

Congratulations Homestead Schools Graduates!

GRADUATIONS are wonderful occasions allowing us to celebrate hard work and give thanks to our parents, teachers, and co students. It is a constant reminder that our life is made of different parts and stages.

The Graduating Class of 2009 VNA Batch 2 held its graduation ceremonies last Saturday, January 24, 2009 at Doubletree Hotel in Torrance. It was a day filled with mixed emotions—excitement, happiness, relief, and a little bit of sadness. The singing of the National Anthem sung by Ellaine Manuel commenced the ceremony. Mr. Vijay Fadia, founder and President of the school gave the welcoming address.

The highlights of the graduation rites were the Candle Lighting and Pinning Ceremony. The Candle Lighting symbolizes nursing educa-

tion. It was named after Florence Nightingale, the lady with the lamp that represents energy and commitment to serve others. Mrs. Felicitas Nicola did the lamp for the ceremony that represents the history of Florence Nightingale. The Pinning Ceremony was very touching and inspiring as it symbolized service to others, made more memorable because parents are chosen to perform the Pinning while an audio/video presentation played showing the students thanking their loved ones for all the support that they were given.

Another highlight was the key speaker, Rhodora Sino-Cruz. She imparted words of wisdom to the students, "Don't wait for change. Be the change. By obtaining an LVN course, you are already welcoming a change in your life. Work hard and fulfill your duties as nurses and the financial help will follow. What you give to your work will be the measure of how indispensable you are."

Awards were also presented to those who had done exceptionally well in certain areas. Best in Attendance is Asia McCullen, Best in Academic Excellence are Maria Harrison and Delila Alay-ay, Best in Clinical Practice is Ellaine Manuel, and lastly the Leadership Award went to Francis Yumul.

Homestead Schools, Inc. was formed in 1991, an organization dedicated to meeting the educational needs of various professionals. They aim to make every student fully informed and up to date with the developments and breakthroughs in their chosen careers. Homestead Schools has succeeded in serving the educational needs of multidisciplinary groups, populations with special needs, and public at large by undertaking a continual process of identifying target markets, assessing their needs and developing resources that would accomplish their unique educational objectives.

(Advertising Supplement)



Western Union Foundation Awards first scholarships under the family scholarship program pilot

ENGLEWOOD, CO — The Western Union Foundation recently announced the first award recipients of the Family Scholarship Pilot Program for migrant workers and their families. The pilot phase of the program was focused on awarding scholarships



Western Union representatives Randy Accelli, Regional Vice President (left) and Martin Del Secco (right).



Randy Accelli, regional vice president for Western Union; Vance Peterson, vice president for university advancement for California State University, Northridge; Carla Mae Ubalde, scholarship recipient and a nursing student at Cal State Northridge; Carmela Mae Ubalde, scholarship recipient and an information systems major at Cal State Northridge; Diana Zuniga with Western Union; and Martin Del Secco, country development manager for Western Union.

to families within the Guatemalan and Filipino diaspora in the Los Angeles, California, area and is now expanding to include the Mexican diaspora as well.

Filipina immigrant sisters, Carla Mae and Carmela Mae Ubalde, both received scholarships to help continue their college education at California State University in Northridge. Carla is studying to be a nurse, while Carmela is majoring in computer science. Both girls volunteer in their local community, in addition to attending school and working at various jobs to help pay tuition and other educational expenses. "We are so grateful to the Western Union Foundation for caring about young people. You've helped us make our family proud," said Carla Mae and Carmela enthusiastically. "These scholarships will help make both of our lives a little easier and we truly appreciate your gift."

"We are pleased to be able to award our first family scholar-

ships to these hard-working, young women from the Filipino community," said Luella Chavez D'Angelo, president, Western Union Foundation. "Education is a universal need and has the ability to create opportunity and improve lives. This family scholarship will help improve the lives of these two sisters, lessening their financial burden and providing them with the opportunity to achieve their educational goals."

The Family Scholarship Program is a component of Western Union's Our World, Our FamilySM signature program, a five year, \$50 million commitment designed to provide communities with the skills, knowledge and resources essential to breaking the cycle of poverty. The program is framed around four areas: Our World Gives; Our World Learns; Our World Strives and Our World Speaks, with each area given equal attention towards helping

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Get your fill of local lifestyle shows with USA Digital

WHILE the likes of Martha Stewart and Rachel Ray are a hit with Filipinos in the United States, they still yearn for local lifestyle shows to fill them in on the lifestyle scene back home and keep them up-to-date so they can connect better with their loved ones and friends back home.

USA Digital understands this longing, which is exactly why they are now offering GMA Life TV, which was recently launched and is now available on channel 2069. GMA Life TV is a Filipino channel dedicated to Filipino women and made with the Filipino woman in mind, and its flagship programs are the top-rated lifestyle shows back in the Philippines such as Moms, The Sweet Life and Proudly Filipina.

You can get GMA Life TV if you subscribe to the FilipinoDirect package for no additional cost. The price for FilipinoDirect will remain to be \$34.99 each month

and, with the addition of this channel, USA Digital now also offers 10 Filipino channels in total, six of which are exclusive to USA Digital.

USA Digital is also pleased to announce another addition to their WorldDirect line-up—the Filipino package, PinoyDirect, which includes two of the most popular Filipino channels, TFC and GMA Pinoy TV, plus MYX. This package is available for \$24.99 per month, on top of the cost of a qualifying base package.

USA Digital has ranked no. 1 in customer satisfaction among the largest national cable and satellite TV providers, and they continue to provide customers the best viewing experience than any other provider.

To sign up with USA Digital, customers could call USA Digital at (800) 801-1145 or contact a USA Digital authorized dealer near you for Filipino service.

(Advertising Supplement)

Divine Diva: Zsa Zsa Padilla

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she had starred in the successful and critically acclaimed full length musical play *Larawan* in 1997.

Zsa Zsa started as a member of the Manila Sound band, Hotdog, in the mid-70s. She is the daughter of actor and sportsman Carlos "Sonny" Padilla, Jr., Padilla was the referee in the Ali-Frazier world heavyweight boxing match, "The Thrilla in Manila".

She went solo after leaving the popular Manila Band Hotdog. Many movie and TV film producers and directors offered her parts in movies and TV shows due to her beauty and appeal. In 1987 she first accepted a TV role as a wife of a gay man in a popular classic drama series "Lovingly Yours Helen". The reaction of the viewers proved that she is an actress to be reckoned with. In the same year she accepted her first movie role in a comedy flick "Mga Anak Ni Pacifica Falayfay" in 1987 with Philippine Comedy King, Dolphy. This role proved that she could also make people laugh and so other comedy flicks followed.

After co-starring with Dolphy in another comedy flick, they fell in love. Her next role co-starred her with another funny man, Joey de Leon, in *Starzan* in 1989.

At 16, Zsa Zsa was married to an older man, a dentist named Modesto Tatlonghari, with whom she lived with for 7 years and had a daughter, the singer and actress Karylle. The marriage was annulled in 2003. In 1990, Padilla eloped with Dolphy, a man 36 years her senior. They now have two daughters, Nicole and Zia.

So what are you waiting for... get to see the Divine Diva, Zsa Zsa Padilla together with Kuh Ledesma, Pops Fernandez and Regine Velasquez in DIVAS 4 DIVAS on March 28, 2009 (Saturday), 7:30 pm at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium!!! Don't miss it!

The show is presented to you by The Law Offices of Michael Gurfinkel, Island Pacific Supermarket, GMA Pinoy TV, Asian Journal Publications, Tancinco Law Office, Brookshire Dental Center, Atlas Shippers International, Aqua Imaging & Design,

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