

FEU-NRMF US Alumni Foundation (FEU-DNRSMAF) Celebrates 55th Founding Year and 45th Grand Alumni Reunion in Detroit

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Detroit, Michigan—the birthplace of Motown—provided more than just the venue for this year's celebration of the FEU-NRMF US Alumni Foundation's 55th Foundation Anniversary, 45th Grand Alumni Reunion, and Scientific Convention. It became the perfect backdrop for a reunion that echoed the very essence of Motown itself: different voices, different generations, and different journeys coming together in perfect harmony.

The three-day celebration brought together alumni from across the United States and the Philippines, in a memorable gathering marked by faith, lifelong learning, fellowship, and a renewed commitment to the alma mater.

The reunion began with a meaningful pilgrimage to the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Detroit, home to relics of twelve saints, followed by a visit to the center of Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey, the humble Capuchin priest beatified by the Catholic Church in 2017. Known for his simple yet profound advice—*"Thank God in advance"*—Blessed Solanus Casey inspired the alumni to begin the convention with gratitude and hope. The visit served as a fitting reminder that faith, humility, and service continue to guide physicians in their vocation of healing.

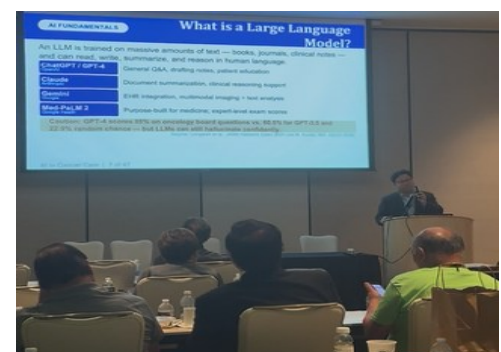


That evening, the Detroit Alumni Chapter warmly welcomed delegates with a lively Motown-themed Welcome Party organized by the Michigan Organizing Committee under the leadership of its Executive Director and Overall Convention Chair **Dr. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles ('86)**.

Paying tribute to Detroit's rich musical heritage, alumni arrived in colorful Motown-inspired attire, danced to timeless classics, renewed old friendships, and enjoyed authentic local Detroit cuisine. Laughter and music quickly erased the years between classmates, proving once again that while decades may pass, the FEU-NRMF spirit remains unchanged.



The following day opened with the annual Scientific Convention themed "**The Heart of Healing: Awareness, Innovation, and Advocacy in Clinical Practice.**" The program opened with an eye-opening lecture on recognizing human trafficking delivered by Michigan Sheriff's Criminal Investigator Mr. William Luker, emphasizing the physician's vital role in identifying and protecting vulnerable patients. The convention featured distinguished alumni who are leaders in their respective specialties, sharing the latest developments in diabetes management - Dr. Susan B. Nunez (MD '81), RSV prevention Updates - Dr. Jocelyn Y. Ang (MD '88), pediatric asthma- Dr. Emmanuel U. Sarmiento (MD '88), evidence-based medicine on adult wellness- Dr. Macario C. Corpuz (MD '88), ADHD in children and adults - Dr. David J. Villanueva (MD '82), and the integration of genomics and histopathology in genitourinary cancer- Dr. Gladell P. Paner (MD '96). The 28th Dr. Nicanor Reyes Jr. Annual Memorial Lecture explored the rapidly evolving role of Artificial Intelligence in cancer care delivered by well-known alumni in the field Dr. Minsig Choi (MD'98).



Another highlight of the scientific program was our current Dean's lecture, "**The Heart and Breath of Healing**" sharing on his experiences juggling between the academe, clinical practice, and important administrative functions. **Dean Dr. Pio T. Esguerra II ('96)** also presented the institution's recent milestones and strategic initiatives, including the remarkable Physician Licensure Examination performance that has once again established FEU-NRMF among the country's top-performing medical schools. The announcement drew enthusiastic applause from alumni, who shared in the pride of seeing their alma mater continue its tradition of academic excellence.



As evening fell, the celebration shifted from scientific discourse to Filipino tradition during the colorful **Barrio Fiesta**. The festivities opened with the Parade of Trustees led by the Foundation Chairwoman and President **Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez ('84)** and President **Dr. Grace Averilla-Obeña ('85)**. They were followed by the celebrating class of '81 (**Sapphire**), '86 (**Ruby**), '91 (**Coral**) and '96 (**Pearl**).



Representing the FEU-NRMF Medical Alumni Society in the Philippines, I had the privilege of conveying a message that drew inspiration from Detroit itself. During my flight to Michigan, I happened to watch the film *Michael* and one particular scene left a lasting impression. Amid the chaos surrounding him, Michael Jackson did not hear noise—he heard rhythm. He transformed disorder into harmony, reminding us that extraordinary things happen when people move together with one purpose.

That image perfectly reflected the FEU-NRMF family.



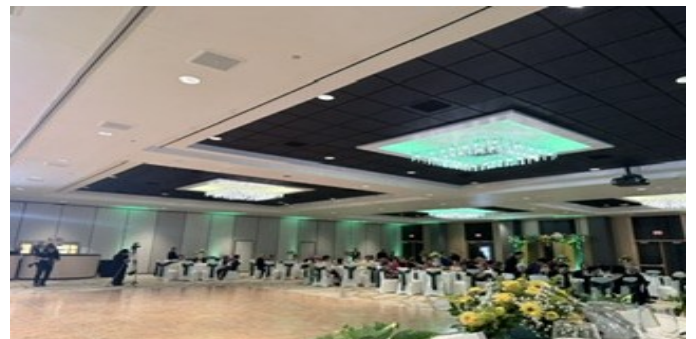
Like the many voices that created the legendary Motown sound, our alumni come from different graduating classes, specialties, and walks of life. Yet together we continue to create something far greater than ourselves. The remarkable resurgence of FEU-NRMF as one of the country's leading medical schools is a testament not only to the dedication of those on campus but also to the unwavering support of our alumni across the globe. Through scholarships, faculty development, mentorship, academic initiatives, and generous philanthropy, the US Alumni Foundation has remained one of the institution's strongest pillars.



In my message, I also affirmed the commitment of the local Medical Alumni Society to strengthen communication and collaboration with the US Alumni Foundation. More than partners separated by geography, both organizations remain one family working toward a shared mission—to ensure that future generations inherit an even stronger FEU-NRMF.



The Grand Ball on the last day of alumni reunion likewise celebrated the institution's jubilarians—**Platinum Class '61, Diamond Class '66, Emerald Class '71, Golden Class '76, and Silver Class 2001**—whose lifelong achievements continue to inspire younger generations of physicians. Outstanding Alumni Awards were presented to exemplary graduates who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields, **Dean Pio T. Esguerra II ('96), Dr. Kenneth Slater ('71), Dr. Rosemary Aquiler-Angeles ('86) and Dr. Hernani Tansuche ('68)**. A special Medallion Award was bestowed upon **Dr. Pedro Nartatez ('57)**, as an honored pioneering graduate of the School of Medicine for a lifetime of dedication and service. The evening culminated in music, dancing, and heartfelt reunions, creating memories that will be cherished for years to come.





As the celebration came to a close, Detroit had become more than the host city of another alumni convention. It became a powerful reminder of the enduring legacy of the FEU-NRMF community. Just as Motown transformed many unique voices into one unforgettable sound, the reunion demonstrated that although FEU-NRMF alumni may practice in different countries, represent different specialties, and belong to different generations, they remain united by one alma mater, one family, and one shared purpose—to continue serving humanity while uplifting the institution that shaped them.

The 55th FEU-DNRSMAF Anniversary and 45th Grand Alumni Reunion reaffirmed that distance can never diminish the Tamaraw spirit. Indeed, home is never measured by miles, but by commitment, shared purpose, and the lasting bonds that continue to unite the FEU-NRMF family across generations and across the world.

PS. See you everyone on our Annual Alumni Homecoming on **January 21 to 23, 2027**. We would love to see you there—not simply as our guests, but as family coming home!

This article was grammar-checked by AI.