

THE RHO CLASS 2017

The WCMS Rho Class of 2017 hit the ground running at Pomona College Sunday

With the PI Class as their host, 131 first-year Rho Class students began their journey with the Welcome Walk experience, and it was their first step in what is anticipated to be a magical two-weeks. The Welcome Walk was followed by an orientation where students got a better understanding of expectations, and finally, Sunday night ended with a Hawaiian Luau, dinner, and Hula dancing show.

The Rho class started Monday morning with a thought-provoking and insightful lecture about Strategic Management for Credit Unions presented by Dr. Michael Steinberger. From his presentation, Rho Class learned about the 10 Strategic Positioning factors of credit unions. Later that afternoon, students were treated to a presentation about Project Management given by Darren Williams, CEO of Wescom Credit Union. From his presentation, students learned about a structured approach where planning, organization, and control are used to achieve a credit union's desired outcome for project management.

Monday afternoon the Rho class elected officers. The Rho class elected: Tiffany Pillars, President; Mike Edwards, Vice-President; Rob West, Vice-President; Eva Ngu, Treasurer; and Malcolm Johnson, Secretary. Monday night ended with the Tri-Class Olympics. The Rho class made their mark by placing 1st in trivia, 2nd in the sponge toss, and 3rd in basketball.

Tuesday gave Rho Class a chance to learn about Organizational Behavior with a presentation given by Pomona College Professor Michelle Bligh. This

presentation informed Rho Class about some of the trends that present challenges for today's credit unions, including globalization, information technology, changing workforces, employment relationships, and social responsibility. Later that afternoon, Professor Bligh presented a way of assessing credit unions using four lenses: The factory lens, the family lens, the jungle lens, and the theater lens. Tuesday night ended with the Rho Class attending El Dorado presented by the Omicron Class. The event was an opportunity to wear western gear and engage in activities like casino gaming, line-dancing, and more. Rho Class enjoyed spending time hanging out with the other classes in the Harwood Courtyard.

Clearly, the Rho Class is off to a great start at WCMS. We are working on a Fiesta night to be held next Tuesday, July 18. It will be the first event sponsored by Rho Class, and we are committed to making it a successful event by all measures.

The complete roster of 131 Rho Class students were asked to describe their experience so far at WCMS—in one word. Here are a few of their responses: encouraging, engaging, enlightened, immersive, exhilarating, evolving, enthusiastic, and illuminating. With feedback like that it's clear, the Rho Class is excited to continue this journey at WCMS, and we can't wait to see what's next.



— I am Tiffany Pillars and I approve this message
