



## Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates

January 2009

*Last year, Manson featured seven successful Manson graduates in the first publication of "Celebrating the Success of Manson Graduates." This year we feature six more Manson graduates who have continued their education in a variety of ways to obtain successful careers. Each alumnus featured this year is unique and has his or her own connection to the Manson School District and the Manson community. From a helicopter pilot to a Marine serving two tours in Iraq for the U.S. Military, each of these graduates has made exceptional career choices. The one tie that binds all of these students is their close bond to the Manson community and the people who make it their home.*

### **CARLOS RODRIGUEZ: K-9 Law Enforcement Specialist**

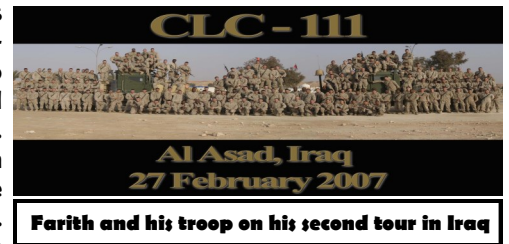
Carlos graduated from Manson High School in 1995. Upon graduation he attended Eastern Washington University and then transferred to Central Washington University where he earned a BA in Spanish and a minor in Business Administration. Carlos was interested in becoming a Spanish teacher, but also had a strong desire to join the police force. After deliberating, Carlos decided to pursue a career in law enforcement and then possibly make a career move to teaching later in life. In November of 2008, Carlos attended a six-week K-9 training program at McNeil Island Prison. Inspired by visits from D.A.R.E. officers and a special K-9 dog named "Red" in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Carlos became a K-9 Officer. He has always been interested in the capabilities of animals to help law enforcement. Carlos said that, "Manson was a really tight community and was always home. When I return to Manson and drive by the high school I still remember the support the community gave to the students. The teachers at Manson were always great, and my football coach, Mr. Tom Alexander, taught me perseverance in the aspect of sports. Since then, perseverance has carried me forward to my life in general." Carlos wanted Manson students to know that, "even though your dreams and desires may seem hard to reach, your goals are something worth striving for. If you want it, keep at it and never give up."



### **Farith Robledo: U.S. Marine Battalion Dispatcher & Motor Transport Operator**



Farith Robledo graduated from Manson in 2004. The following September, Farith entered Basic Training with the U.S. Military. He is currently a Motor Transport Operator and Battalion Dispatcher at the Bangor Submarine Base in Silverdale, Washington. Farith has had two tours in Iraq. His first tour began September 4, 2005. During this tour he was based out of Camp Fallujah, Iraq. On his second tour in 2006, Farith was based out of Camp Al Asad, Iraq. Farith says that Manson Secondary helped prepare him for the real world. "Mr. Soliday helped me out a lot by teaching me some extra history about the Marine Corps and what they had done and were currently doing overseas." He also stated that Mr. Nelson and Mr. Pinkerton told him about their experiences in the Military and what to expect at Basic Training. Farith said his football coaches helped push him to seek better physical and mental health on and off the field in order to prepare his mind and body for the physical and mental conditioning he was about to encounter at boot camp. Farith currently has three years of service remaining on his current contract. After this service, he will have served eight years honorably in the Marine Corps. Farith envisions himself reenlisting with the Marine Corps Security Guard (MSG) School to become a Security Guard at any U.S. Embassy, or he may join



the Navy to serve on an Aircraft Carrier and travel the world in that capacity. Farith is extremely proud to be an enlisted military member. We salute you, Farith, for your many years of service protecting our country.

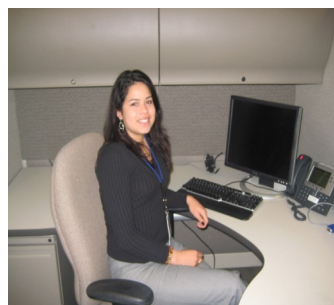
### **Conor Davis: Davis Pacific Recycling Services**

Conor Davis graduated from Manson Secondary School in 1996. After graduation he attended Modesto Junior College in California. After college, Conor and fellow student, Jason Winters, pursued their truck driving licenses and Conor bought a truck and began a career hauling recyclables for a scrap metal company. After some time, Conor felt he could open his own company and do the hauling himself. He and Jason saw the need for more recycling in their area and slowly added the equipment needed to begin recycling their own materials. For example, DPS Recycling recycles the tomato pulps from the Hines Ketchup Company, dries the pulps and sells them to dog food companies to add to their product. Over the last ten years, Conor has continued to learn more about recycling and expand his company, Davis Pacific Services (DPS) Recycling. Conor said that Manson was a great school for him because the small size enabled him to get to know all the students and teachers. He says the teachers, "took more of a personal interest in all of us and cared about us learning what we needed to so we could be successful."



## Zoila Sedano: Boeing Information Systems Career Foundation Program

Zoila graduated from Manson in 2003 as a recipient of the Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship which provided her a full-ride, ten-year academic scholarship. Zoila graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Informatics. She is currently a second year participant of the Information Systems Career Foundation Program at the Boeing Company. The ISCFP is a two-year rotational program that requires participants to fulfill job responsibilities in six different functional areas within Information Technology. Zoila has had the opportunity to rotate into many different job functions including usability engineering, application architecture, system integration and project management. The goal of the program is for participants to get exposure to different areas in the company, build strong mentor relationships, leadership development and training to help you determine your career interests. Zoila considers her teacher-mentors as great assets as they helped her self-reflect on her educational goals. Her teachers were supportive and provided advice on her college and scholarship searches. Zoila's advice to current Manson students is to not be afraid to challenge yourself during high school, especially during your final years when you're preparing for college and scholarship opportunities. "When I was a junior and senior, I had a fear of leaving Manson. I have since learned that moving away from home has exposed me to a lot of new things including different cultures, people and general diversity." Zoila also recommends finding a teacher or counselor to take on as a mentor to help plan your educational goals. "Having a mentor is very important. I truly don't think I would be here today if it weren't for the mentor relationships I built in high school. They have definitely made a huge impact on my life!" Zoila has recently been offered a position to work at Boeing Operations in Australia.



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Zoila Sedano

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Of 47 graduates in 2008, 32 have gone on to pursue higher education. Here's a snapshot of where they are:*

**Washington State University (3)**  
**Wenatchee Comm. College (10)**  
**University of Washington (3)**  
**SW Oregon Comm. College (4)**  
**Central Washington University (2)**  
**Eastern Washington University (1)**  
**Whitworth University (1)**  
**Seattle Pacific University (1)**  
**Brigham Young University (1)**  
**Seattle University (1)**  
**Biola University (1)**  
**Arizona Golf Mgmt School (1)**  
**Phoenix Barber School (1)**  
**Centennial Idaho Job Corps (1)**  
**Whatcom Comm. College (1)**

## Zain Paloalto: Motivational Speaker & Communication Major

Zain Paloalto graduated from Manson in 2006. He attends Northwest University, a private Christian College in Kirkland, Washington. Zain is currently a junior at Northwest working towards a degree in Organizational Communications with a minor in Biblical Studies. Zain is also a motivational speaker and speaks at several church youth groups in the Seattle area. He also is a Visionary Team Leader for El Camino, a bilingual (Spanish/English) church, where he is the preacher on Sundays. Zain says that, "being a certified minister at the age of 20 is pretty unique." He is probably the youngest minister in the Pacific Northwest. Zain attributes his success to the people and teachers in Manson who believed in him and encouraged him to become class president, Associated Student Body (ASB) Vice President, President and Washington Association of Student Councils (WASC) Representative. "If it were not for my advisors and teachers who continually encouraged me, I would not be the young man I am now," Zain said. Having the opportunity to serve as a leader in high school prepared Zain to become an effective communicator. "I no longer just motivate and inspire students from North Central Washington, but now I reach the lives of people from all over the Pacific Northwest. All of this is because of the opportunity I had at Manson High School." Zain's advice to current students at Manson is that, "If I could do it, you can. There is nothing or no one that can stop you from achieving your dreams. The only thing that can stop you is yourself."



## Scotty Byquist: Corporate Helicopter Pilot

Scotty Byquist graduated from Manson in 2002. After graduation he attended Silverhawk Helicopter Academy where he trained to become a private helicopter pilot, commercial pilot and earned his certified flight instructor license. Scotty's career has taken him in many directions. He has been a flight instructor, led photography flights, scenic tours and wildlife tours. Scotty is currently employed by Pacific Topsoil and is their corporate pilot. He flies the bosses from job site to job site to survey land and leads all flight operations. Scotty has many people who helped him become successful, including friends, family and his teachers at Manson. He strongly believes that if you really want to do something in life that you are passionate about, there is always a way to make it happen.



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