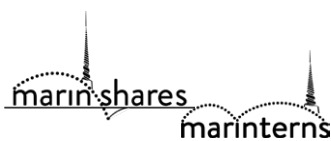


VOLUNTEER NOTES

Where Are They Now?

A Cultural Services Department internship made **Andrea Davis** “feel part of something bigger,” inspired her career and eventually led to her current county job. As a college intern in 2019 and 2020, Andrea helped transform the Marin County Fair into a virtual experience during the pandemic shutdown. After graduating from the University of Oregon, she began working in public relations with Landis Communications. Last November she was hired by Cultural Services as the department’s media manager. Andrea now leads marketing efforts for the Marin Center, the Marin County Fair, and the Marin Cultural Association.

“Growing up in Marin, I never imagined I’d get to come back and serve the community that shaped me. It’s a badge of honor,” she said. “I’m excited to find new ways to support the arts and make sure every voice in Marin County’s culture is heard.”



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Student Clarifies Goals During Audit Internship

By *Diana Jones*

Marintern **Valentino van Praag**, a high school senior and Mill Valley native, is the audit intern for the County of Marin’s Department of Finance.

His interest in finance arose in the Pathways Program at Tamiscal High School. (Pathways provides an alternative educational experience that assists students with college transition while they complete requirements for graduation.)

Valentino continued his education by reaching out to financial institutions and companies, then contacting the county’s Marinterns program. That led to the Department of Finance, where Valentino was selected for the audit internship last August.

Valentino is an only child and has strong support from both parents. Their involvement imbued him with the spirit of giving back to the community.

“I’ve learned that when I’m genuinely interested in something, I can put my head down and master it,” he said. “This internship showed me how technical skills and problem-solving are used every day.”

His internship supervisor, Senior Auditor **Kulwarn Bassi**, has watched Valentino’s growth.

“Valentino is very bright, he is a quick learner, communicates very well, and shows a strong curiosity and eagerness to learn,” Kulwarn said.

Valentino’s initiative was displayed during a quarterly task performed by the department. He created a Power BI program using SQL to improve the process.

“In addition to this, he also provided our team with a walkthrough so we can replicate it and possibly implement

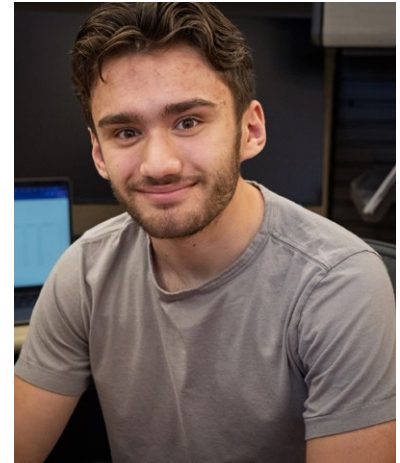


PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE

Valentino van Praag, Tamiscal student and Pathways Intern for Audit, Department of Finance

this process going forward,” Kulwarn said. “His technical skills and proactive approach made a noticeable impact.”

Valentino also has developed an interest in data science, computer science, and using AI to automate tasks.

“Overall, working with Valentino has been a great positive experience, and he continually contributes to our team,” Kulwarn said. “I can say with certainty that he has a bright future ahead of him.”

Valentino loves football, basketball, video games, and his cat Matteo. He also is a wrestling fan and spent three years on his high school wrestling team, eventually becoming captain. He hopes to attend Vanderbilt University, UCLA, or UC San Diego.

“I know that I will be successful in my life, but I hope I will combine success with genuine fulfillment,” he said. “This is why I decided that I wanted to shift from finance and business-oriented jobs to STEM jobs, because those were the places where I feel my skills are best represented.” ■

Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

25 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), Bike Patrol and Steward Volunteer, Marin County Parks

James Malaspina (Palm Springs), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

19 YEARS

Robert Eichstaedt (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

15 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

11 YEARS

Robert Rowlands (Mill Valley), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Fire

10 YEARS

Stephan Sarhad (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Marin County Fire

9 YEARS

Michael Synyard (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office

7 YEARS

Christopher Cuyler (San Rafael), **Toby Fray** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, Marin County Sheriff's Office

Ed Remitz (Larkspur), Writing and Editing Coach, Human Resources

6 YEARS

Troy Evans (Mill Valley), **Emily Waters** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, Marin County Sheriff's Office

Christian Hellwig (Mill Valley), Volunteer Steward, Marin County Parks

Nancy Mackle (San Anselmo), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

5 YEARS

Bob Salter (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

4 YEARS

Michele Boyer (Mill Valley), **Sheryl Hoy** (San Rafael), **Lisa McKeogh** (San Rafael), **Martha Nelson** (Novato), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

Naomi Harada (Walnut Creek), **Kevin Hayward** (Alameda), **Salim Islam** (Mill Valley), **Alena Ivanova** (Tiburon), **Sara Kurtzig** (San Anselmo), **Christian McIntosh** (Belvedere Tiburon), **Jeffrey Rabkin** (Corte Madera), **Ellen 'Elly' Ronald** (Mill Valley), **Howard Solomon** (Mill Valley), **Calvin Tudor** (Tiburon), **Kate Van Hooser** (Tiburon),

Brian Witchel (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, Marin County Sheriff's Office

3 YEARS

Marilyn Englander (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Ashley Walter (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

2 YEARS

Jack Richards (Sebastopol), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Alma Soria (Novato), Circulation Support Intern, South Novato Library

Baabak Touran (Mill Valley), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

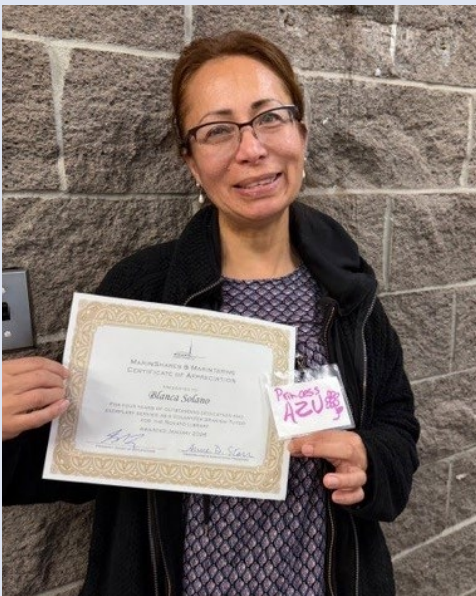
1 YEAR

Rahma Elmi (San Leandro), California Department of Public Health Pathways Fellow, HHS

Nico Less (San Anselmo), Student Elections Ambassador Intern, Elections Department

Madeline Leung (Corte Madera), Suicide Prevention Collaborative Intern, Board of Supervisors

PHOTO BY MARIA LEE GOODRICH



Appreciation for Tutor

MarinShares volunteer **Blanca Solano** poses outside the Novato Library with a certificate of appreciation signed by Board of Supervisors President **Eric Lucan** in recognition of her four years of service. Blanca, who prefers the sobriquet Princess Azu, volunteers as a Spanish tutor for the library's Spanish Conversation Club. She and her fellow tutors help patrons practice language skills at free, informal gatherings at the Marin County Free Library's Novato branch, 1720 Novato Boulevard. Patrons drop in for the Spanish club on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m., while the English club meets Mondays at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For details, contact Library Assistant [Maria Lee Goodrich](#).

Clerk of the Board Team Starts New Internship



PHOTO BY SONIA SALTZMAN

Marinterns **Citlaly Molina**, left, and **Alycia 'Aly' Carrasco**, right, smile along with their staff supervisor, Technology Systems Specialist **Marques Daniels**, center. Citlaly and Aly are among the first four students selected for the new Clerk of the Board internship within the Office of the County Executive (OCE). They attend Dominican University of California along with the other two new interns, **Chloe Cruz** and **Madison Orozco**, not pictured. In the new role, students explore public service at the heart of the county organization, learning how staff members support public hearings, property assessment appeals, and more. Marques is working with Dominican Associate Professor of Political Science **Alison Howard** to establish an ongoing partnership. The goal: spark interest in government careers. Marques said OCE internships will expand this fall to include Dominican's Barowsky School of Business, with support from Barowsky internships director **Giulia Welch**. The Dominican campus is in San Rafael, a couple of miles from the Marin Civic Center.



CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHY

Who's New & Welcome!

Angie Alvarado (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Fred Anderson (Novato), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender's Office

Xania Bytof (San Rafael), One-on-One English Tutor, South Novato Library

Ryan Carr (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, South Novato Library

Alycia Carrasco (San Rafael), Clerk of the Board Intern, Office of the County Executive

Jacob Chavez (Emeryville), Job Coach, Community Development Agency and HHS

Chloe Cruz (San Rafael), Clerk of the Board Intern, Office of the County Executive

Vihaan Dalal (Greenbrae), Homework Helpers Intern, Civic Center Library

Brandi Davis (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, Civic Center Library

Kristerlynn-E.K. Dulcius-Oriscar (Novato), Teen Volunteer, Novato Library, and Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Sorrel Feinstein (Forest Knolls), Job Coach, Fairfax Library

Cristos Gotes (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, HHS

Blooma Goldberg (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Krista Gopal (Kentfield), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Will Greenwald (San Anselmo), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Arlo Greer (San Anselmo), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Ashton Gregg (San Rafael), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Ian Hanley (San Rafael) Teen Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Vida Harband (Tiburon), Advisor to Student Elections Ambassador Program, Elections Department

Marissa Holmes (San Francisco), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, Public Health, HHS

Mariana Horchi Alegre (Novato), Education Equity Volunteer, South Novato Library

Joshua Lam (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, HHS

Anika Lauduski (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, South Novato Library

Chiara Machotka-Farley (San Anselmo), Homework Helpers Intern, Fairfax Library

Alex MacKay (San Rafael), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Getty Mitchell (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, HHS

Citlaly Molina (San Rafael), Clerk of the Board Intern, Office of the County Executive

Stephanie Morgan (Kentfield), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Neddy Murray (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, HHS

Jordan Nolan (American Canyon), Nursing Student in the Jail, HHS

Timothy Olson (Inverness), Volunteer Photographer, Marin County Fire

Madison Orozco (San Rafael), Clerk of the Board Intern, Office of the County Executive

Shane Perlson (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Sammi Shaw (Mill Valley), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Wonjin Shin (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, HHS

Nelissa Rinii Solomon (Vallejo), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, Public Health, HHS

Cade Thygerson (Bakersfield), Nursing Student in the Jail, HHS

Jaylan Turner (San Anselmo), Packet Assembler, HHS

Angeliah Marie Vicente (Vallejo), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, Public Health, HHS

Wren Walker (Novato), Teen Volunteer, Novato Library

Oni Woodhouse (San Anselmo), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library