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Pinoy Global Online News
FILIPINO IMAGE MAGAZINE
SINCE 1987 • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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TOFA 2008 AWARDEE

DR. EDMUNDO F. RELUCIO of Coal City, Illinois **Entrepreneur, Philanthropist and Dedicated Community Leader**

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 7 (PINOYGLOBAL) - Dr. Edmundo Relucio of Coal City, Illinois, is unanimously selected as one of the 2008 *Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)* by the TOFA Panel Board of Judges of the *Filipino Image Magazine (FILIM)* and the *Pinoy Global Online News (PGON)*, and the *Roxanne Andrea Mendoza Memorial Foundation (RAM)*. The TOFA was initiated in 1990 and the bio-data and photographs of the 340 Past TOFA Awardees are found in the 24/7 popular worldwide *PGON* web site: WWW.FILAMIMAGE.COM.

The 3-day 15th annual event starts on Thurs., Sept. 11, 2008 with an informal get-together for the 2008 awardees; followed by on Friday with a VIP Luncheon at the hotel. At night is a reception at the Philippine Embassy. The following Saturday morning, a VIP Photo Opps at various historic spots, and a luncheon. At night is the formal prestigious gala Banquet and Ball Award Ceremony; capped by the traditional Filipino breakfast immediately after the ball. All 2008 TOFA Awardees are Special Guests of Honor to all the activities. Guests wishing to attend any functions are asked to donate entrance fee. *As a tradition since 1990, net proceeds to all the TOFA functions are donated to charitable Filipino organizations.*

DR. EDMUNDO F. RELUCIO

Determined he will retire from his surgical practice soon as his youngest of 3 daughters Kristin graduates from B.S. History from the University of Illinois in 2003, Dr. Edmundo F. Relucio prepared himself to accomplish other things. Foremost of these is to fulfill a covenant he made in 1973 with our Lord Jesus Christ to serve if He blesses him with five good years of surgical practice. Not knowing exactly what kind of service to do, he

prayed and asked our Lord to show him signs. He knew that starting the surgical-medical missions to the Philippines here in Chicago and joining 1-3 missions a year (total 42—has done approximately 400 harelip repairs) wasn't enough.....and the good Lord heard his prayers.

In January 2003, after joining two missions to Cebu and Bais, Negros Oriental, his youngest sister Precy introduced him to fellow alumni from Arellano High School in Manila who later researched his past achievements and subsequently voted him the 39th Most Distinguished Alumnus. After delivering an inspiring speech to the graduating class of 2003, he was introduced to Beverly Asistio, a 16-year-old bright graduate who used to sleep on a sidewalk with her father across the street from Sta. Cruz Church and to Jenalyn Panti, the class salutatorian and whose house later was bulldozed for squatting. Both became his first scholars, 5 others were added that same year.

Last 2004, his new wife, Marizon Torres (first wife Perlita passed away in 1995), prevailed upon him to do the station of the cross at Sacred Heart Church in Quezon City. While praying at the 5th station, Dr. Relucio felt uneasy and very warm. He couldn't help crying while reading the message which stated, "wouldn't it be great if there are more Simons of Cyrene to help carry the cross our Lord Jesus Christ continues to carry for us." To Dr. Relucio, that was the sign he was asking for. His scholars which now total 26 are called Simons of Cyrene and his just approved 501c3 organization, the RENAISSANCE SIMONS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.

To date, he has graduated 1 M.D. (FEU), 2 B.S. Education, 1 Commerce (Management), Electronics and Communications Engineering. Beverly just graduated from the Pamantasan ng Maynila, Commerce major in Management whereas Jenalyn is in her 5th year in Metallurgical



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Engineering in U.P. Prior to his Foundation's creation, Dr. Relucio had funded a perpetual burse to send a young man to priesthood and a multipurpose, ecumenical chapel in Nag-Iba, Mindoro, thru the Divine Word Missionary and a similar chapel in Misamis thru the Columban Fathers. He also has funded for 3 houses with GAWAD KALINGA, He is currently working with a lawyer in Manila to convert 7.2 hectares of land in Rizal, Nueva Ecija, for subdivision, 2 hectares will be donated to GK, and the rest will be sold proceeds of which will be used to finance a building for an elementary school in honor of his late school teacher mom, Lucila, and a 10-bed community hospital. He has also established a perpetual RELUCIO FAMILY HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP FUND for deserving students in the Grundy County area thru the Morris Hospital Foundation. An astute businessman, he attributes his good luck and good fortune to our Lord. "I asked him so He gave me, I am a perfect witness to a verse in the Scripture — a man gives freely yet he continues to receive," he confesses. Dr. Relucio buys and sells real estate like farms in Grundy County, some he has re-zoned residential, industrial and commercial, and few he had subdivided and sold.

He manages two partnerships which include a strip mall besides his children's farms and rental properties. He is looking forward to start a Dollar Store so he can employ and sponsor few of his graduate scholars into the U.S. Currently he is negotiating to develop a beach resort in the southern tip of Panay Island in Anini-Y, Antique (opposite of Boracay) for adventure and ecotourism. "I'm hoping I play a part in nation building — providing jobs and livelihood not only for my scholars but also for the barangay, the entire province of Antique, and ultimately for the rest of the country. I sincerely believe the Philippines should concentrate and put an all-effort in tourism, and the rest will follow. And, I am promising 100% of my profits in this venture to educate the bright but poor Filipinos thru my foundation," Dr. Relucio commented. #

For information and comments: PINOY GLOBAL ONLINE NEWS : nonoymendoza@filamimage.com

This Is An Invitation Honoring
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2008 Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)

- Edmundo Relucio, Coal City, Illinois
- Zenaida F. Kharroubi, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Mark Asperilla, Port Charlotte, Florida
- Dolores Ortal, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Philippe J. Lhuillier, Rome, Italy
- Bob Dacanay, Falls Church, Virginia
- Em Ang, Bacolod City, Philippines
- Dante Raul Teodoro, New York City, New York
- Rozita Villanueva Lee, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Francis Talangbayan, Penn Valley, Pennsylvania
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- Levy Paler, Norfolk, Virginia
- Nena Nera, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- Jun Anthony Quion, McLean, Virginia
- Sonny Ungco, Jersey City, New Jersey
- Eusebio C. Kho, Scottsburg, Indiana
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