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Simply The End to a New Beginning



Ray Woods, 2013 Accounting graduate from Milan Institute, Visalia, California, didn't fear what he would become after graduation. On the contrary, he faced his future straight on with confidence and

enthusiasm, just as he did when he enrolled at Milan Institute.

Like many potential students, says Ray, "I was nervous and unsure of myself. I certainly wasn't where I wanted to be in life at the age of thirty-two. I needed to take quick action and redefine the direction my life was heading." Ray enrolled at Milan Institute and set his goals before

the first day of class. "I would be at the top of my class, with a 4.0 GPA, perfect attendance, and I would exceed all expectations. These perhaps weren't goals as much as they were demands that I had made upon myself," he says.

As a student at Milan, Ray was focused and driven to succeed. The classroom environment, instructors and staff fostered these traits that pushed him to succeed. "My instructor was there to help whenever I needed additional explanations. Moreover, as graduation neared, she was even able to point me in the direction of an internship that turned into my first accounting job. When a new potential employer was hesitant to interview me, Milan made contact and helped me get my foot in the door," remembers Ray.

Unlike other programs at Milan Institute, the

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Milan Students Recognized for Their Achievement



Recently, several Milan Institute students were recognized for their outstanding achievement and awarded scholarships to help them advance their education.

Milan Institute of Cosmetology student Heather Navarro was one of 100 students nationwide awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by

Great Clips, Inc. Heather is a recent graduate from the San Antonio, Texas, Military Drive campus. Great Clips, Inc. employs over 35,000 stylists across

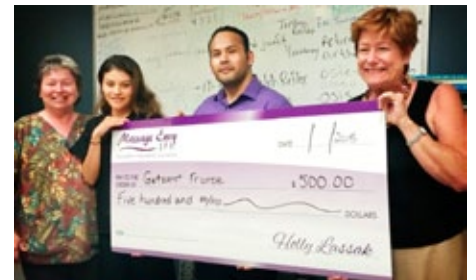
Milan Institute of Cosmetology graduate, Heather Navarro

North America and is the world's largest salon brand.

At Milan Institute's Palm Desert, California campus, Massage Envy of the Desert awards a quarterly scholarship to promote a healthy lifestyle through therapeutic massage. The scholarship rewards those who are looking to guide others to wellness by recognizing

outstanding accomplishment in preparation for a career in massage therapy. Candidates are evaluated on their GPA, attendance, teamwork and work ethic. They are also required to submit two letters of recommendation and a scholarship application. A joint committee consisting of Massage Envy franchisee representatives and Milan Institute Massage Therapy program staff review the entries. Once a winner is selected, an assembly gathers everyone from the Massage Therapy program to announce the lucky recipient. Massage Therapy students Getzaret Frunze and Maria Alvarez are the

most recent recipients.



Pictured L to R: MIC Palm Desert MT Instructor-Kathy Complido, Getzaret Frunze, Dean-Alfonso Complido, and Massage Envy of the Desert owner-Holly Lassik.

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ACCOUNTING GRADUATE, RAY WOODS - CONTINUED

Accounting program doesn't have an externship that provides soon to be graduates an opportunity to work in real employment environments. Nevertheless, that didn't stop Ray. A few months before he graduated he sought out an internship at Community Services Employment Training (CSET) thanks to the advice of his instructor. The week he graduated it turned into a part-time paid position with the possibility of becoming full time as new budgets were created. "CSET was a wonderful place to work, but I continued to look for full-time employment as the promise of a possibility is not a sure thing. I was highly selective in the positions I applied for, as the Professional Development courses at Milan had given me the confidence I needed," says Ray. One position he applied for was a Corporate Accounting Officer position with Milan Institute. "On paper I was probably under qualified for the position, but with the support of the campus I managed to get a phone interview. The phone interview quickly led to second and third interviews in person. At least two other applicants were still waiting for interviews for the position, but I kept my confidence high as I left the interview and the next day I was hired."

Ray has been working at Milan's corporate office now for about a year and a half. "Prior to enrolling in the Milan Institute Accounting program I couldn't conceive the possibility that I would be where I am now, but even this is not the end. Where I am now is simply the end of my new beginning. As life moves onward so, shall I. The choices you make will determine the path you take, and if you haven't made the choice of enrolling at Milan Institute, I recommend you do. You never know where you might be in the future." ■

MILAN STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT - CONTINUED

Pictured L to R: MIC Palm Desert Dean-Alfonso Complido, MT Instructor-Kathy Complido, Maria Alvarez and Massage Envy of the Desert owner-Holly Lassik.

Getzaret's instructors described her as, "attentive and participative in class. She has a pleasant personality and gets along well with fellow students, staff and faculty." Getzaret has also maintained perfect attendance while in the Massage Therapy program.

Maria Alvarez recalls being a new student and seeing the quarterly scholarship from Massage Envy awarded. Maria says she was in the awards assembly that day and immediately thought to herself, "I'm going to get one, it's going to be mine!" Fast forward a few months and that is what she did. In July, Maria was the recipient of the \$500 scholarship.

Maria became interested in massage therapy after her grandfather had a stroke. She saw what a significant effect massage had in his recovery process and made a decision to pursue a career in the field. In her time at Milan, Maria has been a model student, maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

After graduation, Maria would like to pursue her career as a massage therapist full time. Her goal is to work for a resort, and she has already been in talks with a very prestigious resort in the Palm Springs area. ■



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