

# THE GUARDIAN

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## YOU ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS YOUR DICTIONARY

WRITTEN BY: JENNIFER PORTO

*My story begins on the first day of a new semester. With my first glance—or whiff—of the professor, I knew this was not going to be a typical Bio 211 lecture class.*

*I had done everything in my power to prepare, just as I do for all of the classes I am assigned. I create what seems like never-ending lists of words before each class. I knew that most of the words would be multisyllabic, so it would not be enough to merely put the words in my dictionary just once. I would stroke out each phonetic syllable over and over, creating new prefixes and suffixes.*

*I was 100 percent confident in my dictionary—until the professor began the PowerPoint presentation on the subjects to be covered during the semester.*

*The first time he said, “synapomorphy,” my fingers froze. I thought, Syn-nappy-what? I sat up straighter. I was repeating the syllables in my head as I cleanly stroked SEUPB/AP/PHOR/TPAOE, scolding myself, “why don’t I have a brief for ‘morphy’? What did he say?” Words and syllables that I’ve never heard were whizzing past my ears like bullets in a combat zone. “Symplexiomorphy,” SIPL/PHRAEUZ-what? “Autapomorphy,” AUT-what-PHOR/TPAOE. I knew I had to drop, but he was speaking so quickly that there was not a clean place to pick it up again. This is about when my self-talk got the best of me. He’s talking so fast! “Clades.” I write KLAEUZ/Z, Thankfully, I knew that word would come up.*

*“Cladogram,” Okay, I can get this word to come up too. Concentrating, I stroke, KHRAEUZ/O/TKPWRAPL. “Cladogram.” Ugh, that’ll have to be good enough. I’m no longer rhythmically writing; rather, I’m pounding because my fingers feel like they have weights attached to them. I’m suddenly aware of the horrible acoustics in the auditorium, Is that the acoustics or is he mumbling? He’s mumbling. My thoughts were frantic now. Why is he walking around in holey socks? Stop mumbling.*

*When the professor finally spoke the words, “Okay. See you next week,” I inhaled deeply. I must have been holding my breath for what I felt like the entire two-hour class. My legs were aching from pushing my feet hard into the floor to help me channel my concentration. Saving the transcript and turning off my computer, I thought about the tiresome task of editing the notes for the student. I knew I would be Googling every other word. There was*

*only one positive thing I could be certain of: I was going to have a stellar dictionary at the end of the semester.*

*I am not the first reporter to be blown away by the terminology on a job. When we arrive at our jobs, while we will never know if we have a chair to sit in or if the environment around us will be a distraction, one thing we can be in control of is how well our dictionary is prepped.*

*How do you make your dictionary better? To me, editing my transcripts and working on my dictionary are a priority. The better your dictionary is, the better you write because the words will, hopefully, come up on the first attempt; ultimately, your concentration will be better, and the job becomes less stressful. Prepping may be tedious, but having an idea of the terminology allows me to think less because I’m not struggling to write every word. I write faster and easier. There are many things I do to find new words to build my dictionary. One of my rules is to look up every word before putting it in my dictionary to make sure I have the correct spelling, capitalization, whether it needs a hyphen, and so on. What good is a word in your dictionary if it is not correct? When you read the morning paper, novels, recipes — these are all resources to finding new words that are not in your dictionary. There are also a variety of lexicons that can be useful to finding terminology on specific topics. For example, I had a job once that was discussing the Harry Potter books as they relate to Greek mythology. Do you have Albus Dumbledore and Severus Snape in your dictionary? I didn’t.*

*While in school, we are so focused on building our speed that we don’t spend a lot of time building our dictionaries. I believe it is our duty to provide the best realtime possible for our students and/or clients. One of the greatest aspects of our job is that it is different every day. There are always a multitude of situations where we must be flexible and solve problems on the fly, but you are in control of your dictionary before you walk through that door. Ask yourself: Aside from editing, how much time do I spend researching words? Can I watch the news and know that every word said is in my dictionary, if just for one minute? Try it.*

Piece from TheJCR.com

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“Your goal should be just out of reach, but not out of sight.”*

**-Remi Witt**

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## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### Carol Casstevens

Carol is an excellent student!

She needs very little direction, is always in class, assignments turned in, and her writing is spectacular, as she just submitted one of the best written extra credit papers that our English instructor Mrs. Balog has received. You're a great student, Carol!

### Holly McKay

Holly transferred to CCR in the fall of last year. Since she's 's been enrolled with us, she has received numerous honors distinctions. Her drive and dedication is pushing her through school at a fantastic pace! Keep up the exceptional work!

### Ashley Kramer

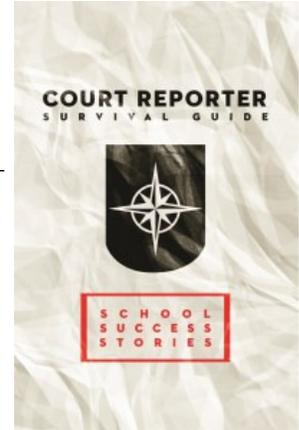
Ashley is an all star student here at CCR! She transferred to our college last fall. Since then, she has had fabulous attendance, submits all assignments on time, and has consistently received honors distinction! With her drive and determination she will graduate in no time! Great job!



## NCRA's book showcases court reporters' humor, passion, and encouragement

"This collection is a true *Chicken Soup for the Soul*-type book that offers advice and insight from the only people who really understand the ins and outs of court reporting: other court reporters and captioners," said Jim Cudahy, executive director and CEO of NCRA.

This book's publication coincides with NCRA's Take Note campaign. The campaign, which launched Sept. 8, is based on an independently commissioned study of the court reporting profession by research firm Ducker Worldwide. The study found that while currently the supply and demand for court reporters is balanced, within the next five years, the need for working court reporters will translate to some 5,500 jobs available in the United States due in large part to today's working professionals reaching retirement age.



"I contributed to this book as a way to encourage students to 'hang in there' during court reporting school, which can be very difficult, because I consider court reporters to play a crucial role in our legal system," said Marcia Arberman, RPR, a freelance court reporter from Atlanta, Ga.

NCRA has a template press release for every contributor to distribute to the contributor's hometown media outlets. In addition, NCRA has been posting excerpts from the book on its social media sites. So far, the response has been positive.

The next book in the *Court Reporter Survival Guide* series will discuss work/life balance, tackling topics like challenges to maintaining balance, finding support both personally and professionally, and how to release stress at the end of the day. Go to [NCRA.org/2014book](http://NCRA.org/2014book) to share your story.

Reprinted from [www.JCR.com](http://www.JCR.com)

## California Scholarship Opportunity



The nation's largest trade association dedicated to the freelance deposition reporter.

The Deposition Reporters Association is proud to offer the **\$1,500 DRA Zandonella scholarship** to two deserving California court reporting students! To qualify, the

applicant must be a DRA student member, currently enrolled in CR school and in speed classes at 180 words per minute or above. What do you have to lose? The application deadline is November 30, 2014.

***Apply today, and DRA may help finance the path to your future career in court reporting!***

## **Word Trippers By: Barabara McNichol**

**Dejected, rejected** – “Dejected” describes a person or group disheartened or low in spirits. “Rejected” means having been denied or refused in some way. It can also describe something repulsed or vomited.

“The novice writer was *dejected* when his manuscript was *rejected*.” – Dick Dale

“A young author was feeling *dejected* after having his query *rejected*.” – Sharon Skinner

“He was *dejected* after having been *rejected* for the sanitation worker's job.” – Bobbie Bookhout



### SEPTEMBER EVALUATIONS PASSED

These students have all passed one or more SAP evaluations during the month of August.

**Students who have passed an exit speed have been bolded.**

<b>13 SAPs</b>	Jesse Anders	Josey Loney	Patricia McCall	Jessica Rhykus
Debrina Jones	Michelle Jones	Kimberly Prebster	Rob Leifer	Jonathan Abrams
<b>12 SAPs</b>	Summer Vaughan	Susanne Gorman	Sarah Fitzgibbon	Kassandra Walter
Katelyn Berch	<b>5 SAPs</b>	Thomas Herman	<b>1 SAP</b>	Keely Nelsen
<b>10 SAPs</b>	Amy Powers	Tracie Blocker	Abby Crouse	Leesa Lyons
Pamela Filewood	Ehmey Liggins	<b>2 SAPs</b>	Alisa Church	Mary Orloff
<b>9 SAPs</b>	Gaylynn Smith	Amy Quintana	Allison Allen	Megan Reeves
Christil McAllister	Holly Harris	Amy Strickler	Amanda Olivares	Melodie Lewis
Christine Angel	Lucetta Robertson	Andrea Davis	Amy Krueger	Michelle Dziubla
<b>8 SAPs</b>	Sarah Hamilton	Angel McCullough	Ashley Ballard	Monica Eskenasy
Elise Townes	<b>4 SAPs</b>	Brett Schatzle	Ashley Kramer	Noraima Ruiz
Suleika Olivo	Carolyn Collins	Claudia Meyers	Benn Brooks	Patricia Martin
<b>7 SAPs</b>	Kathleen Steadman	Corree Brooks	Brooke Baril	Priscilla Romans-
Holly McKay	Lisa Major	Dani Mathes	Carol Casstevens	Beraducci
James McAllister	Season Young	Elizabeth Meek	Danielle Cadena	Remy
Jodi McCall	Sherrona Williams	Jessica Vanatta	Deborah Pascal	Vandekerhove
Kirstine Mowery	Sindee Baum	Kayde Rieken	Erin Gaffney	Rey Russell
Melissa Claborn	<b>3 SAPs</b>	Kristin Gertz	Esperanza Parada	Shari Conrad
Monica Robinson	Angela Viray	Matthew Van Pelt	Gayle Kees	Timothea Brewer
<b>6 SAPs</b>	Brandi Smith	Melanie Segalla	Heidi Callahan	Veronica Stewart
Briónca Tate	Jamie Bracher	Michelle Kowalsky	Holly Goodwin	Yolanda Pena
Deb Gaston	Joelle Maxfield	Nicole Simchak	Jenny Scharich	Yvonne Wilson

**CCR Student Takes First Place!**

**“It’s Not How Good You Are, It’s How Good You Want To Be”  
- Paul Arden**

I hadn’t heard this quote prior to starting court reporting school, or, if I had, it never resonated within me like it does now. Prior to placing my hands on a court reporting machine, I had longed for a meaningful career like so many others seemed to have found. They spoke of excitement, fulfillment, and the enthusiasm they felt just waking up in the morning. Their eyes glowed with delight when talking about their work environment. Little did I know that I, too, would find that passion one day.

It started when I met a woman from New Zealand who did offline captioning on her laptop. She was able to travel around the world, while doing something she loved and earn a great income. She invited me to the apartment she was renting while visiting Portland and showed me exactly what it was she did. It seemed perfect in every way, and her passion for providing captions was even more enticing. Upon looking into doing something similar, I discovered the field of court reporting. Thus, my adventure as a court reporting student started.

Along the way, there have been strong writing days and days that I probably should have just stayed in bed, but I have discovered strength and a willingness to work hard to reach my goal. There have been challenges and obstacles to overcome while working toward becoming a court reporter, but they’ve always been worth fighting for. As student upon student in my program has decided court reporting isn’t for him or her, Paul Arden’s quote has begun to resonate more and more deeply within me.

As I’ve been surrounded with knowledgeable instructors and staff who care just as much about my success as I do, I can feel myself moving closer and closer to becoming a court reporter. These people have taught me the importance of keeping my skill level up after finishing school, staying current with technology, and continuing to be a part of organizations such as OCRA and NCRA. By following their suggestions, I look forward to joining the many court reporters who have made the profession what it is today. After all, it’s not how good you are, it’s how good you want to be.



*College of Court Reporting (CCR) is proud to announce that one of its very own students is the first place winner of the ROSE (Ray Outstanding Student Endowment) award. Holly Goodwin won \$500, OCRA fall convention seminar fee, two nights lodging at the OCRA fall convention, and a one-year student membership in OCRA.*

**Job Opening**



**ARKANSAS JUDICIARY**

**Job Type:** Full Time

**Contact Name:** Hon. Melissa Richardson,  
Circuit Judge (term commencing January 1,  
2015)

**Official Court Reporter**  
**2nd Judicial District** (Craighead, Greene,  
Clay, Poinsett, Mississippi & Crittenden counties  
in Arkansas)  
Judge Melissa Richardson, Circuit Judge (term  
commencing January 1, 2015)

**Requirements:**

- \* Must be a Certified Court Reporter
- \* Duties include but are not limited to: Available in the Courtroom to Report all proceedings
- \* Prepare transcripts
- \* Maintain Exhibits and Court Records
- \* Assist Judge and other staff with office duties
- \* Professional, dependable and efficient in all duties performed

Position is a Grade C119 with the State of Arkansas.

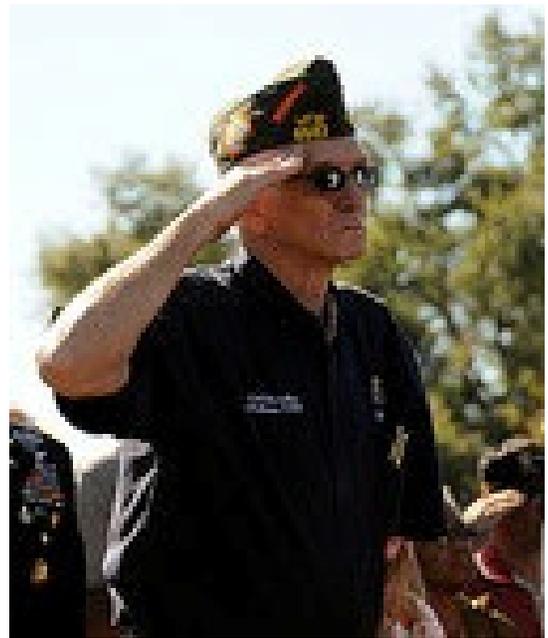
*To apply for this position please send resume to:*  
**Hon. Melissa Richardson**  
**216 East Washington**  
**Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401**

## ICRA Partners with DMACC-Newton to Host Veterans History Project

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, broadcast and CART captioners, and legal videographers, today announced that the Iowa Court Reporters Association (ICRA) has partnered with DMACC to host the Veterans History Project (VHP) in central Iowa. This event will continue the tradition of recording crucial, historical stories of American war veterans that might otherwise be lost.

The VHP program was launched by the Library of Congress to collect the stories of American war veterans by recording and transcribing interviews with them. The final transcripts are then submitted to the Library to be archived for future generations to read. Court reporters from around the country have actively participated in this program for more than a decade.

In honor of Veterans Day, ICRA and DMACC will jointly host a VHP Day on Nov. 7 at the school's Newton, Iowa, campus, which houses the new court reporting program. The event will include more than two dozen court reporters who will serve as interviewers and transcribers. DMACC students, faculty, and staff members will also volunteer to interact with the veterans.



The school will host a luncheon and Awards Ceremony for veterans, family members, and volunteers. The guest speaker will be Col. Greg Hapgood from the Iowa National Guard. During the event, videos from the Iowa Honor Flight program will be shown. The Honor Flight program provides veterans from WWII and the Korean War to travel to Washington, D.C., transportation to visit the city's national war monuments at no cost.

"The Iowa Court Reporters Association asked DMACC to partner up in this worthwhile project. AIB College of Business, the project host for five years, has been very gracious in this transition," said Pam Burkle, RPR, an official court reporter in the Second Judicial District of Iowa in Marshalltown for Judge Kim Riley. Burkle, who spearheaded the committee responsible for the new partnership, also serves on ICRA's Board of Directors.

"ICRA wanted to involve DMACC in this project going forward because as an association, we have worked very diligently to keep our ranks strong. We have worked hard to showcase our profession to middle school and high school students around the state, and we have encouraged DMACC every step of the way to fill those student slots," Burkle said. "ICRA members mentor each DMACC student in hopes of making it an easier transition for each student to pursue their career. Therefore, it only seemed logical for ICRA to share this wonderful project with DMACC as well."

According to Burkle, committee members have been recruiting participants by speaking to different veteran groups and friends, and news has spread through word-of-mouth. The group has also contacted the Iowa Veterans Home. ICRA and DMACC hope to record the stories of at least 15 veterans including someone from the Women's Army Corp.

The event provides an outstanding opportunity for students as well and is an excellent service learning activity for them, said Dr. Patti Ziegler, the court reporting program director at DMACC. "Through participation in the program, students learn more about their professional organizations at both the national and state level. Many of them will work with their mentor on this project. It's a 'win-win-win' situation."

*Reprinted from JCR Weekly*

COLLEGE OF COURT REPORTING

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“Work for yourself...Work for the world!”

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CCR.EDU



**ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

*Your CCR newsletter is always changing.  
 Contact Jen at [jen.lewis@ccr.edu](mailto:jen.lewis@ccr.edu) with  
 any ideas that you may have for the next  
 one. It is much appreciated!*

**November**

*Birthdays are in bold print! Happy birthday, CCR students and faculty!*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 <b>Abigail Lancaster</b>	3	4	5 <b>Kelly Custard Mark Dauk Kelsey Kerwell</b>	6	7 <b>Jacqueline Waters</b>	8
9	10 <i>180-200 4 Voice</i> <b>Bonnie Fletcher Lanie Steinwart</b>  USMC Day	11 Veteran's Day <b>Ashley Kramer</b>	12 <b>Debrina Jones</b>	13 <b>Kelsey Palmer</b>  <i>Faculty Meeting</i>	14 <b>Kathleen Ferlus</b>  <b>Alisa Church Fallen Johnson</b>	15
16	17 <b>Midterms Day and Evening</b>  World Peace Day	18	19	20 <b>Midterms Day and Evening</b>	21	22 <b>Kristine Edland</b>
23	24 <i>140-160 4 Voice</i>	25 <b>Michelle Kowalsky</b>	26	27 Thanksgiving  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>  <i>No Class</i>	28 <i>Black Friday</i>  <b>Jennifer Guerrero</b>  <b>Mary Margaret Hurst</b>	29 <b>Michelle Dziubla</b>
30						