



Vital Signs

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Pursuing the 20/20 Vision

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Nearing the end of its 3-day Ruby Anniversary alumni homecoming, the West Visayas State University - College of Medicine (WVSU-COM) and the College of Medicine Alumni Association held the luncheon convocation on July 17, 2015 at Room 201, Roxas Hall, WVSU.

Present were the WVSU-COM alumni, the faculty and staff, and medical students from the college. The event kicked off with the doxology, Philippine National Anthem, and the college hymn led by the college's very own Med Symphony.

Dr. Dave Endel R. Gelito III, vice president of COM Alumni Association, gave the opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the assembly. Meanwhile, Dr. Douglas B. Budok from Batch 1995 presented the introductions for the guest speaker.

Also from Batch 1995, Dr. Erwin Lloyd D. Guillergan flew in from

overseas to be this year's convocation speaker and to share his stories and experiences as part of the French-founded international humanitarian aid non-governmental organization, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders.

Having first worked as a physician for the Voluntary Service Overseas, Dr. Guillergan talked about his life-changing experience in Vanuatu where he realized his value as a doctor. Despite his proficient training in pediatrics, he claims that his core knowledge of medicine still came from the college.

After spending three and a half years in Vanuatu, he decided to join the MSF which allowed him to work in war-torn and impoverished areas in Africa and the Middle East. Currently residing in Amsterdam, he has already visited over 45 countries.

Dr. Guillergan captivated not just his batchmates but also the medical students in the audience as he shared anecdotes about his life working for the MSF as he took the road less travelled or as he fondly calls it: *have a stethoscope, will travel*.

Before the awarding of certificate from Dr. Joselito F. Villaruz, dean of the College of Medicine, and Dr. Marcos D. Bito-onon, president of the COM Alumni Association, the symposium was graced with an intermission number from Med Symphony—an a capella presentation similar to those from the films Pitch Perfect and its sequel.

To the delight of everyone, the alumni began to pass around a clear plastic bag with their donations for Med Symphony for them to be able to purchase a piano for their organization. The closing remarks were given by Dr. Villaruz and the event ended with a joyful and inspired note as everyone shuffled out to the luncheon. #