, Theresa Pinili-Ozuah, Tina Garcia, Mia Abuan-Mandap, Dinah Alcaneses, Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles, Bernaliza Arce, Marlyne Coloma-Abon, Editha Cruz, Virginia Capor-Cabling, Agnes Torrijos-Cruz, Elenita Bangalan-Galang, Cheryl Acob-Sarmiento, Rowena Endozo-Buan, Sheillah Chua-Gentile, Ruth Omengan-Mangaoang, Helen Roasa, Cecille Mendoza-Rueras, Marlisa Narvaez-Calma, Marissa Burias-Magpayo, Felicita Chua, Emily Sy, Teresa Te-Ty, Grace Nieves-Villanueva.

2nd Row L->R: Drs. Mercedes Pascual-Viduya, Rima Angeles, Dexter Rebanco, Nonie Cabrera, Narciso Leoncio (Class President from Palawan), Ramon Echano, Emmanuel Sarmiento, Lambert Vega, Robert Umandap, Ferdinand Macababad, Sergio So, Leo Chua, Edgardo Aguirre, Eduardo Borja, Rosario Manipol-Barrales. *“Cherished moments captured with friends and colleagues.”*

FEUDNRSMAF NEVADA CHAPTER *Induction Ceremony, March 14, 2026*



Induction Ceremony for 2026-2028 Nevada Chapter Officers!!! L-R: Robert Adan MD '70 (PRO), Arlene Yap-Rosas MD '66 (Asst. Treas.), Richard Mon MD '70 (Treas.), Leilanie Narcelles-Mon MD '72 (VP), Ana Lisa Aguila MD '01 (Asst. Sec.), Amethyst Cureg MD '73 (Sec.), Grace Averilla-Obena MD '85 (Pres.) and Hernani Tansuche, MD (Inducting Officer). Not in Photo: Gerardo Guzman MD '63 (Immediate Past-Pres.), Epifanio Sandoval MD '73 (Pres.-Elect), Salvador Cabanit MD '72 (PRO). Board of Governors: Corazon Virrey Carpio MD '73, Crispino Santos MD '74, Jose Bernal MD '65, Renato Enriquez MD '68, and Alfonso Salcedo MD '62.

Additional Medical Mission



Medical Missions to Heaven: 2026 Mission Highlights

by Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, M.D. '72
Secretary, FEUDNRSMAF

The *Medical Missions to Heaven* team, composed of 80–84 volunteers from the United States and the Philippines—including physicians, nurses, technicians, and pharmacists—successfully conducted its annual medical-surgical mission from February 18 to March 6, 2026.

Led by Robinson Baron MD '70, Richard Mon MD '70, Leilanie Narcelles-Mon MD '72 & Cesar Jimenez MD '75 (U.S. team), and Archie La Madrid MD '72, Vivian Resurrection-La Madrid MD '72, Cathleen La Madrid MD '01 & Juan La Madrid MD '01 (Philippine team), the mission served two sites: Santiago City Hospital, Isabela, and Rio Tuba Nickel Foundation Hospital, Batarasa, Palawan.

With the support of Speaker Dy and family and Nickel Asia Corporation, the team brought complete medical and surgical supplies to both locations. The mission included 14–15 surgeons across multiple specialties, along with a multidisciplinary team and trainees from Adventist Medical Center Manila.



Above: Dr. Jeralyn Diaz removed 6-7#Myoma . Minor surgery.

Below: Dr. Richard Mon in action. L-R: Drs. Archie & Juan La Madrid & Leilanie Mon.

Key Accomplishments:

- **200+ major surgeries**
- **400+ minor surgeries**
- **300+ adult consultations**
- **320+ pediatric consultations**

Procedures performed ranged from hysterectomies and cleft lip/palate





repairs to laparoscopic, vascular, and minor surgical cases.

For over two decades, *Medical Missions to Heaven* has remained committed to delivering compassionate care to underserved communities.

Seating L-R: Robinson Baron MD, Archie La Madrid MD, Noemi RN, Aida RN, Juan La Madrid MD, Cathleen La Madrid MD. Standing L-R: Leilanie Mon MD, Edward Alba MD, Lita Alba RN, Ingrid RN, Fouad Nouri MD.
Physicians of all specialties are warmly invited to join future missions! ...Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, MD

ECTOPIC MURMURS: Guidelines for Article Submission

Ectopic Murmurs (EM) is the official publication of FEUDNRSMAF. It was founded by the late Dr. Jesus Nolasco to uphold the Foundation's identity and share important updates on its mission and activities. Staying true to Dr. Nolasco's vision, the late Dr. Cesar V. Reyes served as Editor until his passing in December 2017. From August 2018 to July 2023, editorial duties were carried on by Drs. Hernani Tansuche and Amethyst Cureg until their resignations.

In August 2023, Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez, then President of FEUDNRSMAF, stepped in as Editor-in-Chief and subsequently became Chairman of the EM Committee. She was supported by esteemed members Drs. Ted Tolentino, Philip Chua, and the late Daniel Fabito.

As of July 2025, Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief and Chairman. The Editorial Board includes Drs. Roy Cabrera, Leilanie Narcelles-Mon, Guat Sy Jr., and Ted Tolentino with Dr. Pedro Floresco Jr. serving as Adviser.

Publication Details:

Ectopic Murmurs (EM) is available on our official website. We invite original article submissions that reflect the mission, goals, and activities of FEUDNRSMAF, as well as content relevant to the FEU-NRMF School of Medicine.

Articles must be submitted in **Word format**. We encourage a diverse range of contributors and especially welcome alumni who have not yet published in EM. **Kindly refrain from submitting articles that have already been published within the last 12 months.**

The Editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or revise submissions for brevity, clarity, and consistency. Authors remain responsible for the accuracy of their content. All

medical articles will undergo peer review and must include validated statements suitable for final copy-editing.

Special Sections:

- *What's The Score...* by Dr. Roy Cabrera. Back at the helm of "What's the Score"-just like old times, only wiser and wittier!
- *CME Corner* – A space for CME activities, insights, research highlights, and educational resources
- *Alumni Spotlight* – Featuring outstanding achievements of our alumni
- *Faculty and Medical Students News* – Updates on faculty activities and top-performing students
- *Wellness Insights* – Articles promoting health, wellness, and well-being

We invite all FEUDNRSMAF alumni and subject-matter experts to submit timely, relevant, and well-referenced articles. Please ensure necessary permissions are secured prior to submission.

Send your articles to:
 Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez
feumedalumni@gmail.com ☎ (847) 668-7385 for inquiries

Thank you for your continued support and valuable contributions to Ectopic Murmurs and the FEUDNRSMAF 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

45th FEUDNRSMAF REUNION & CONVENTION July 19-21, 2026

Michigan. Join Us!

UNITY + FELLOWSHIP + ADVOCACY

Registration Form

PRINT WHOLE PAGE, COMPLETE THE FORM AND SEND BY REGULAR USPS (NOT CERTIFIED- IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP) WITH YOUR CHECK. ONLY USD CURRENCY PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED. All checks must be payable to FEUDNRSMAF.

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:
 Herndon, Tennessee, MD
 12229 Foxtail Run Ave.
 Las Vegas, NV 89138

*The registration form will also serve as an updated directory.
 *Please print legibly and fill up the entire page including (class year, cell phone number and email address).

Name: _____

Graduating Class Year: _____ Guests: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Email: _____

| Membership | Type | Fee | # of attendees | Subtotal (# of Attendees x Fee) |
|--|--|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Annual Membership <small>(Required to attend all events)</small> | Regular Alumina Member | \$70 USD | | |
| | Lifetime Member <small>(on official list)</small> | Exempt | | |
| Fees | | Fee | # of attendees | Subtotal (# of Attendees x Fee) |
| CME Breakfast - (July 20) | | \$40 | | |
| Gen. Membership (Boxed Lunch) - (July 20) | | \$50 | | |
| Welcome Reception (Midtown Magic) - (July 19) | | \$90 | | |
| Filipino Night - Dec. 2025 - May 23, 2026 May 25 - June 27, 2026 June 29 - July 13, 2026 <small>*On site only after July 13, 2026</small> | | \$140 | | |
| | | \$180 | | |
| | | \$180 | | |
| | | \$200 | | |
| Grand Ball Night - Dec. 2025 - May 23, 2026 May 25, 2026 - June 27, 2026 June 29, 2026 - July 13, 2026 <small>*On site only after July 13, 2026</small> | | \$150 | | |
| | | \$170 | | |
| | | \$150 | | |
| | | \$200 | | |
| Grand Total | | | | |

Update your Information!

Name: _____

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

Join us in making a difference!

Be an active member of the foundation!



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Mail Check payable to FEUDNRSMAF:

Dr. Richard Mon (Treasurer)
2941 Reverence Heights Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89138.

“Empower minds, transform lives – give today, inspire forever.”

