

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

They say that in every story there is a beginning and that every story has also an end. As I reflect upon my two terms as AFUSA president, I am deeply grateful for the many help, cooperation and encouragements I have received from and given by the members of the Board of Trustees and Community Volunteers during my tenure. From the time I agreed to take on the presidency position to my election and the beginning of my first few months, I know it will be an uphill climb to the top since the arena I have entered had been a male dominated one from its inception to the time I broke the glass ceiling. I would say my first few months were very tough and hard; I was locking horns with the elders who thought that a younger alumna and a woman at that 'cannot handle the job and deliver the goods.' I believe now they have changed their minds.

Everyday that I open my computer to go to work for our Foundation, to deal with picking those alumni who would lead the different committees and to write the different committees' policy is a big challenge as a woman first and foremost and as the first woman president of the AFUSA. But I'll tell you this now, what a privilege it has been to be part of this 31-year old Foundation that serves our Alma Mater- an institution that is key to our present successes where ever we may be. We are the legacy of our beloved UERMMMCI education and we carry its traditions, like it or not. Each of us is the embodiment of its mind set and proper practices. Each of us... You and I are a little Alma Mater and our Foundation is a special society of these mini Alma Maters coming together with one mind, one purpose and one goal- for a successful UERMMMCI; to keep it going and open for each alumni's future, the repository of academic records. This is the original purpose for which our Foundation was built on.

I understand that each volunteer, many times a thankless job, plays a small but significant part in contributing to the greater good of our Alma Mater, its faculty, students and the Community it serves. It is a great privilege for me to lead such a distinguish group and colleagues. Each year of my administration, with new Trustees and new volunteers, whom we take under our wings- is a reminder to myself that officers and Trustees should strive to nurture, teach and guide them about what the Foundation is all about and how being a member of the AFUSA is already a sign of an excellent leader. Volunteering for this organization is already a great educational journey in itself. Let us not forget to mentor the young ones and new ones who would join us and one day take our place to lead our Foundation. Let us not be afraid to share our knowledge to those who would stand beside us as officers of this elite organization because it is only then that we become truly a leader. Let us always remember that as we strive to maintain traditions and norms that define and started our beloved UERMAFUSA, we must always be open to new opportunities as we develop more effective ways to accomplish our missions. I am very truly thankful to everyone who lends me a hand during my presidency and the opportunity to have served the Foundation, MAAAI and the alumni community at large for the greater glory of our organizations and our Alma Mater.

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