

**Presentation of The Jones Family/Plasma Fellows/Greenblatt Awards  
By Perlita Jones**

Good evening. *Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. Buenas noches. Naimbag nga rabi-i yo amin.* My name is Perlita Aliga Jones. I've been presenting an award for 8 years now, but this year will be new and different in that my presentation will be short! 2 minutes max...as long as you don't applaud. I promise not to tell any more anecdotes about the Los Angeles Lakers and Kobe Bryant and how fluently he speaks ...and cusses in Italian and Spanish.

And I won't talk about the Plasma Fellows or the late Dr. Marian Greenblatt. Instead, I'll ask you to Google "plasma physics" to learn about the Plasma Fellows' field, and to visit [www.GreenblattEducationFund.org](http://www.GreenblattEducationFund.org) to get acquainted with this remarkable organization.

I've noticed that for all of these 8 years, the grand finale of American Idol has coincided with our awards night. But I'd much rather be here with the Watkins Mill idols; namely, the outstanding teachers and deserving students we honor each year. After all there's a huge difference between American Idol and Watkins Mill Idol: An American Idol is someone you want to *meet*; a Watkins Mill Idol is someone you want to *be*.

Each year I come before you for 2 reasons: Firstly, to express my gratitude to the Mill and its wonderful and caring teachers, administrators, and staff. Thanks to all of you and the excellent education my daughter Jasmine Jones received here, she finished college in 4 years a year ago. She's now working and enjoying her job, and much to my delight, she puts her Spanish to good use every single day.

Secondly, I'm here to present The Jones Family/Plasma Fellows/Greenblatt Award to 2 outstanding juniors who have demonstrated excellence in learning a foreign language at Watkins Mill. Fatima Falama & David Cabrera, *?Donde estan ustedes?* Please come up. David & Fatima are conscientious students with the determination to excel. Each has suffered through adversities, but by the dint of hard work & perseverance, they have courageously risen above them & done very well.

I have the distinct honor of presenting Fatima and David each a check for five-hundred dollars (\$500). Additionally, when they apply to colleges later this year, we will sponsor up to 2 applications for each of them. Congratulations, David and Fatima. Keep up the excellent job in everything you do, and make sure to practice

your Spanish any chance you get.

And congratulations to all of our Watkins Mill Idols! *Salamat po*, thank you.