

## Speech to Foreign Language Winners, 2010 Given by Dr. Walter Jones

Good evening. *Buenas noches. Bonsoir, Magandang gabi. Guten abend.* My name is Walter Jones. I represent the Jones Family, Plasma Fellows, and the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund.

All of us in the group believe that knowledge of a foreign language has become extremely important as we function in this flat world. This year, the number of non-native speakers of English has surpassed those who speak English as a native language. This is a reminder of how important cross-cultural communication has become. It requires an understanding of the people with whom we interact, and the most important factor that fosters that understanding is the ability to read, write, and speak the language of others.

Every year on awards night, my wife Perlita and I take the opportunity to thank Watkins Mill for the excellent education our daughter Jasmine received. She graduated in 2004, finished college in 2008, and is gainfully employed. Her ability to speak Spanish has made her job easier as she manages a diverse group of employees.

Tonight many watch American Idol. We have come to applaud and meet the real idols - Watkins Mill's outstanding teachers and topnotch students who are being honored this evening.

Both science and business benefit from an expanding global economy. While English is the language of business, in order to connect with others (to sell them something), it is crucial to be able to communicate in the language of those customers.

We believe that the foreign-language program at Watkins Mill is a great beginning towards this goal, and the reason we sponsor this award.

The winners of the excellence-in-language awards are 2 outstanding juniors, Anchal Bhargava and Kariah Guilds. Would you two please come up and join me on the stage?

Both young ladies are academically gifted, clearly have done well in their languages of choice and both play sports: Anchal in tennis (my wife's favorite) and Kariah on the track team (my sport in high school and college).

I have the distinct honor of presenting Anchal and Kariah **each** a check for one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Additionally, when they apply to colleges later this year, we will sponsor up to 2 applications for each of them. Congratulations, Kariah and Anchal. Keep up the excellent job in all of your endeavors, and make sure to practice your Spanish any chance you get.

And congratulations to all of our Watkins Mill idols! Go Wolverines! Thank you, *Gracias, Salamat po, Danke schoen.*