

9TH-ANNUAL BLACK TIE/WHITE COAT GALA AND CLASS REUNION MORE THAN \$55,000 RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The School of Medicine's signature event, the Black Tie/White Coat Gala and Class Reunions, held March 6, 2010, at 701 Whaley in Columbia, was a tremendous success. The record crowd of more than 500 guests also set a record in fund raising with more than \$55,000 to support the Alumni Scholarship Fund and the Free Medical Clinic in Columbia. In the nine years of the event, \$378,000 has been raised to support the fund and the clinic. This year's event featured several new additions, including an expanded auction to include a faculty, staff, and student art exhibit, a new location, and a new band. Additionally, the Class Reunion gifts totaled more than \$17,000 for the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

A special thank you to our M-III and M-IV medical students who co-chaired the event and the class reunion co-chairs.



EVA IMPERIAL, MD, CLASS OF 2000

Accomplished physician, loving mother and wife,
successful businesswoman

Why did you choose to attend the University of South Carolina School of Medicine?

For my undergraduate degree, I attended the Honors College at the University of South Carolina and was president of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-med Honor Society (AED). I was impressed by the accessibility and support of Dr. Bob Sabalis, the USC School of Medicine associate dean. He was instrumental to me while I worked to expand the AED membership. The School of Medicine is a positive learning environment, and there's a sincere willingness for all medical students to succeed. As an undergrad, I participated in "A Day in the Life of a Med Student," and I could sense the camaraderie of the class. From that day forward, I knew that I wanted to be a part of the USC-SOM family.

What was your most memorable moment during medical school?

Even though it was a challenging and stressful time for all of us, I have many great memories from medical school. One of my fondest memories came during a third-year clinical rotation. I was in the trauma room with fellow classmate Tanya Seawright. We were getting a report on a trauma patient by Dr. Raymond Bynoe, and I stated that the patient needed central venous access. Dr. Bynoe looked at me and said, "Then what are you waiting for?" and I did my first solo subclavian line without a hitch. That was such a high for me!

Do you keep in contact with your classmates?

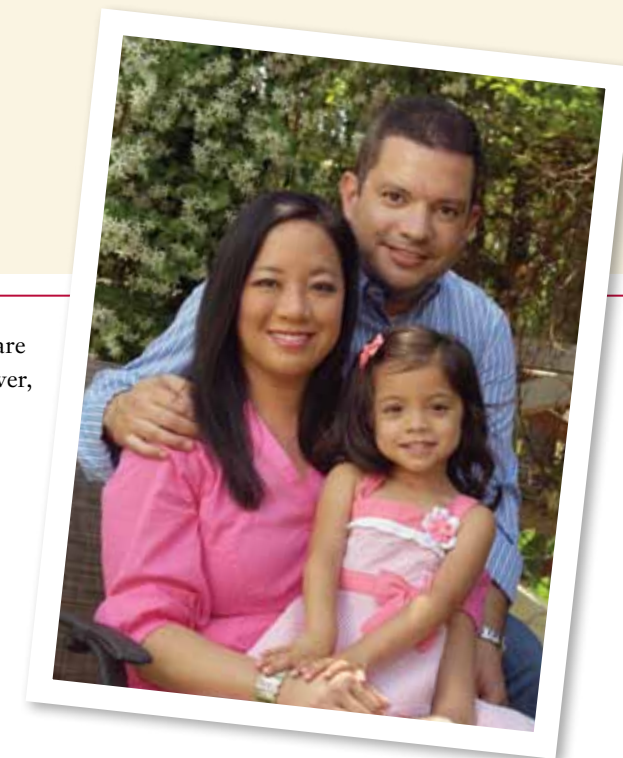
My plate is pretty full between Kulbersh Women's Center, Rejuvenations Medical Spa, associate medical director of a health-screening

company, and helping out at Doctor's Care to keep up my urgent care skills. However, I do try to make time for my friends because we are a tight support group for each other. It takes planning to get us all together with everyone trying to balance commitments and family. The "Spice Girls" of the USC SOM Class of 2000 get together during our annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange, as well as a few other alumni that have joined us over the past few years.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a family medicine physician?

There's not enough space for me to answer that. In a nutshell, it's being able to help those who are sick and to listen to the stories of the patients whose medical dilemmas have yet to be solved. I enjoy educating my patients on how to stay healthy, and I encourage them to be screened for disease. I love the challenging cases and have diagnosed a few unusual diseases and disorders by simply listening to the patient. Everyone has a story, and I think I have "tell me your story" written all over my forehead.

Being in medicine has also opened up doors for so many opportunities. I am honored to be serving as a member of the USC School of Medicine Alumni Association Board. Nikki Campbell and I served as reunion committee co-chairs for our 10-year USC SOM class reunion. I've been on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic, given support to organizations by attending galas or events for the Carolina Sunshine Foundation, Providence Heart and Sole, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and, of course, USC SOM events such as the Black Tie/White Coat Gala. I'm the youngest business partner of Medi Weightloss located in Irmo, S.C., and I just returned from their national corporate franchise convention. Every day is an opportunity to learn and grow.



How do you balance work and family?

I like to think of myself as a Blackberry-toting, multitasking machine! I believe my parents passed that genetic trait to me. There would be no balancing act if it weren't for Chris, my awesome husband of six years. He has understood from the beginning that my patients and my career are a huge part of my life. Not to mention we are the proud, unbiased parents of Reyna, THE cutest 3-year-old who is not afraid to remind me, "Stop texting. Pay attention to me, Mommy." Chris makes sure we work hard, play hard, and laugh every day. As a family, we really focus on the quality of our time together.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?

I'll defer to that last question. Being able to balance work and family is my greatest accomplishment. It takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and perseverance to succeed professionally. I apply that same philosophy to my family life. I have to take time to celebrate each small success in my professional and family life ... and thank those who have supported me and encouraged me every step of the way. I am surrounded by my wonderful family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and the Filipino community. Hmmm, maybe it takes a village to raise Eva? ■