

It's Never too Late to Graduate



Top row from left: Nora Sawyer, Suzanne Reach, Lucene Popp, Lillian Owens, Irma Cappelletti, Yolanda Cocchiarella, Martha Burke Bottom row from left: Betty Tingley, James Ratajczak, Rosa Ramirez, Estelle Chrycy. Not pictured: Harvey Ades, Carmen De Leon, Gloria Ellis, Ruth Riveles, Violet Robinson, Marie Alice San Millian, Wilma Taylor, Diane Maine, Pat Mozealous.

BY PHIL MARRACCINI

In a time when many are forced to speak a second language to get a job, 20 senior citizens chose to learn Spanish for noneconomic reasons.

While many consider seniors citizens "Over the Hill," the Palace encourages its members to keep physically and mentally active.

Putting together a pilot Spanish program were Program Director of Continuing Education and Professional Development, Susana Vela and Language Professor, Maria del

Pilar Robart both from Miami Dade College Homestead Campus.

They worked closely with Palace Activity Director Frank Dunbar. A special 7-week course was designed and held every Monday and Friday at the new, state of the art Palace facility located across the street from Homestead Hospital.

May 23rd was a special day as the graduates entered wearing caps and gowns. Frank and Maria conducted the ceremony presenting a framed certificate to each student. Maria cheerfully

added, "this program was a learning experience for teacher as well as students." Also mentioned was the fact that the students range from 69 to 95 in age!

No expense was spared as food and champagne was served to all who attended. After a toast, the scholars tossed their caps in the air to thunderous applause from the crowd.

No question about it, programs like this and many others at the Palace help bring unity to our diverse community as well as providing stimulation to those who choose to participate.