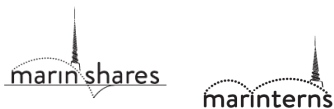


VOLUNTEER NOTES

We Remember

Grant Pritchard, a 31-year volunteer with the Sheriff's emergency radio team, died June 21. As chief radio officer and training officer, Grant shared his expertise and helped to create a great technical community to serve Marin. Sheriff **Robert Doyle** said he "raised proficiency and cooperation among amateur radio operators throughout the county." His staff supervisor, **Tom Jordan**, recalls Grant as "a good friend, a strong supporter, and a positive influence."

Senior Peer Counselor **Barbara Levin** died June 19. She had volunteered with Health and Human Services since 2006, meeting individually with clients to provide compassionate service. At team meetings with fellow counselors, Barbara brought up issues facing older adults and encouraged her peers to grow. Mental Health Practitioner **Pam Roman**, her staff supervisor, said, "Barbara was creative, exuberant, and funny-she was a breath of fresh air and is greatly missed."



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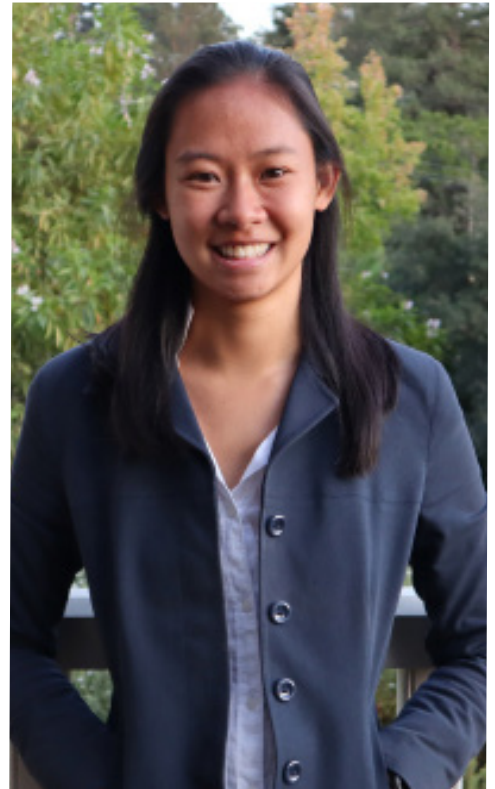
Intern Taps Personal, Cultural Knowledge

By *Natalie Dybeck and Pilar Goodman*

Mia Nguyen knows what hard work is. Life hasn't come easy to her. She is a first-generation college student at Dominican University majoring in psychology. Her mother and father are Chinese and Vietnamese, respectively. In the past, Mia has struggled with her identity as an American from an immigrant family and with her mental health.

But today, Mia harnesses her experiences and the skills gained from hard work to help others. Mia interns with the Health and Human Services Department's BRIDGE (Behavioral, Recovery, Integrated and Dedicated to Growth and Excellence) Team, specifically working with monolingual Vietnamese residents. The program is designed to support adults who struggle with severe mental health symptoms. The goal of this multidisciplinary program is to promote wellness and recovery through individual treatment.

(Continued on page 2)



Mia Nguyen

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIA NGUYEN

Writer Highlights Volunteer, Intern Efforts

By *Natalie Dybeck*

Every month the newest edition of Marinfo NOW, highlighting some of the county's incredible volunteers and interns, is emailed to the 700-plus volunteer and intern participants. Without **Scott Harrop**, this newsletter wouldn't be the same.

Scott is a volunteer reporter, and with just a cup of coffee, an interview, and some fast writing, he eloquently tells volunteers' stories, recognizes them for their work, and inspires others to join in and share their skills.

Scott, a wine industry barrel supplier, has been writing for the county's volunteer program since February of 2018, soon after he moved from Napa to Marin and immediately fell in love with the area. "I wanted to show my appreciation," Scott said. "I was casting about for a way to give back to the community. When I saw an ad on the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership website for a staff writer at the County of Marin's volunteer program, it sounded perfect!"

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Intern Taps Personal, Cultural Knowledge

(Continued from page 1)

The aim is to encourage clients' independence and connect them to community support.

Mia's journey toward this role began in high school. "I struggled with my own mental health," she explains. That gives her insight into what clients may be feeling and what her psychology major is all about.

In college, Mia also began to dive deeper into her roots. Her father fought in the Vietnam War before immigrating to the United States. She sought new information about not only her cultural background but also the war and what it must have been like for her father as a soldier. She is now able to form deeper connections with clients because of

her upbringing and newfound cultural knowledge.

"Mia has been working with the monolingual Vietnamese population for several semesters now," said her internship supervisor, Mental Health Practitioner **Tran Nguyen, Psy.D.** "She's positive, engaged, and brings a very upbeat energy to the community. She is highly motivated and always working hard to understand the complexities that the Vietnamese-American population in Marin faces on a day-to-day basis."

Mia enjoys volunteering, as she has formed an important community in her life and better the lives of others. Her biggest obstacle is the language barrier. While she understands Vietnamese well,

her verbal skills are not always up to par. But this has not stopped Mia. She has found a powerful way to interact: a smile, a hand gesture, a hug. Body language has enabled her to form a deep connection with clients.

Mia plans to pursue a career in child psychology. She also emphasizes the importance of accessibility of therapy. She has seen people not pursue therapy because of its cost and wants to make sure that anyone in need knows how to access mental health services.

"Mental health is really important," said Mia. "It is not emphasized enough, and everyone deserves access to it in their lives."

Writer Highlights Volunteer, Intern Efforts

(Continued from page 1)

PHOTO BY GEORGE HARROP



Scott pictured on one of his many trips to Rome with his three brothers and their father, who was stationed at the US Embassy in the 1950s. For those who know Rome, Scott is outside the Hotel Due Torri, on the Vicolo del Leonetto, just north of Piazza Navona.

His move to Marin was small compared to the moves in Scott's youth. His father was a career diplomat and Scott was born in Rome, went to elementary school in Brussels and the Congo, and attended high school in Australia. Even after coming to California to pursue a career in the wine industry after becoming tired of Wall Street, Scott's work continues to allow him to travel. He started a company to import wine barrels from France and visits cooperages and wineries in France, Spain, Germany, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Australia, and Argentina. With his diverse background, he finds many things in common with his newsletter interviewees.

For interviews, Scott arranges an hour with the volunteer or intern. Sometimes he visits onsite, as with his favorite memory of interviewing volunteer **Linda Novy** at the stables where she keeps her horse, and hearing harrowing stories of her time patrolling backcountry trails for Marin County Parks. Then he crafts the story, gets quotes from staff supervisors, and edits to a concise profile.

Editing can be a challenge, but it isn't the only one. "Some volunteers are very humble and don't like talking about themselves," said Scott. "That's why I like to meet face-to-face and try to ignite their passion for what they do." During the pandemic Scott is following public health guidelines for interviews.

And along with challenges come meaningful volunteer experiences. "I love hearing about the many ways in which volunteers enrich our county's life: everything from patrolling our parks on horseback to fighting housing discrimination and identity theft. It can be humbling too, as when I learned that the person I was interviewing had been a producer for the PBS NewsHour for 20 years, whereas I'm just an amateur cub reporter!"

"Scott has a gift for getting to the heart of a fellow volunteer's story," said his staff supervisor, **Anne Starr** of the Human Resources Department. "When you see his byline, you're in for an excellent read."

Student Intrigued by Study of Pandemic Patterns

By Tiyona Pariani

A passion to flatten the curve of pandemics prompted college student **Maxwell Pierce** to intern on Fridays and Mondays for the Department of Health and Human Services. He also served at the county's Emergency Operations Center, which is part of the Marin County Sheriff's Office.

His responsibilities included helping analyze flu-related deaths in Marin County last flu season and scheduling people for Covid-19 testing.

Maxwell attends Dominican University of California where he studies global public health. He knew he wanted to learn more about the field after taking an epidemiology course. Working at the Emergency Operations Center during a historic pandemic has been an incredible experience, he says.

"Of course, what is happening is terrible," says Maxwell. "However, with the efforts being put in by the incredible health care workers, especially in Marin, we can help to flatten the curve."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAXWELL PIERCE

Maxwell Pierce

His internship supervisor, **Alana McGrath**, an epidemiologist with the Department of Health and Human Services, said, "In his work as an epidemiology intern pre-Covid, Maxwell proved himself to be enthusiastic, reliable, and bright. Most interns don't experience a global pandemic during their epidemiology internships, but

Maxwell did not shy away from helping the county as we moved into emergency operations." Alana added, "Maxwell's willingness to jump in, help meaningfully, and maintain a positive attitude meant a lot to the team."

Maxwell attended high school in Oakland where he graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School in 2017. He lives in San Rafael with some teammates on his Dominican lacrosse team. He serves on Dominican's Penguin Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and also works at a lacrosse store in San Rafael called Sling It! Lacrosse. Besides school and work, Maxwell enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his two dogs. His biggest takeaway from interning at the county is having gotten a glimpse of an epidemiologist's work. He hopes to resume interning and someday turn it into a real job. He is scheduled to graduate in 2021.

"The internship did not feel like work," said Maxwell. "I completely enjoyed being there every day and all of the projects that I got to work on."

Happy Anniversary!

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

35 YEARS

Jerry Foster (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

22 YEARS

Jane Johnson (Novato), **Linda Comella** (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

18 YEARS

Doug Kunst (Danville), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire Department (MCFD)
Stan Rowan (Fairfax), Driver, MCFD
Linda Novy (Fairfax), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

12 YEARS

John Newman (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, MCFD

10 YEARS

Michael Fischer (Mill Valley), **Stuart Quan** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO
Maria Gregoriev (San Rafael), **Susan O'Brien** (Mill Valley), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteers, Health & Human Services (HHS)

9 YEARS

Joan Brown (Kentfield), Frankly Speaking Proofreader, Human Resources (HR)

8 YEARS

Amory Willis (Sausalito), **Judy Wilkins** (Novato), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks
Paula Kamena (San Rafael), Cold Case Investigator, MCSO Reyes Library

7 YEARS

Jim Cleaves (Novato), Tutor, Novato Library

5 YEARS

Marie Fitzgerald (Mill Valley), Event Aide, HR

4 YEARS

Pamela Ross (Greenbrae), Marinfo NOW Copy Editor, HR

3 YEARS

Elizabeth McKee (Mill Valley), California Room Archivist and Transportation Historian, Civic Center Library

2 YEARS

Cythea Harrison-Homitz (Fairfax), Preservationist, Fairfax Library
Felecia Gaston (Marin City), Adopt-A-Spot, Department of Public Works
Milton Hyams (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO
Sandy Wargo (American Canyon), Incident Management Team Volunteer, MCFD

1 YEAR

Firas Khan (Novato), Photographer Intern, HR

Who's New & Welcome!

Vangelo Arroyo (Vallejo), Student Nurse – Covid-19 Point of Testing (Covid-19 POT), Health & Human Services (HHS)

Mariaris Azarias (Fairfield), Student Nurse – Covid-19 POT, HHS

Joshua Barraza (Novato), School to Career Intern, Public Defender's Office

Natalia Betzler (Mill Valley), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Talia Beyer (Mill Valley), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Sara Christ (Newark), Aging Disability Resources Center Nursing Student, HHS

Myles Cohen (San Geronimo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Katie Criesco (Novato), School to Career Intern, Public Defender's Office

Wences Celeste Figuera (San Pablo), Student Nurse - Covid-19 POT, HHS

Wesley Fink (Novato), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Michelle Frid (Novato), Digital Team Intern, Information Services Technology (IST)

Maleah Gibson (Petaluma), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Abbie Gould (San Rafael), Literacy Tutor/ Reading Buddies Intern, Marin City Library

Debbie Hallare (Newark), Student Nurse - Covid-19 Motels Program, HHS

Jillian Hickey (San Rafael), Field and Mobile Evaluation (FAME)/Testing Team Intern, HHS

Dina Johnson (San Rafael), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Manjinder Kaur (El Sobrante), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

James Mangalus (San Francisco), Student Nurse - Covid-19 POT, HHS

Max Manwaring-Mueller (San Rafael), FAME/Mobile Testing Team Intern, HHS

James Myhre (San Rafael), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office

Evelyn Ochoa (San Rafael), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Xareni Ortega Sanchez (Vallejo), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Spencer Paik (Berkeley), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office

Lucas Peck (Corte Madera), Law School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Alexandra Clarence Perfecto (Pittsburg), Student Nurse - Covid-19 POT, HHS

Owen Puckett (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Rachel Sacramento (Castro Valley), Student Nurse - Covid-19 POT, HHS

Jewel Saturno (Stockton), Student Nurse - Covid-19 POT, HHS

Caroline Scharf (Tiburon), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Scott Smith (San Rafael), Open Space Steward, Marin County Parks

Emily Spears (Mill Valley), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender's Office

Sajan Srivastava (Piedmont), Legal Support Team, District Attorney's Office

Nicholas Uribe (Petaluma), Digital Accessibility Intern, IST

Zoe Vuillermet (Chapel Hill, NC), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Reed Weingard (San Rafael), Contact Investigation Team, Data/Epidemiology Intern, HHS