Intern Helps Probationers While Exploring Career Options
By Tiyona Pariani

A passion for helping others drives intern Bryana Alvarez to serve in the Marin County Probation Department’s pretrial unit assisting probation officers and learning about the field.

As a college intern with the Adult Probation division, Bryana is responsible for updating court dates and using the Promise program for defendant check-ins. Promise is a case-manager program used in the pretrial unit. It reminds defendants to address tasks, such as court dates. It also helps officers communicate with defendants.

Bryana also helps with inventory for GPS and TAD devices. TADs are transdermal alcohol-detection devices that can sense and measure alcohol in a person’s body. She sets up the installations and assists officers with entering information into Promise.

Bryana is a student at Sonoma State University. It was difficult to find an internship during the pandemic, but she managed to with the help of Probation Supervisor for Safety Terry Wright, her internship supervisor.

“Bryana has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn about what a career in probation entails,” said Terry. “She works very closely with our officers and we are fortunate to have her with us.”

Born and raised in Santa Rosa, Bryana graduated from Santa Rosa High School in 2016 and attended Santa Rosa Junior College, earning an associate degree in social and behavioral science and another in administration of justice. She went on to Sonoma State University and expects to attain her BA in criminal justice and criminology in December. Her educational experience has taught her time management and effective communication.

Outside her internship, Bryana has been a nanny for over six years. She also works at a winery in Healdsburg. She spends her leisure time with friends and family, at the beach, and hiking.

Her biggest takeaway from interning at the county is how rewarding, yet challenging, the job is.

“One of my favorite things as an intern is how predictable the job is,

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but also how unpredictable it can be,” she said. “The individuals who come in are going through difficult times, but you can never predict the life stories you will hear, or the type of people you will meet.”

Attending office visits and observing interactions between probation officers and defendants fascinates Bryana. She notes both the differences and the similarities in staff members’ work styles and has learned that effective communication and the ability to read body language are essential skills.

Asked about her goals, Bryana responded, “In five years, I see myself working as a probation officer, hopefully for Marin County. I’m excited to see what the future holds. I truly have a passion for helping others, and I’m eager to help individuals succeed through difficult times in their life.”

Happy Anniversary

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

20 YEARS
Frank Klebanoff (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Services (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)
Dennis Sarantapoulas (Tomales), Volunteer Tomales Firefighter, Marin County Fire

18 YEARS
Gary Thomas (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

17 YEARS
John Sergeant (Fairfax), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Marin County Free Library

16 YEARS
Kalen Leer (Stinson Beach), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

14 YEARS
Lee Spiegel (Corte Madera), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

13 YEARS
Donald Jennings (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

11 YEARS
Tom Boss (Forest Knolls), Leo Coppeta (Mill Valley), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks (Parks)

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney’s Office

9 YEARS
Betty Obata (Mill Valley), Administrative Assistant, Health and Human Services (HHS)

8 YEARS
Salamah Locks (San Rafael), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, HHS
Virginia Simpson-Magruder (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

7 YEARS
Jeff Davidson (Novato), Clint Mason (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire
Eleanor Lau (Petaluma), Graphic Design Consultant and Frankly Speaking Proofreader, Human Resources

6 YEARS
Sarah Brewster (Woodacre), Carl Miller (Lagunitas), Mel Wright (Woodacre), Stewards, Parks
Alan Lubow (Lagunitas), Phil Sotter (Woodacre), William ‘Bill’ Teufel (San Geronimo), Jane Gould (Tiburon), Open Space Stewards, Parks
Sally Hutchinson (Inverness), Carl Miller (Lagunitas), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS
Michael Koonce (Berkeley), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

5 YEARS
Shay Cook (Concord), Wendy Dalia (Mill Valley), April Kelly (Mill Valley), Kevin Lundquist (Dublin), Paul Tewhill (Corte Madera), Michelle Tripp (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO
Roan Burns (San Rafael), Emma Lauter (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO
Paula Kirkbride (San Rafael), Veterans Services Outreach Assistant, HHS

4 YEARS
Phil Danskin (Sonoma), California Room Map Archive Docent, Researcher, and Cataloger, Civic Center Library
Jacqueline ‘Jackie’ Whelan (Corte Madera), Consumer Mediator, District Attorney’s Office

3 YEARS
Scott Harrop (San Rafael), Marinfo NOW Newsletter Writer, Human Resources
Jessica Taylor (Point Reyes Station), Adopt-A-Spot Point Reyes, Department of Public Works

2 YEARS
Dayle Reilly (Novato), California Room Archive Assistant, Civic Center Library

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Who’s New & Welcome!

Ayanna Berg (San Rafael), Project Lead Intern, Board of Supervisors
Andrea Bolanos (Fullerton), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)
Pegan Brooke (Bolinas), Shelver, Stinson Beach Library
Sandia Castro (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services
Daniel Christian (Novato), Chaplain, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)
Madeline Dabbah (San Rafael), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources
Larnell France (Hayward), Golden Gate University Law Fellow and Post-Bar Law Clerk, District Attorney’s Office
Marjorie Grannan (Mill Valley), Newsletter Writer, Human Resources
Claudia Heikhaus (Crockett), California Room Volunteer Archivist, Civic Center Library
Greta Herman (Larkspur), Immigration Law High School Intern, Public Defender’s Office
Paul Hinz (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, MCSO
Isabella Janes (San Rafael), Nutrition Wellness and Oral Health Intern, HHS
Heather Johnson (Santa Rosa), Social Work Intern, HHS
Lauren Kershenbaum (Berkeley), Americorps VISTA RxSafe Marin Volunteer, HHS
Zoe McDonough (San Rafael), Clean Marin Intern, Department of Public Works
Michael Melton (Santa Rosa), Post-Bar Intern, Public Defender’s Office
Elliot Millerd-Taylor (Oakland), Post-Bar Law Clerk, Public Defender
Jenny Munoz (American Canyon), Social Work Intern, HHS
Desiree Orozco (Roseville), Homelessness Summit Intern, HHS
Elizabeth Robinson (Bolinas), Shelver, Bolinas Library
Raha Shahroodi (San Francisco), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, HHS
Jermaine Slaughter Jr. (Greenbrae), IST Intern, Information Services & Technology
Steve Toquinto (Novato), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO
Jessica Yu (San Jose), Post-Bar Intern, Public Defender’s Office

Mt. Tam Birthday Trek

While serving an otherwise routine volunteer shift in the Mt. Tamalpais Lookout Tower, Fire Lookout Drew Levy spotted a local resident at the base of the tower and snapped her photo. The resident, who hikes up the mountain every August 10 to mark her birthday, didn't give her name, but Drew learned that she just turned 72 and has trekked to the mountaintop each birthday for 30 years. Next year, the lookout on duty will have to remember to be waiting with a cake!