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ECTOPIC MURMURS

Volume 22

Opinions and articles published herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect that of the FEUDNSM Alumni Foundation

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I CANNOT BELIEVE SHE IS GONE

PHILIP S CHUA MD⁶¹



A photograph of the memorial services held at the Dr Ricardo Alfonso Conference Hall, FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine, in West Fairview, Quezon City (by Dr Vicente Porciuncula)



Another photograph of the memorial service attendees that included the FEU president/ CEO Lourdes Reyes Montinola and Butch Reyes in the front row, and Dean Remedios Habacon and FEU Hospital director Rey De Vega in the second row (by Dr Vicente Porciuncula).

May she walk with God!

Jet lag from our recent family vacation in Russia woke



PHILIP S CHUA MD

me up at a few minutes past 3:00 am of July 26th in our home in Munster

IN. As usual, when I wake up each morning, I went to our computer room.

I checked my email and my eyes suddenly caught one from Linda Tamesis MD, president of the FEU-NRMF Alumni Medical Society in Manila. I saw the words *It is with a heavy heart that...* on the subject line, even before I clicked to open her email.

It was a shocking news: Dr Josephine C Reyes, chairperson of the FEU-NRMF, collapsed and died while delivering a eulogy for her elder brother, Don Pedro Cojuangco, a year her senior.

Dr Reyes was just with us at our United Class⁶¹ golden reunion in Las Vegas. She was happy she won in the slot machine. She invited Farida to go shopping with her after the reunion, dropping by our home, with her son, Butch, and grandson, Nino, on the way to the malls.

She was so full of life and joy, albeit trying to walk slowly and with care. Her mind was brilliant and she was funny and witty as ever.

Suddenly, she was gone! Butch told me later, she was fine, with no symptom whatsoever, and they even went to Macau, after returning home to Manila from our reunion. It

was in Macau that she learned that her brother had died.

After reading Linda's email, I waited for Farida to wake up, since it was still dawn when I learned the sad news. She woke up at around 7:00, and upon learning of the devastating incident, she went online and started booking my flight for that same evening, or the following day, just for me to make it to Manila for the services on Saturday.

In my phone conversation with Nino the day Dr Reyes passed away, I learned that the remains of his *Lola* was to be cremated that same day.

I arrived in Manila, just in time. It was a rainy Saturday, July 30th when I attended the necrological services for Dr Reyes at beautiful Don Bosco Church in Makati and the post-cremation interment at the family mausoleum at Manila Memorial where former President Cory was also interred.

The heavens continued to weep. Dean Remedios Habacon and her husband, Dr Sonny Habacon, and I had our individual giant umbrellas.

President Benigno Aquino III, Senator Franklin Drilon, the Aquino sisters, and other dignitaries were there.

The family was very appreciative that *there was a representative from the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation in the USA*, a sign of reverence and respect for Dr Reyes.

After all, she had religiously traveled across the oceans to join us in our annual convention, at her age and fragile self.

She had always said that she enjoyed joining the alumni at our reunion.

(For the record, she had always paid for her own airfare, and those of her son and grandson. The Alumni Foundation gave her one of the rooms given to us for free by our venue hotel each year.)

The church services were beautiful, very touching, and inspiring. Some of her grandchildren and a great grandson gave the eulogies, followed by President Aquino and Butch, ended with a thunderous applause for Dr Josephine Cojuangco Reyes, at the suggestion of Butch, who was controlling his emotions.

It was a tear-jerking celebration of life and a most fitting goodbye to a great lady.

I still cannot believe she is gone.

Her family, friends, and we, the alumni, will all miss her terribly.

May she walk with God and rest in eternal peace.

FAITH CORNER

REVEREND MELVIN ANTONIO MD⁶⁵

The special issue of

ECTOPIC MURMURS announcing the passing of Dr Josephine C Reyes caught me by surprise. It is said that

death brings mixed feelings.

In one sense we look upward and rejoice in the new found happiness and joy that the



REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD

person we remember so much with respect and awe, is experiencing in the hands of the Lord and in her reunion with those who have gone before her.

On the other hand we look downward and grieve just as Jesus did when his friend Lazarus died. There is a sense of loss and sad separation when a loved one has departed from our lives, of whom we shall miss greatly.

On Sunday, July 31, I preached on the meaning of the phrase, *kingdom of heaven*. This phrase appears in the Gospel of St. Matthew 32 times and is used interchangeably with *kingdom of God*.

St. John the Baptist preaching in the desert says, *Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near*.

As he began his ministry, Jesus says, *Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near*. Jesus also instructs his disciples as he sends them to preach in the villages, *As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’* In a series of parables, Jesus begins each one with the phrase, *The kingdom of heaven is like...* (Matthew 13)

So what is this kingdom? Many biblical interpreters claim that the kingdom of heaven has a present and a future element. In the present sense, it is found wherever the sovereignty of God is accepted in the hearts of people.

The *kingdom of heaven* refers to the rule of God. It is the area of influence over which God has full authority – the earth, the heavens, His whole creation, our entire existence. It is wherever the reign of God is

manifested, unbound by geographical boundaries.

In fact, it is manifested in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only Son who was sent to save humankind. Not only does Jesus preach this message of God's kingdom, but he manifests it by performing miracles of healing, driving out demons and raising the dead. With the shedding of His blood on the cross, Jesus provides the means by which we can enter into God's heavenly kingdom.

How do we become citizens of the kingdom of heaven? Jesus tells us how in his conversation with Nicodemus the Pharisee: *Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.* (John: 3:5)

This process of being born of water and the Spirit is embodied in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism when we are made members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The future element of the kingdom of heaven is one that has been prophesied by Jesus and his disciples throughout the New Testament. It is that new heaven and new earth described by St Paul, St Peter and St John – the promise of the coming of the Lord when Jesus *Hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed every authority and power.* (1 Corinthians 15:24)

With all due respect to biblical scholars great and small, the kingdom of heaven remains a mystery to all of us today.

We look to the passing of Dr Josephine C Reyes with a trace of envy because the kingdom of

heaven is no longer a mystery to her. She is already there.

More on DR JOSEPHINE COJUANGCO REYES

PHILIP S CHUA MD⁶¹

Josephine Cojuangco Reyes, EdD, chairman of the Far Eastern University - Nicanor



PHILIP S CHUA MD

Reyes Medical Foundation (FEU-NRMF), died July 26, 2011. She was 83.

Born on November 26, 1927, Dr.

Reyes was delivering a eulogy for her older brother, Don Pedro Cojuangco, at the Santuario de San Antonio, when she collapsed. She was pronounced at St. Luke's Medical Center Global City. Don Pedro, who was 13 months her senior, was board chairman and president of the Hacienda Luisita sugar estate in Tarlac.

Dr Reyes was the second of six Cojuangco children, Pedro, Teresita Lopa, former Philippine President Cory Aquino, Jose Jr, and Maria Paz Teopaco, the last two surviving her.

An educator, Dr Reyes obtained her AB degree at Marymount College in New York, her MA degree at Columbia University New York, and her EdD at the Far Eastern University in Manila.

She was the seventh president of the Far Eastern University from 1985 to 1989, and served as chairperson of the

board of the FEU-NRMF following the death of her husband, Nicanor Reyes Jr, who was president of the FEU. Dr. Reyes chaired her last board meeting a couple of weeks before her demise. She was also past director and vice-president of the Centra Azucarera de Tarlac and the president of the Luisita Realty Corporation.

Dr Reyes is the elder sister of former Philippine President Cory Aquino and Tarlac Representative Jose Cojuangco, Jr. Their parents were Jose C. Cojuangco, Sr. of Tarlac and Demetria Sumulong of Antipolo, Rizal. The incumbent President of the Philippines, Bengina Aquino III is her nephew, who was elected in 2010.

Dr Reyes regularly flew to the United States to join the FEU medical alumni at their annual reunion and convention. Her last such trip was to the 32nd annual reunion and convention of the FEU - Dr Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation in Las Vegas on June 15-18, 2011, where she officiated the medal award ceremonies for the Silver (Class⁸⁶) Jubilarians and Golden (Class⁶¹) Jubilarians.

Her remains were cremated and services were held at the Don Bosco Church in Makati. The eulogies were delivered by Dr. Reyes's grand- and great-grandchildren, son Butch Reyes, her most likely successor, and President Benigno Aquino III. Her ashes were interred in the family mausoleum where President Cory is.

A family friend and past president and chairman of the medical alumni Foundation,

Indiana cardiac surgeon Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, FPCS, who was a Board Trustee of the FEU-NRMF from 1998 to 2008, who immediately flew to Manila upon receiving the news to attend the services for Dr. Reyes, had this to say:

The unexpected demise of Dr Reyes is a tragic loss that will leave a great void in all of us who knew her...we will all miss her quiet, shy demeanor and her charming smile that belie her deep intellect, purpose-driven life, great sense of humor, friendliness, warmth, and compassion.

In spite of her age, she religiously attended our annual alumni reunion-convention in the United States, flying across the oceans, spending for her own airfare.

She found joy in being with the alumni.

From per own personal funds, and without fanfare, she would also pay the tuition fees for poor deserving students to enable them to graduate. And she never advertised about such wonderful deeds.

She is such a lady. A lady we will never forget.

My wife, Farida, and I will remember her with fond memories.

We are all somewhat diminished by her passing.

May she walk with God and enjoy eternal joy and peace.

From

PC RIVERA MD⁶⁷
MINERVA
CONCEPTION MD⁷⁰

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr Josephine Cojuangco Reyes. She left a



**P C RIVERA MD
MINERVA CONCEPCION MD**

great void in the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation, FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine and medical school communities. She will be missed not only in the next few weeks, but for the years to come.

Anyone who has talked with Dr Reyes can attest to her candor, integrity, and love of life and family.

She was a very active member of the community and was a shining example of what our stewardship on this earth should be.

Dr Reyes passed away while giving a eulogy for her brother.

She died as she lived; sharing herself and her thoughts with others.

As past president and current chairman of the board of the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation, I have had the opportunity to talk with Dr Reyes many times and she has inspired me to perform my duties with strength, knowledge and future vision.

I was always impressed by her knowledge of a variety of subjects and our discussions were always animated and invigorating.

She displayed the attributes of a lady at all times while maintaining a very personable and individual status.

I last spoke with Dr. Reyes at the Las Vegas Convention in June 2011. She was accompanied by her family and was involved in the activities.

She did not believe in just being a figurehead but rather to be a participant in all things.

She also had a great sense of humor and frequently had me laughing.

Dr Concepcion and I extend our condolences to her family and friends.

I think the greatest tribute anyone could make for Dr. Reyes is to live a life such as hers; involved, loving, active, and humble.

From

**JANE P
LEGASPI MD⁶⁹
AMANTE
LEGASPI SR MD⁶⁸**

We are so sorry to hear about the demise of Dr Josephine



AMANTE LEGASPI SR MD
JANE P LEGASPI MD

Reyes. It is so sad. She had been the strong foundation and anchor of our cherished medical school and her loss will definitely create a void and setback to everything that she had worked for.

We hope that strong leadership will emerge and the transition of responsibilities be smooth. Remy, this is the time

that your presence should be more felt. Your strong leadership, talent and capabilities should be sought for more than ever.

May she join the kingdom and love of our Lord. We will pray for the repose of her soul. Peace to all!

From

**DANIEL
FABITO MD⁶⁴
MELINDA
FABITO MD⁶⁵**

Hello, Butch, Kit, Nino and JB,



LINDA FABITO MD
DANIEL FABITO MD

We are very saddened with the untimely demise of your beloved mother, (grandma to Nino and JB).

We offer our prayers, love and condolence to you and to the rest of the family during this time of your bereavement.

She will always be remembered in our hearts as the loving compassionate and educated medical director and medical educator.

The entire FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation and friends will surely miss her very much.

Her passing away is indeed a great loss to all of us..

My wife and I were fortunate to have spent happy times with her last month here in Las Vegas during the recent

FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation reunion.

We will always cherish the unwavering and sincere friendship that she had with us.

May she rest in peace.

AN OPEN LETTER Hello Phil,

On behalf of the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation, please accept our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for representing us here in United States, who could not make the

trip to attend the necrological services for our departed loving and compassionate FEU-NRMF chairperson of the board.

I am sure everybody is feeling the grief and sadness on her untimely passing.

If given the chance and ample time, I believed majority of the Alumni would have joined you.

I just wonder if there was notification of her demise to Dr Pepito Rivera, Alumni Foundation board chairman and to Dr Oscar Tuazon, president.

I would think that the Dean and/ or the director of the FEU-NRMF Medical Center should have timely notified them by email or telephone.

With three to four days between her death and services, it would be impossible to leave their practices in such a short time and arrange a hasty trip to Manila.

We have direct lines and email addresses at the local FEU-NRMF alumni office, Dean Remedios Habacon and with Medical Center Director Dr Rey de Vega, and a courtesy email or phone call is not much of a problem.

I believed you received the news from Dr Linda Tamesis and from Dr Lilia Luna, who you subsequently emailed the sad news to most of the alumni.

In fact, in my position as a member of the FEU-NRMF Board of Trustees, I have not received any notification of her untimely demise from our Board executive secretary, Mrs Evelyn Lauderess.

Be as it is, I sent a message of our sympathy and condolences to Butch Reyes, Kit, Nino and JB, immediately after reading your email and was promptly acknowledged by Kit and Nino.

My trip to Manila is scheduled on August 9, 2011, and it was impossible to change it earlier because of some personal commitments.

Melinda and I have arranged a memorial mass for her on Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 4:00 pm at our home and most of the Las Vegas Chapter alumni will be attending. Father Fernando Benlirio (he said the invocations during the recent Las Vegas reunion) will be officiating the mass.

Philip, thank you so much,
DANIEL C FABITO MD⁶⁴
Board Trustee, FEU-NRMF
Chairman Emeritus
FEUDNRSMAF

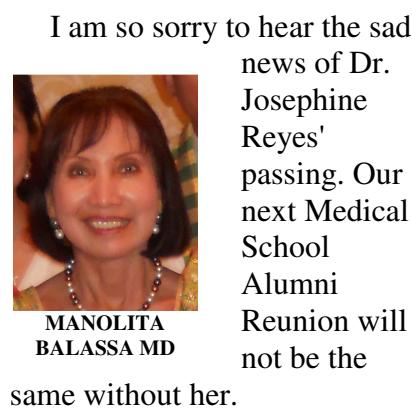
From
ANTONIO Q CHAN MD



ANTONIO Q CHAN MD

Our deepest sympathy on the sudden passing of a remarkable lady and a former President of FEU.

From
MANOLITA BALASSA MD⁶⁴



MANOLITA BALASSA MD

I am so sorry to hear the sad news of Dr. Josephine Reyes' passing. Our next Medical School Alumni Reunion will not be the same without her.

May God grant Dr Josephine Reyes a place with Him in heaven. May her soul rest in peace.

After all these years, I finally told Dr. J. Reyes last June, my pre-med story.

I enrolled in PE without knowing what kind of PE class. To my disappointment and fear, it was PE volleyball. I did not attend after that first day, just like that. A month before the semester was over, a classmate asked why I was missing our PE class. and if dropped the subject officially. I said no. She told me a failing subject even for P.E. will jeopardize my admission to Medical school.

I went to the registrar's office. They could not help me anymore. I was advised to see

Dr Nicanor Reyes Jr. Only he can give me a reprieve. I prayed hard when I went to his office. Fortunately for me, he was in a good mood. After hearing my story and my fear of volleyball. He told me *Young lady, you are lucky, I am in a good mood, my wife just had a baby boy an hour ago, so you will not get a failing grade in PE Next time, enroll in PE 4, it is folk dancing, you seem to love to dance, enroll in that next semester.* I did enjoy the folk dancing immensely.

So that's my story. Cezar, thank you for my picture with Dr Josephine Reyes. I do not remember having picture taken with her in the past. It is so precious. She was holding hands with me. How about that!

From
PIO P SIAN MD⁶⁵



PIO SIAN MD

It is a sad news indeed to have lost one of the prime pillars of our institution.

She is now in

God's care.

We who remain, should be careful and heal ourselves.

I REMEMBER ATE NOLI C GUINGUNDO MD⁶²

It is with deep sadness that Ding and I took the news of Dr Josephine Cojuangco Reyes' untimely death. We just saw and talked with her at the last FEU alumni reunion in Las Vegas.

We have seen her several



NOLI C
GUINIGUNDO MD

times during the FEU reunions but we seem to have opened to each other during the St Louis

reunion. At first Ding and I did not know what to call her or to address her. She was thinking for a while. After a long pause, Ding said what about *Ate* or older sister? She said *Ay salamat at hindi tita, hindi pa naman ako ganoon katanda.* So that's how the *ate* started.

She had visited us at the Manila Galleria where we normally stayed whenever we come home. This is also closer to her home in Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong.

There were several trips home that we did not try to bother her at her home. We did not realize she is keeping a count on this.

At one time, she said *Kayo naman ni Ding, uuwi dito pero hindi naman ninyo ako tinatawagan.* We felt so guilty whenever she said this. So, from then on we never failed to call her just to say hi to her.

During their trips in our

reunion, the late Ike Joaquin came with her. This was at the Westin Hotel in New Orleans. This was the time that we have to bus alumni to Hilton because the dance floor was not big enough in Westin. This was also the presidency of Danny Fabito, and Jane Legaspi was the executive director. I was assigned at that time to contact the local hotel and also the local alumni to help with the homecoming. Mr Ike Joaquin approached me and told me he knew my father when they were both working at the Customs office.

After reminiscing what transpired, we even got closer after the New Orleans reunion. We made it a point to stop at her office at the Medical School. We knew she likes to dance. At one time she said, if I had known you will be around, I would have called you because Cory (the President) came to a party at my house and we were dancing and learning some new steps.

She cares much about Butch and Nino and she made sure we continue to have a good relationship.

She is a model of a good and ideal mother and sister.

Professional-wise, she is quite exceptional. Her family had done a

good job managing the school.

My father used to attend the Institute of Business and Finance before he went to Law School. He used to speak highly of FEU Institute of Business and Finance.

I am too for going to the Institute of Medicine.

Again, with sadness, I feel sorrow for *Ate*.

I offer this short prayer for *Ate*:

Almighty and most merciful Father, We adore thee as the God of time and eternity. As it hath pleased thee to take from the light of our abode one dear to our hearts, we beseech thee to bless and sanctify unto us this dispensation of thy Providence. Inspire our hearts with wisdom from on high, that we may glorify thee in all our ways, May we realize that thine all seeing eye is upon us, and be influenced by the spirit of truth and live to perfect obedience, that we may enjoy thy divine approbation here below. When our toils on earth shall have ended, may we be raised to the enjoyment of fadeless light and immortal life in that kingdom where faith and hope shall end, and love and joy prevail through eternal age, and Thine O righteous Father shall be the Glory forever.

Amen.



From left, Drs Alice Pimentel, Jane Legaspi, Avila Arcala, Fred Arcala, Nani Tansuche, Dean Remedios Habacon, Ding Guinigundo, Amante Legaspi, Josephine Reyes, Noli Guinigundo, Daisy Ramos, Aurora Estrella, Renato Estrella, and Renato Ramos.

Message from the BOARD CHAIRMAN

Hearing and Listening. As physicians, we are used to hearing many sounds. There are



PEPITO C
RIVERA MD

overhead pages, phone calls in the middle of the night, heart beats, patient complaints, breath

sounds and on it goes.

Sometimes, there is so much to hear that we forget to listen. We hear the questions voiced by families of patients, but fail to listen to the underlying grief, fear, and confusion. We hear the nurse giving us information about vital signs and lab results, then have to either ask them to repeat themselves or call back to clarify the information.

Hearing is a function of one of the senses of the body. It is the process by which tones and noises are received as stimuli. Listening, on the other hand, is an action; to pay attention to a sound, to hear something with thoughtful attention, or to be alert to catch an expected sound. Can you remember the last time you listened to something? Actually paused in *tones and noises* of your life? It is humbling to reminisce and recognize how much of life is missed because we have not paused and listened.

There are many sounds for which I have listened in my life. My parent's firm tone when calling me to task for something. The sound of the paddles pounding on the sides

AUGUST QUOTE

**There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:**

**a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.**

What does the worker gain from his toil?

**I (King Solomon) have seen the burden God has laid on men.
He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;**

**yet they cannot fathom what God has done
from beginning to end.**

**I know that there is nothing better
for men than to be happy and
do good while they live.**

**That everyone may eat and drink,
and find satisfaction in all his
toil—this is the gift of God.**

**I know that everything God does
will endure forever; nothing can
be added to it and nothing taken
from it.**

God does it so that men will revere him.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

of boats, signaling the arrival of the doctor as he made rounds to the various Philippine Islands, followed by the hustle of patients preparing to be seen. The sweet sound when my future wife finally said yes.

As a physician there are even more; the first breath of a newborn baby (and the accompanying lusty cry), the final breath of a cherished loved one, whispered prayers at bedsides and tearful thanks when the news is good.

I still remember listening for my name to be called at graduation and for my son's cries in the middle of the night as a new parent.

The difference between hearing and listening is really simple. Listening involves opening a part of ourselves and being involved in the sounds, noises and tones of our lives.

I hope that each of us finds a few moments every day to pay attention, to focus, to recognize and to be thoughtful.

P C RIVERA MD

ADOPT A HOSPITAL

CESAR D CANDARI MD
Emeritus FCAP



CESAR
CANDARI MD

When I took the pictures of the hospital's unpleasant environment, incomplete facilities inside out, from room to room, it stirs a thousand, nay, a

hundred thousand words. If you look at the photos, the environs must be like hell's ferment. If you are unmoved of what I have just said, your heart must be made of solid-rock, of granite. This poignant sight of this small community hospital, in my small town Pandan, stirred my soul and indelibly etched in my mind. It spurred me to help.

It is a travesty of health care system if compared to what we have in this adopted country we now live. Our hearts bleed for those needy people. They cannot afford to go to another distant hospital with more facilities. It is at this juncture that my goal in my civic organization aims to stir medical/social awareness of the plight of and radiate some light in the life of the *less of our brethren* in our home country.

I was in my hometown Pandan, Antique in year 2000. I volunteered to chair the committee on *adopt a hospital concept*, i.e., help the municipal hospital of Pandan, so that it would become a better place to admit patient, especially the impoverished people of the community. and also be a venue

for our planned medical missions in the future. I founded the Pandan Antique Foundation, Inc, a nonprofit, Public Benefit Corporation Registered in California, USA, on July 18, 2000. By February 2001, a 501(c) (3) California Corporation was granted. Mission: Pandan Antique Foundation shall undertake various support programs, projects, and activities geared toward helping our beloved hometown Pandan, Antique, Philippines and designed to help the poor people from the ravage of poverty and for health care.

Throughout the years, many Filipino medical organizations and other charitable humanitarian groups from the U.S. have conducted numerous medical missions to help the poor in the Philippines. It is an initiative with broad based community support both in the U.S. and in the Philippines in the spirit of voluntarism. It has donated medicines, medical equipments and supplies to many hospitals and clinics. It is recognized that the various provincial and regional hospitals throughout the country provide the bulk of government sponsored patient care to the poor. The department of health (DOH) has done good job on running these hospitals considering the budgetary and manpower constraints that it has to work under. However, the rapidly growing population and an ever-increasing patient load have stressed the resources of these hospitals to the limits. Therefore by extending help to these hospitals by non-government organizations from the U.S. can alleviate some of these problems. The concept of

Adopt a Hospital was an idea that came about after participating in numerous medical missions to the Philippines and saw the lamentable condition of the Justice Calixto O Zaldivar Memorial Hospital, in my town Pandan.

I have seen firsthand the deplorable condition of my hometown's 25-bed community hospital. In 2000, I saw the sad situation. Last January 2011, I visited the hospital again and the situation has not improved much, with rusted spring beds without mattresses, two vastly unequipped surgical rooms, and other signs of bad conditions.

When I came back from Pandan, my mission was to collaborate with individuals and organizations to improve our community and the community hospital. Generally speaking, there are many members in the entire universe that make a difference in the lives of thousands of people every day. Simply stated, we have but one purpose - to help our *kasimanwa* (townmate) back home.

I was able to get Medical Ministries International (MMI) our donor, benevolent personified, to help us. It is sending an estimated \$500,000.00 worth of used hospital equipments and supplies under my leadership, and as a consignee. But we need help in facilitating this process. We are hoping that Secretary Dr Enrique Ona of the Department of Health (DOH) will help us waive all custom taxes for a 40x40 footer container loaded with hospital supplies and materials, which are otherwise due at the Bureau of custom

port area of entry in Manila. Our foundation is short on funds and these expenses are problematic; we cannot afford the custom taxes. I believe it is in the best interests of the DOH to help us with our humanitarian endeavors, for we have the same goals: to help our people. I pray to God to help us. I need your help too. That there is a community of concerned *Pandanans* and friends, their supporters, and people with hearts warm towards sharing blessings to as far as halfway around the world is very touching and moving and I hope this demonstrates and spreads the fervor among all *kasimanwas* (townmates) who in whatever way may contribute in a similar or any other manner regardless of the magnitude and amount of help he/she can be capable of. Praises and thanks to the Almighty for blessing us with this breed of good Samaritans! With this inspiration and support Pandan has all the reasons to succeed and break out of obscurity and stand out to the world as a model of humanitarianism and social commitment. When this donation is done, Pandan should have some kind of appreciation gesture or token for the organizations and people involved in this very noble deed.

Many are supportive of my mission and vision. I have gone to the rounds of writings in newspapers, alumni and friends to rise social consciousness of our projects to good Samaritans in this country and appeal for help, fund raise for shipping charges. This is not a fancy outreach endeavor. It is not a large, grandiose although have

an impact in the impoverished people of my town. We do not compete or seek glory. Our supporters just want to help the health conditions and comfort the weary in whatever little way.

My project is taking equal billing in my life with messianic zeal, passion and whole-soul devotion.

The vitally needed medical supplies and equipment for our poor hospital in Pandan, Antique is a Godsend endeavor.

Any forms of donation are welcome and appreciated. Check are made payable to:
Pandan Antique Foundation, Inc 275 Plaza Napoli Ct., Henderson, NV 89074
PAF is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt Foundation. Taxpayer ID#33-091669

FROM ANTIQUE TO AMERICA -

**CESAR D CANDARI MD
Emeritus FCAP**

HOW WE CAME TO AMERICA. We Filipinos came to America in four waves.



**CESAR
CANDARI MD**

manongs, 1900-1940

- 3) The Third Wave - were the navy men height, late 1945-65
- 4) The Fourth Wave - were the professionals, late 1950s.

Due to time constraints I will not be able to describe each one of these. It is a good read for

our US citizen children. I mean our children!!

We, as Filipino American doctors, have a similar story to tell. What is significantly common among us is we have reached a New World that transformed our lives, all the while gaining modest accomplishments in this land of Milk and Honey.

We doctors came as a Fourth Wave of Filipinos to this country after the passing of the Immigration Act of 1965. The United States opened its doors to professionals under the *third preference* status. America has been very kind. We see different classes of Filipinos arrived in the US, each having their own set of goals and objectives. The one common denominator drawing these people here is the demand for Filipino labor supply. One of the most identifiable groups in this wave of immigrants represented the medical profession. By the same token, other Filipino professionals, the lawyers, engineers, nurses, med techs, dentists and others came the same way. I came to the U.S. under the program of Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

It is a fact that Filipinos have been in America for quite some time. Yet, our children might ask, *Who are the Filipino Americans? What makes them appear different, yet one and the same?*

My son Roy admits he is a second-generation Filipino. He has an interesting point of view and I quote: *Of course being an American-born, I am more biased towards the American culture; however, I am proud to be a Filipino American. I*

assume he is linking his public persona to being an American and his private feeling of identification to being a Filipino.

The history of how we came to the U.S. was never kept alive among the Filipino Americans of today. Our growing children who are American citizens need to know. We must teach our American-born children the history of how they, we, came to the US. These lessons must not be forgotten, or else our future generations lose a part of themselves. We want to be able to tell our friends that our history is no mystery. If we instill our culture in our children and grandchildren, they will always be proud as Filipinos. If we share with them the rewards and satisfaction of being in our profession, we will encourage them to follow our journey.

THE START OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. As professionals, doctors of medicine, as soon as we landed in this country, we journeyed into the path of American Dream. Truslow James Adams first used the term *American Dream* in his book, *The Epic of America* written in 1931. He states, *The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone....*

To make the long story short, you and I have worked hard to improve our career to a point of what we are today. Your story of how you achieved is no different from mine.

After our training as Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG), we met a number of challenges. We faced some degree of discrimination by our native

colleagues who are U.S. graduates due to economic competition and position. In 1969, I moved to California where I encountered blatant discrimination by the state medical board, whereby FMGs have to repeat an internship before one qualifies for a licensure. This began my fight for discrimination.

It is not my intention to narrate my professional career in this lecture. What you may have accomplished is similar to what I did. Because we are FMGs and frankly colored brown, discrimination, subtle as it may be, is always there.

On the positive side of things, I was appointed as Field Commissioner (field examiner) of the State Medical Board of California in 1978, which one would not expect to happen to an ordinary man from Antique. My appointment can be interpreted as visibility evident for an FMG, a positive image for a Filipino in California.

Another unexpected position to happen to a formerly lowly man from Antique was when the San Diego City Council appointed me to the Board of Governors of the Jack Murphy Stadium Authority, now called Qualcomm Stadium, where I served for four years in 1991. It was an honor and privilege to be the first Pan-Asian to be appointed in this position.

My additional activities included my involvement in politics. I believe politics play a key role in the development of strong communities. My active involvement in medical and charitable organizations, both on local and national levels, undoubtedly contributed to my being recognized and known to

the Filipino American community. Such involvement also contributed to my becoming a friend to these politicians helping a Filipino American break barriers, gain respect and achieve acceptance from mainstream America.

If there is one more reason to complete my journey to success, it is the Operation *Samahan* Community Health Clinic I co-founded in San Diego. It was my greatest single achievement, the highlight of my career. Since this was written in Volume 3 Number 4 FEUMAANI News in the April issue, I am sure all of you have read it. This was considered to be a giant leap to inspire Filipinos all over the world; Operation *Samahan* Clinic became a shining example of volunteerism among minorities in America. As I allowed my dream to take me to my journey, I also allowed the true spirit inside me, the spirit that stemmed from my roots to reach out and serve the poor and underprivileged. I volunteered for seventeen years service, mostly as Chairman of the Board of the Clinic. It is an amazing story, from ethnic to mainstream.

I left Operation *Samahan* and dedicated my time with the Association of Philippines Physicians in America (APPA).

Before I joined the APPA, I analyzed and evaluated my impact on this association. I am aware great leaders keep the members focused on moving the organization towards its ideal future, motivating them to overcome whatever obstacles lie in the way. Leaders are made, not born. Leadership is forged in times of crisis.

I do realize, however, there is organizational politics in the Filipino American organizations. Such can be described as self-serving and manipulative of individuals' and groups' behavior to promote their self-interests at the expense of others, and sometimes even organizational goals as well. This was the glimmer that concerned me about the organization.

You all know that the former presidents of the association were our FEU Alumni, Drs Fabito, Ramos, Chua and Legaspi. During their time, they were navigating the ship in a smoother sea. Like I stated before, I am not overly ambitious for senior positions. However, when I delivered my speech at an election, I stated, regarding when Brutus killed Julius Caesar due to ambition, *I am Caesar, please spare me the agony*. They laughed, and I won the election for Speaker of the HOD.

In the APPA, like any other Fil-American organizations in the country, problems, discord and relentless disunity were blatantly apparent in this largest premier organization of Filipino professionals in America. There were libel suits filed, counter accusations, intramural rifts between *factions*, and hotly contested elections punctuated by highly acrimonious pre-election campaigning. It was a struggle for resources, personal conflicts, competition of power and leadership, and tactical influence executed by individuals and groups. The reason: to attain power, build personal stature and control the organization. Sorry for this litany of disclosures. Read my

book. It is all there. The question I had in my mind most of the time, if not all the time, was, *What am I doing here? Should I continue my active participation in the Association?* It reminded me of what is written in the Bible, which reads: *Let them alone; they will be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

I lost in this Philippine style, farcical election for President-elect. I congratulated my opponent. I came out a wounded soldier and said I shall return. I did not. This is not to say Filipino Americans usually leave an organization after succumbing to the likes of a ludicrous and fraudulent fealty of the perverts in the APPA election. No sour grapes, but I left the APPA with the hope it would redeem itself and rediscover its compromised pride, honor, and integrity so that it would not perish from this earth.

In this Journey, I have met along the way, Philippine politics, Movement for Free Philippines (MFP) with the late Sen. Raul Manglapuz, the Paradise Valley Lions Club, the coveted Lions Club of the Year award for year 1999-2000 in San Diego County when I was the President, the humanitarian services of the club to the Philippines and other countries, Vietnam, Kenya and India. I considered most significant, I founded my Foundation - the Pandan, Antique Foundation to help my poor townmates in Antique.

Another highlight of my career is my dedication and my services to our beloved

Alma Mater. I became a member of the FEUDNRS Medical Alumni Foundation in 1978 and was inspired to be an officer as member trustees-at-large in 1984. In 1993, I was elected as VP to serve for 9 years. Finally in 2002, I was elected as executive vice-president. This was a stepping stone to the presidency and eventual chairmanship of the Alumni Foundation.

Unfortunately, I got sick.

In my writings, my Alma Mater can be compared to my dear parents who made me to be what I am now. I have volunteered my time as service to give back, realizing that I am helping someone gain the precious asset of a quality education in my medical school.

In my memoirs you will learn about my contributions to society, lessons in life, dreams, joys, and love-life. I tried to link the future to the present in order to leave a proper legacy for others to follow. I passionately put my life story in writing so that others will be inspired to follow my dreams and seek their own journey in life. Who we are and who we were will always be linked, and I, who have experienced a remarkable journey involving medicine, politics, charities and various organizations, understand how essential one's dreams are to one's life. At its core, dreaming means living.

AUGUST donation

A perpetual

DELTA PHI DELTA
Student Achievement
Award in Family Medicine
is established this month.

Premiere Career College is run by FEU Medical Alumna

BALDWIN PARK—On May 6, Founded in 1991 as a premium Vocational Nursing School in Southern California, Premiere Career College offers nursing and medical programs as well as business programs.



Premiere Career College president and executive director, Dr Fe Ludovico-Aragon

The 2011 commencement program was a milestone for Premiere as specialized career training programs which include: vocational nursing, surgical technology, hospital central service technician, medical assisting, financial records, and general office.

This year, 28 vocational nursing students received their diplomas and at the same the school celebrated its 20-year anniversary.

Fe Ludovico-Aragon MD, president, said that the Premiere Career College aimed to serve. *Your dreams are our dreams*, she told the graduating class. *Today is not just a day of celebration; it is a day of thanksgiving*, Dr. Aragon added. *My heart is full of appreciation and thanksgiving*.

More LAS VEGAS REUNION IMAGES



Dr Josephine C Reyes congratulated Silver Jubilarian, Sheillah C Gentile of Schererville/ Munster IN.



Drs Ding Guinigundo, from left, Lily Sim, Abraham Lim, and Noli Guinigundo.



Class '68 ladies do a mimic Robert-Palmer-Addicted-To-Love line dancing in one corner of the ballroom during the Saturday Night grand reunion.



Class '61 peruse a poster about themselves.



Class '61 alumni in group picture in front of the FEU neon lights.



Dr Grace Averilla Obena is flanked by two Las Vegas showgirls.



Class⁶⁴ alumni confer in the corridor of Monte Carlo Hotel



Class⁶¹ in an impromptu joyful group picture mode.



The registration table attends to alumni without reservation.



Class⁷⁴ alumni in jewelry pursuits.



From left, Dr Hermes Ayuste, Dr Ofelia Ayuste and Mrs and Dr Mapalad



Class⁸⁶ Silver Jubilarians and speakers of Drs Jose Maria Gabriel, from left, Roberto Sarmiento, Ma Faylona, and Godwynn Bernardo.



Class⁶⁵⁻⁶⁶ alumni say hello to you who missed the 32nd annual reunion!



Alice Pimentel MD⁶⁸ in a beautiful Filipina dress.



Mrs and Dr Herminigildo Valle



Mrs Pearlie Magat
and Drs Willy Magat



Drs Consolacion Tabora and
Hipocrates Tabora



Asela Maria Florece MD⁸⁵
(from Camarines Norte)



Drs Josie Mactal and Joey Mactal



Class⁸⁵ and Class⁸⁶ alumni.



Mrs Elvie Fernandez and three
Angies: Dr Fontanilla, Dr Rivero
and Dr De Leon



From left, Drs Willy Magat, Aurora Estrella, Joey Mactal, Alice Pimentel, Josie
Mactal, Fred Arcala, Louie Lascano, Proceso Arenos, C V Reyes,
Ligaya Sicat (from Manila) and Jose Delfin.



Mrs Amy Delfin and Dr Jose Delfin



Class⁶⁴ and St Louis alumni



Drs Renato and Aurora Estrella



Class⁶⁹ and Class⁶⁸ alumni with Dr Josephine Conjuangco Reyes, Dean Remedios Habacon and Dr. Sonny Habacon



Class⁶¹ in a group picture during the Filipiniana Night



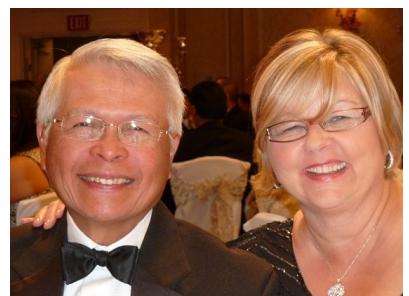
Drs Crispin See, from left,
Franklin Cabebe, Robinson Baron,
and Alice Pimentel



Dr and Mrs Rodolfo Son



Dr and Mrs Crispin See



Dr and Mrs Proceso Arenos



Drs Avila Arcala and Fred Arcala



Beautiful alumni at the Filipiniana Nights



Dr and Mrs Hernani Tansuche

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to give special thanks to Dr Cesar V Reyes and ECTOPIC MURMURS editorial staff for their wonderful job on the special issue of the newsletter in memory of Dr Josephine Reyes.

The letters and pictures that were collected, arranged and printed were a wonderful brief view into the life of a great lady.

It is amazing how fast such an edition could be put together and its distribution within a day of her death allowed many to know her better.

Thank you for all that you do. **P C RIVERA MD⁶⁷**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am pleased to have been able to share our Las Vegas reunion convention celebration with some of the staff from my hospital.

I was somewhat surprised by the reaction of classmates and friends who noted that our staff are young, beautiful and friendly. There were several people who asked me if there are any vacancies at Pershing Hospital as they thought they



Pershing Hospital staff

would like to work with me and my staff.

I was also reminded that the reason I always feel so active and young is because my staff keeps me that way.

I jokingly told some that many of our patients get better simply from looking at the hospital staff.

In all seriousness, the staff at Pershing Hospital are very well educated and trained; and some are instructors of the ACLS and PALS programs.

Pershing Memorial Hospital is a community hospital, serving a largely rural community; and we see all types of patients through the emergency department.

When not at work, the nursing staff also works in air ambulance services, teaches outreach education, signs on as first responders assisting local ambulance services, and supports outpatient activities.

They do not limit their activities to medical program. Angie, one of the nurses who attended the convention, was a former MissTeen Missouri.

I feel very lucky to work in a facility with such well trained staff and wish each of my colleagues had such a similar pleasant work environment.

To those who have asked, sorry, no vacancies at present.

P C RIVERA MD

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just to let you know also that one of our '68 co-graduate Dr Mariano Villarosa passed away this weekend.

He practiced orthopedic surgery in Bacolod City for 35 years. May he rest in peace.

FRANK PECHERA MD⁶⁸
New York City

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I want to congratulate you for doing an excellent job, as always, as the editor.

Thank you again for sending me e-mail copy of the **ECTOPIC MURMUR**. I have always enjoyed reading it and, of course, seeing pictures and reading about former classmates of Class⁶⁷ and articles about my former classmates, Dr Pepito Rivera, Dr Arsenio Martin, etc.

What caught my attention right away when I open the e-newsletter was the article about Drs Armando and Menchie Damian and their very worthy projects. Congratulations to

them. I am glad to see their pictures. It must have been about 15 years ago when we last saw them when we were still living at San Antonio TX.

Next year, 2012, the Class⁶⁷ will celebrate its 45th year anniversary. Perhaps, Dr Pepito Rivera and Dr Arsenio Martin will coordinate this event.

For those who also receive ECTOPIC MURMURS, we want to know how you are and what you are doing. I am also in particular interested to be in touch with my former Class⁶⁷ co-interns at St Lukes Hospital.

On a sad note is learning the passing of a Class⁶⁷ member, Dr Bonifacio Rivera. My sincere condolence. I wish I know his wife's address so I can send a card. I notice his wife's maiden name is Pagulayan, and the town where I came from (Cabagan, Isabela), there is plenty of Pagulayans and I wonder if she is related.

Some time ago I suggested another short column to be titled *Humor is still the best Medicine*, composed, of course, of jokes about doctors, and medicine subjects. Perhaps, 5-10 jokes every issue; others can also send, and you can chose which ones to include in .

**RICARDO D TARUN
MD⁶⁷**

Ed: Unpublished or original jokes are preferred.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Do you want to know a little bit more about the Student Achievement Awards? The cost for each Student Achievement Award is \$50. If you want your award in perpetuity, it is \$1050. You can label your award in your name, or in the name of the person you wish to honor. So let me challenge you to channel the extra dollars of your donation/ charity budget to recognize an honor-roll needy student or two at the medical school. Your donation(s) are tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to

FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation.

Your donation this year will be awarded during the Student Recognition of the 2012 Balik-FEU in mid-January 2012 at the FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine, in West Fairview, Quezon City. If you want you can also distribute your award(s) in person during the ceremonies! Let me hear from you about your award(s).

CESAR V REYES MD⁶⁸
6530 Dunham Road,
Downers Grove, IL 60516
Phone 815-942-2932 x7565
or acvrear@aol.com

Editorials COMMENTS

news releases

letters to the editor
column proposal and manuscripts are invited.
Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

ECTOPIC MURMURS

**Deadline for the September 2011 issue:
September 1, 2011**

**Please address submissions to
acvrear@aol.com**

Balik-FEU 2012

January 26-28, 2012

**Crowne Plaza Galleria
at Ortigas & EDSA**

CELEBRANTS

Class⁶² Golden Jubilee
Class⁸⁶ Silver Jubilee
Class⁶⁶ Sapphire Jubilee
Class⁷¹ Ruby Jubilee
Class⁷⁶ Coral Jubilee
Class⁸¹ Pearl Jubilee
Class⁹¹ 20th Anniversary
Class⁹⁶ 15th Anniversary
Class⁰¹ 10th Anniversary

Interested to establish a
Professorial Chair Fund
in your name or of someone you wish
to honor?

Please inquire with
CESAR V REYES MD
6530 Dunham Road, Downers Grove, IL 60516
Phone 815-942-2932 x7565
or acvrear@aol.com

2011-2012 PMAC Schedule

Saturday, September 25, 2011, 51st anniversary induction, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel O'Hare, CME seminar 8:00 am – 12:00 noon, dinner dance at 6:00 pm

January 18-21. 2012
Medical-Surgical Mission for 4 days: January 17th bus ride to Vigan, January 22nd bus ride return to Manila. Presidential courtesy call at Malacanang Palace tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 23rd.

Saturday, April 20, 2012
Inter-medical school musical program

FEUMAANI

TURKEY GREECE TRAVEL

Scientific Seminar
Updates in Clinical Practice
CME credit 14 hours
with the PMAC

October 12 – October 21, 2011

Apollo Tours

1701 Lake Avenue Suite 105,
Glenview IL 60025
CARIMA SALAMEH
(847-293-3411)

csalameh@apollotours.com

Reservations: 1-800-228-4367

Total cost per person
In double occupancy

\$ 2999

Single supplement 510
Triple occupancy 2939

Final/ full payment due by
August 30, 2011

For further details, inquire with:
NIDA BLANKAS HERNAEZ MD
nidabrankashernaezmd@yahoo.com

CESAR V REYES MD
acvrear@aol.com

FEUMAANI

GOLF OUTING

Sunday, August 28, 2011
Arboretum Golf Course

Buffalo Grove IL

Reserve with
Angelito Fernandez MD
litoeagle18@hotmail.com
or Roy Espino
espino5734@comcast.net