



Newsletter

Spring 2014



*Remembering
our Friend and Colleague
Lisa Matlock
11/5/61 - 12/11/13*

"I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful friend, educator, dancer, singer, listener and neighbor in my life. Lisa Matlock has been such a positive role model for all who knew her." That is how Lori Evans, fellow Nampa campus cosmetology instructor describes her colleague, Lisa Matlock.

Lisa, an instructor at the Milan Institute of Cosmetology campus in Nampa, Idaho, passed away unexpectedly in December. Lisa was a single mother and leaves behind two young sons, whose father also passed away several years ago.

In honor of Lisa and in a show of support for her sons and family; students, staff and administrators at all 19 Milan campuses across 4 states banded together on January 28, 2014 to raise funds for her boys. One hundred percent of the proceeds from all services performed in the student salons and massage spas on that day, as well as a silent auction, bake sale and Sloppy Joe lunch at the Nampa campus, raised \$6,000. Milan Institute President Gary Yasuda generously announced that Milan as a company would match those funds and doubled the amount to \$12,000. The donation will go directly to help support Lisa's children. A candlelight remembrance and balloon release in honor of Lisa was also held at the Nampa campus.

"I couldn't have envisioned the day going any better. I am blown away by such a show of love and support for Lisa and her family," said Kyle Sheldon, Nampa campus School Director. "On behalf of the family, thank you for this wonderful, kindhearted gesture."

At the time of her passing, Lisa Matlock was a Phase One Cosmetology Instructor at the school. "Lisa was so full of energy and life. She brought such positivity and encouragement to those around her, especially the students, and her laugh was contagious," recalls Cosmetology Instructor Melissa Lopez.

"There are no words that could even begin to adequately describe the wonderful person Miss Lisa was and the tremendous impact she had on my life," shared student Kimberly Campbell. "Her influence and positive attitude continue on."

Lisa Matlock was a part of the Nampa-Boise community for 19 years. Her life revolved around her two sons and their activities. She was also an avid supporter of her sons' football programs.

What's New

Faculty Spotlight:

Meet veteran Milan Institute Medical Assisting Instructor Jane Edmark-Gerber from the Nampa, Idaho, campus.

Featured Graduate:

Christina Miller - Milan Institute of Cosmetology 2012 graduate makes her mark on Palm Desert's prestigious El Paseo Drive .

Campus Highlights:

Get the latest news about what's happening on our campuses.

Faculty Spotlight:

Jane Edmark-Gerber
Medical Assisting Instructor
Milan Institute - Nampa, ID



“*A teacher has to have a passion for the work they do. Teaching is a privilege.*”

“A teacher has to have a passion for the work they do. Teaching is a privilege; it's not just a job to me. It's a career, and one that I want to continue with until the end,” says Jane Edmark-Gerber, Medical Assisting Instructor at Milan Institute in Nampa, Idaho.

A veteran faculty member, Jane is in her ninth year as an instructor at Milan Institute. “I enjoy it as much now as I did when I began this journey,” she says. “My goal is to retire from this company. Through all the trials and tribulations we face on a daily basis, the reward is seeing our students

succeed.” With a varied and extensive background in healthcare, she has had the opportunity to teach in several areas at Milan, including the Administrative Medical Assistant program and the Strategies for Success skills preparation course. She is also one of the certified CPR trainers at the Nampa campus.

Growing up in Nampa, Jane's family owned a local automobile company and wanted her to take over the family business one day. However, her heart was in teaching and the medical fields. From the time she was a little girl, Jane remembers playing “school” with all the neighborhood children, “I was, of course, the teacher. Strangely enough, I also loved to play ‘hospital’ where I was a patient caregiver.”

Jane studied education and business at the University of Idaho and College of Idaho. After graduating, her education initially led her to work in the medical field in the areas of Nutrition, Radiology and Medical Assisting, eventually leading to over ten years in Clinic Administration. She is a Certified Medical Assistant and Certified Phlebotomist and was responsible for starting the first urgent care facility in the area.

Today, Jane lives with her husband in Nampa, where she was born and raised, and has an extensive blended family, including her daughter, five stepchildren, thirteen grandchildren, with another on the way, and a great-grandchild.

She began her association with Milan Institute through her work in healthcare. Throughout her 30 years in the healthcare industry, she sat on numerous advisory boards for Milan Institute and hired several Milan graduates for Administrative and Clinical Medical Assistant positions.

It was when the nights became long, the pager was going off nonstop, and the on call days and nights became unbearable that she realized there was something missing. “I received a phone call inviting me to join the Milan organization, and here I am today,” says Jane. Making the transition from healthcare administration to teaching wasn't difficult for Jane. “Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed my job then. It paid well and the experience was fabulous, but I love my job now. I love to inspire, educate and make dreams come true for students who want to continue their educational goals,” she states.

“I come to work every day with a positive attitude. I consider my job to be a privilege and give over one hundred percent, one hundred percent of the time,” says Jane. “I have a great support staff and a wonderful group of coworkers who help make this a great team. We all have the same goal in mind and that is to teach our students to be the best they can be.”

Featured Graduate: Christina Miller, Class of 2012

Cosmetology Program • Milan Institute of Cosmetology - La Quinta, CA



“*Every day I walk into the salon, I know I am going to be making people look and feel better than when they came in. It may sound cliché, but it is truly an incredibly rewarding feeling.*”

Prestigious El Paseo Drive in Palm Desert, California, is where you will find 2012 Cosmetology graduate Christina Miller. Christina, a graduate from Milan Institute of Cosmetology in La Quinta, California, is a stylist at The Last Tangle salon in the El Paseo shopping district. “I specialize in hair and makeup, and I do a lot of special events like weddings, proms and birthdays. I’ve also done a few fashion shows for Spotlight 29 Casino in nearby Coachella, California,” says Christina.

While having had an interest in cosmetology for several years, Christina was taking classes at a community college as well as working part time as a nanny, and high school cheerleading coach before she finally decided to take the next step and turn her interest into a reality. When she decided that she was ready to enroll in a cosmetology program, she did her homework and visited a number of schools before making her decision. “First impression is everything,” Christina says. “After taking the introductory tour at Milan, I felt that compared to the other schools I’d visited, Milan outshines them all.”

While in school Christina recalls that she struggled with certain aspects of the program. “An obstacle for me personally was attendance. I was constantly late, absent or leaving early. It wasn’t because I disliked the program. It was because I felt like I knew it all. I only wanted to be there if my own personal referrals were coming through the door.” Christina notes, “While I was in school, I was constantly given clients who requested highlights, and it used to drive me nuts because it wasn’t something I liked to do. Today I am so thankful for the entire experience. All of that practice in school made me faster and more knowledgeable about highlighting. Now, highlighting is one of my primary moneymakers.”

Another difficulty for Christina was learning aspects of cosmetology outside of hair design. “Even though I made it through the skin care and manicuring areas of the program,” she says, “they were probably the toughest subjects for me. My interest in those areas just wasn’t as high as it was in hair design.” Christina credits Milan’s instructors and staff with helping her along by motivating her, not giving up on her and pushing her to succeed.

“I met Christina when she came in for her initial campus tour,” remembers Stacey Kane, Admissions Representative at Milan Institute of Cosmetology in La Quinta. “I have to admit, I followed her progress while she went through the program, and there were moments when we weren’t sure Christina was going to succeed. She struggled through school with attendance.” Adds Stacey, “I was so pleased when I saw her pull it together, graduate and immediately secure a booth rental on El Paseo, the desert’s own ‘Rodeo Drive’. She’s made a success of herself as a professional stylist, and I am especially proud of her.”

If there’s one thing that Christina wants to impart to current Milan cosmetology students, it is to take every advantage the program offers. “You’re in school for 1600 hours, and then you’re done and on your own. Don’t waste any opportunities. Be there on time, take every client you can and don’t be afraid to try something new.”

Recently Christina was invited to be a guest speaker for current cosmetology students at the La Quinta campus. Only two years out of school, she shared with them the sense of accomplishment she has from successfully working in a salon on El Paseo Drive. “I love my clients and what I do,” she shared. “Every day I walk into the salon, I know I am going to be making people look and feel better than when they came in. It may sound cliché, but it is truly an incredibly rewarding feeling.”

Shops on El Paseo Drive.
Photo credit: mypalmsprings.com



Campus Highlights

Sharing the Magic of the Holidays

Milan was pleased to support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots 2013 campaign to help make it possible for every child to share in the magic of the holidays. All 19 Milan Institute and Milan Institute of Cosmetology campuses became toy collection points during the months of November and December 2013. Clients of the student salons and massage spas were offered a free pedicure or 30-minute massage in appreciation of their donation of a new, unwrapped toy.

In addition proceeds from student salon and massage spa services at all campuses on Tuesday, December 10th were donated to the Toys for Tots campaign. A check for \$6,340 was presented on December 12, 2013 to Lori Charles, Toys for Tots coordinator for the Tulare/Visalia, California area, and representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.



Daniel Sprague and Patrick Taylor of Milan Institute in Visalia, CA, present check from fundraiser to Toys for Tots Visalia-Tulare, CA coordinator Lori Charles and representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.



Some of the many toys donated by Milan student salon and spa clients for the Toys for Tots campaign.

Milan Institute in Amarillo, TX, Raises Funds for The Secret Drawer

For the month of October 2013, the Milan Institute Amarillo campus worked together to support the Secret Drawer Fund, a program of Harrington Breast Center that helps to provide financial assistance to women who can't afford to pay for screening or diagnostic mammography. Students and staff from the campus held bake sales, spaghetti dinners, Frito Pie lunches and even a balloon toss, all in an effort to raise money for the organization. The school raised \$658 and presented a check to Gainor Davis, organizer of the Secret Drawer Fund on October 21, 2013.

"October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and one of our own instructors, Heather Krehl, is a five-year breast cancer survivor, which makes this time of year very near and dear to all our hearts," says Lanecia Errington, Milan Institute Amarillo School Director. Heather was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 28, only 3 years after losing her mother to the same disease.

"It's important to me to give back to a community that was there for me in my time of need," says Heather Krehl. "I feel extremely honored to work with such an extraordinary group of women and students willing to help spread knowledge and awareness about breast cancer."



Pictured L to R: Gainor Davis, Organizer at Secret Drawer Fund and Heather Krehl, Breast Cancer Survivor and Pharmacy Technician Instructor at Milan Institute in Amarillo, TX.

For more information about our graduation rates, median loan debt of students who completed the program and other important information, please visit our website.