

**UB School of Medicine Awards Convocation - May 5, 2006**

**Maimonides Medical Society Award presentation to**

**Josette Bianchi**

**by Robert S. Stall, MD, President, Maimonides Medical Society**

*Good morning. What a joyous day for everyone! Behind every great person are great family, friends, teachers and colleagues. Everyone in this auditorium should congratulate themselves on what they have done to bring us here today.*

*I'd like you to come up here, Josette. I want to present this to you the way a Rabbi talks to a young woman on her Bat Mitzvah day, another critical day of transition and responsibility.*

*On behalf of our organization, I congratulate you, Ms. Josette Bianchi, soon to be Dr. Josette Bianchi, as the recipient of this year's Maimonides Medical Society Academic Excellence Award for exemplary effort and achievement in your studies at this medical school.*

*By the way, last year – on the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death - the memory of Maimonides was celebrated with the first International Maimonides Conference on Medicine and Ethics, in Tiberias, Israel, the place of his burial.*

*Maimonides – Moses ben Maimon, the Rambam - was a great Jewish physician, philosopher, religious leader, and scholar. He lived during the Middle Ages and, notably, he worked collegially and harmoniously with the great Christian and Muslim scholars of his day. If only the world could be like that today.*

*In short, he was an amazing man and humanitarian. Your successes, both personally and professionally, are also nothing short of amazing.*

*Medicine has such a rich heritage that can't be forgotten, embodied in great people like Maimonides. Enclosed is a small token in recognition of and appreciation for your efforts and achievements, both academically and especially as a human being.*

*Too often there is little emphasis on the humanistic aspects of medicine in formal medical training. I want you, and your classmates, never to forget the importance of not only taking care of, but CARING FOR each other – your patients, their families, and your families, friends, teachers and colleagues.*

*We hope - no we KNOW- that your ongoing study and practice of medicine will be as challenging, rewarding, and successful as they have been so far. Congratulations.*