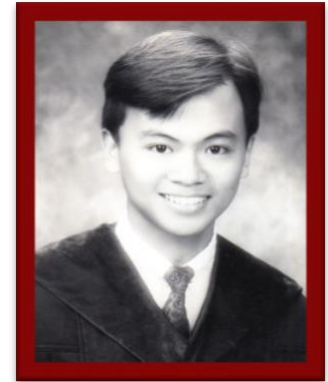


UPCM '67 SCHOLARS

DR. REGINALD DE LEON The First UPCM '67 Ramon Pimentel Jr. Scholar

Teodoro Santiago UPCM '67 with the assistance, Marilyn Coligado-Alentajan UPCM '67 and UPCM Class 1992 members Michael Nollo and Joey Boiser

In 1987, in an early display of UPCM Class 1967's generosity and charity, the Philippine-based classmates led by class president Nap Apolinario conceived a scholarship project to help needy UPCM students. Still grieving from the loss of a beloved classmate earlier that year, they decided to honor that classmate, Ramon S. Pimentel, Jr., by naming the scholarship after him. Class '67 members from the Philippines and the USA contributed to make the scholarship fund a reality. One of the two initial recipients of the scholarship was Reginald de Leon of UPCM Class 1992.



Reginald, affectionately called Regi (pronounced *Regui*) by close friends was the youngest of three children. He had an entrepreneur father and a stay at home mother. He enrolled at De La Salle (Taft Avenue) and later attended Philippine Science High School. A fitness enthusiast, he loved to bike, and frequently jogged carrying a backpack loaded with rocks. Reflecting his fitness, he excelled in track and soccer. He did well in high school and was one of the chosen few who were accepted to the UPCM *Intarmed* program. However, tragedy struck as Regi was finishing high school. His father passed away unexpectedly and since he was the sole breadwinner, economic hardship for the family followed. This occurred as Regi and his siblings were in, or about to enter college.



AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIPS

Left to Right:

Florencia Santiago Pimentel (Jun's mom), Nap, Imelda Cabalar (Class '67 scholar too), Regi de Leon, Myrna Pimentel

Regi soldiered on with his dream of becoming a doctor at UPCM. He was extremely facile with his hands and earned money on the side by fixing bicycles and cars. He was known to be capable of constructing bike tires from scrap rubber. His friends also recalled that he had an old Austin Mini-Cooper in his home garage that he was constantly rebuilding. For his own transportation needs, Regi regularly biked from his house in Parañaque to UPCM. Aware of his financial needs, UPCM matched him with the newly established UPCM Class 1967 Ramon S. Pimentel, Jr. scholarship. A second scholarship would be given the same year, to his classmate Imelda Cabalar. The scholarships were formally awarded during the 20th anniversary reunion of Class 1967 in Manila that also doubled as a Christmas party. The ceremonies were graced by Jun Pimentel's widow Myrna, and his mother. Also present were class president Nap Apolinario and Dola, and all of the Philippine classmates and their

spouses, as well as a handful of *balikbayan* 67'ers that included Chito Lomotan, Be Lazaro, Ernie Tobias, Metty Pellicer, Vic Victoriano and Carmen Tuazon.

The scholarship improved Regi's finances considerably since it covered his tuition needs. He found a foster father in Nap who offered advice and help, whenever Regi came for his scholarship money.



CLASS 1967 MEMBERS ATTENDING THE AWARDS CEREMONY

Left to Right:

Front Row: Lucille, Be, Lynn, Metty, Helen, Leta, Baby

Middle Row: Marni, Rhoti, Nap, Nick, Ernie, Vic V,

Back Row: Chito L, Jorge, Pito, Carme, Ched, Rosie,

Regi did well at UPCM. He joined the Phi Kappa Mu fraternity. Perhaps as expected from someone with good hands, he aspired to be a surgeon. He was known to swap obstetric procedures for minor surgical procedures with his group mates. As a person, his friendliness and kindness were his trademarks. His congenial nature made him beloved by his patients and despite being of limited means, he was known to offer transportation fares to the companions of his destitute patients, so that they would not have to walk home. He was supportive of his classmates' needs any way he could, even volunteering to help one classmate lose weight by going to his house and jogging with him at night.

Regi married his high school sweetheart Maria Lourdes (Loudel) Dario during his internship year and had a son (Luis). To his acquaintances, it seemed to be the happiest year of his life. As graduation day approached, he was biking that day to his internship shift at PGH as he usually did, when a cargo truck struck him. Seriously hurt, he was rushed to PGH where heroic efforts to save him proved unsuccessful. Class 1992 was stunned and devastated. All of UP-PGH wept.

Epilogue

UPCM saw fit to grant Reginald de Leon his M.D. degree posthumously. His widow Loudel is currently Director of the Center for Emerging Technologies and Innovations (CETI Philippines). His son Luis (Pappu) de Leon graduated with a BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management and is currently in the entertainment business, being the guitarist of the Philippine indie rock band "Oh Flamingo". Both Loudel and Pappu attended the silver jubilee celebration of UPCM Class 1992 at the Manila Hotel in December 2017. Fittingly, UPCM Class 1967 was also present, it being our golden anniversary as well.

THE CLASS 1967 SCHOLARSHIP AT UPCM

By Napoleon Apolinario UPCM '67

The UPCM Class 1967 scholarship started as a project in honor of Jun Pimentel after he died in 1987. This is why it was originally called the **Ramon S. Pimentel, Jr. Scholarship**. The project was initiated and funded by both U.S. and Philippine-based classmates. The first two scholars were Reginald de Leon and Imelda Cabalar, both of Class 1992.

- **Reginald de Leon '92** – his story was published in TIDBITS13.
- **Imelda Victoria Cabalar '92** – After graduation from UPCM, Dr. Cabalar did her Internal Medicine residency at Mount Sinai St. Luke's-West Hospital Center in New York City. This was followed by a Fellowship in Rheumatology at Yale-New Haven Hospital, then more scholarly time fulfilling fellowships at Duke and NIH a couple of years later. She is ABMS certified in Internal Medicine. She currently practices at Fort Washington Medical Center in Maryland.

As more members of the class passed away (Pitong Mayo in 1990, Nick Zubiri in 1991 and Ernie Tobias in 1992) the scholarship was renamed "UP Medicine Class '67 Scholarship" to honor the memory of all of our departed class members.

The class effort was one of the first formally organized scholarship endeavors. The UPCM Scholarship Committee screened the applicants for all of the scholarships available, donated by various alumni classes and individuals. They matched the scholarships with the needs of the applicants. For example, some scholarships were given to the more needy applicants to cover both tuition and living expenses. Class 1967 gave just enough to cover the UPCM tuition. Initially, the class gave ₱5,000 per semester to each of our scholars. It was increased to ₱10,000 per semester when UP tuition fees went up. The class scholarship ceased in 2000 when the funds ran out.

- **Cielo Maca '95** – After graduation in 1995, Dr. Maca did her Internal Medicine residency at Albert Einstein Hospital in New York City. She then did her Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center. She is quadruple board certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties in the following: Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. She is now a practicing Pulmonary-Critical Care-Sleep specialist in Mount Vernon, Missouri.
- **Krisinda Dim '00** – Dr. Dim did her residency training in Dermatology at the Skin and Cancer Foundation, an accredited training program established by Dr. Sylvia Jacinto-Jamora. She had her Fellowship in Dermatopathology at the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She is now a highly regarded dermatologist at the Makati Medical Center. She is married to Gary Jamora, the acclaimed restaurateur/chef and the son of Sylvia and Tids Jamora, and the nephew of Togs Jamora.

The class scholarship was reinstated in 2017 through an endowment fund (PEF Class 1967 Scholarship Fund of \$24,000) established at the Golden Anniversary Reunion in Albany. The income from this is the source of \$1,200 for the present scholar. This time, the scholarship is in perpetuity.

- **Noreen Daza '23** – her story was published in TIDBITS12.

Dr. Apolinario is a former director of PGH (1997-2000). He previously served as Chairman of Orthopedics in PGH, then Associate Dean of UPCM, then Vice-chancellor of UP Manila. He has long retired from UP-PGH but is still in private practice at Medical Center Manila. He trained in scoliosis and joint replacement surgery in Minnesota.