I’ve always believed that you can think positive just as well as you can think negative.

James A. Baldwin

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALICE LEONARD

Alice Leonard has had to learn a lot about our school in the past few months, but we still don’t know much about her. Though I’m sure many of our students have bonded with her over a fascinating conversation about student loans, I would like to take this opportunity to help our students and faculty get to know our new Financial Aid Officer on a more personal level.

Where did you go to school?
“I graduated from Hobart High School, right here in Northwest Indiana. Then I attended Indiana University Northwest and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting.”

Tell us about your family!
“I’ve been married for 20 years to my husband, Dave. We have two children; David, 16, and Nicole, 13. They keep me very busy. We also have two Labrador Retrievers named Copper and Onyx. They also keep me very busy.”

Any hobbies that you would like to share?
“I love to go golfing and attend sporting events with my family. We like to fish and boat and do outdoorsy-type activities.”

Alice’s Favorites.
Food: Mexican food
Movie: The Cutting Edge
Color: Blue
Book: My Sister’s Keeper
Season: Fall
Song: Don’t Stop Believing by Journey
Store: I don’t like to shop
TV Show: Not a big TV person
Sport: Basketball...or maybe hockey.
Sports team: Bulls or Blackhawks
Mac or PC: PC
Cereal: Lucky Charms
Candy: Heath bar

Biggest pet peeve?
“I’m definitely not a fan of lying.”

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three possessions would you want to have with you?
1. iPod
2. Book

(continued on pg. 2)
Onsite:
Dayna Martin
After enrolling with CCR one year ago, Dayna has just been moved up to SH200! She reached this milestone with hard work, organization, and great time management. Dayna runs a doctor’s office and is also a full-time mom. How does she do it!? Congratulations, Dayna!

Online:
Justine Kiechel
Residing on the east coast in Pennsylvania, Justine is completing our program completely online! She has put a lot of time and dedication into mastering her speed and accuracy. In return, Justine received honors with us several times throughout her time here! Great job, Justine! Keep up the good work!

Online:
Jennifer Wesner
Jennifer is an online student who resides in Arizona. She has been enrolled with us since February 2010. Jennifer is very self-disciplined and motivated to stay on top of her speeds. Jennifer also spends a lot of her time practicing, and it sure has paid off. She has received honors numerous times! Awesome job! Good luck this semester!

The Council on Approved Student Education is pleased to announce that nominations are being solicited for the 2012 CASE Scholarships. This year all certified reporter education programs are encouraged to nominate two outstanding reporting students for consideration of the scholarship awards. The first place winner will receive $1,500; second place, $1,000; and third place, $500.

To be eligible to submit the essay, the student must meet the following criteria:

* Must be writing at 140-180 words per minute at the time of the essay submission;
* Has attained an exemplary academic record;
* Holds student membership in NCRA;
* Has proven interest and inclination in the field of verbatim reporting of proceedings.

Students who meet these requirements must submit an essay on the subject, “Court Reporting School: My Own Survival Guide.” The essay must be no longer than two typewritten pages. The text must be double spaced, font size 10 or 12, and an appropriate font style (Bookman, Courier, Geneva, Helvetica, New Century Schoolbook, Palatino, or Times). Main headings may be as large as 14 points. The student must submit a third sheet listing a minimum of two sources cited in researching the essay topic. One of the sources cited must be other than the Journal of Court Reporting. The essays will be evaluated on the following:

* Content;
* Organization;
* Format;
* Proper use of grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

The deadline for submission is March 15th, 2012.

Please contact Lisa Morton for more information. lisa.morton@ccr.edu
Extend, expand – “Extend” means to stretch or lengthen, or to draw out up to full length; also to present or offer, as in a greeting or contribution. “Expand” means to spread out, develop, or otherwise enlarge in size or scope, etc.

Parody, parity – “Parody” is a humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of communication. As a verb, it means to imitate another for the purpose of ridicule or satire. “Parity” refers to equality, as in amount, status, or character.
**JOB OPENINGS**

**Virginia**— Well-established, busy firm is looking for full or part-time court reporters to join our team. NO seniority system. Independent contractor status. Paid twice monthly on work billed out. Office support staff handles all production. Our offices are located in Harrisonburg and Charlottesville. We cover those areas and all counties in between. Wonderful opportunity to live in our beautiful four season state and work in a professional environment. Email your resume with cover letter, including the equipment/software used, to Karen@hatreporting.com.

**Chicago, Illinois**— Family-owned firm seeking full-time reporters for northern suburbs and downtown. Fast-paced court and deposition work. Excellent pay. Email your qualifications, Patrick@vanhrreportingservice.com, or fax, 847-236-

**Deming, New Mexico**— Full-time position in the Sixth Judicial District covering Luna, Grant and Hidalgo Counties. Close to Las Cruces, El Paso, TX, And Tucson, AZ. Brand new, state of the art courthouse. CAT software is provided by the court. Reporter is responsible for supplying steno machine and computer. Position is working under the general supervision of one judge and occasionally covering for the other three judges in the district. Excellent benefits package. Target salary is $18.04 - $22.55 hourly. New Mexico or RPR certification required. Download New Mexico employment application, available through nmcourts.gov, and submit to Melissa Frost, Court Executive Office, P.O. Box 2339, Silver City, NM 88062

For those seeking employment in South Dakota, please contact Jena Skorczewski at Jena.Skorczewsk@ujs.state.sd.us

Looking for an administrative assistant job? Check out this website that has openings for every state: http://www.administrativeassistantjobshelp.com/

**ATTENTION!**

If your contact information ever changes, whether you’re a student, graduate, faculty member, or prospective student, please remember to let us know the new ways in which we should contact you!

**FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE MARCH 9**

NCRF raises funds to support court reporting students as well as recent graduates. The 2012 Frank Sarli Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student nearing graduation, and the 2012 New Professional Reporter Grant is awarded to a reporter in his or her first year of work after graduation. Nominations for these two awards must be submitted to NCRF no later than March 9, 2012. Visit www.ncra.org/ncrf/scholarshipawards for details and nomination forms, or contact NCRF’s Deputy Executive Director B. J. Shorak at bjshorak@ncra.org, or at 800-272-6272.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
In hindsight, switching away from using live court reporters in favor of audio only systems in the court system may have been a huge mistake. After all, technical difficulties have halted courts, caused massive delays, required complete hearing repeats, disappearing court records, and virtually useless recordings due to recording problems. Texas state district courts and many others are feeling the pain and abandoning technology in favor of the tried-and-true: live court reporters.

The following Texas state district courts, among others, have switched back from using audio only to using live reporters:

- 272nd in Bryan County
- 194th in Dallas
- 234th in Houston
- 95th in Dallas
- 284th in Conroe

Below are just a few examples of why Texas state district courts are going back to using live court reporters:

**Audio Difficulties have brought Courts to a Screeching Halt**

Imagine appeals against criminal convictions averaging two years. At the South Gauteng High Court, this is reality according to an audit of 54 cases. Among the reasons for the delay: Lost, inaudible, or inaccessible audio recordings.

In Drayton Valley in July 2010, audio difficulties caused all regular docket matters and several trials to be delayed because there was no means to make a record of them.

**Failed Audio and Video Recordings have Required Hearing Repeats**

In September 2010 in Jefferson County, Kentucky, three months after a suppression hearing was held, attorneys had to do it all again – including bringing in a detective for questioning and recreating the entire record – all because of a failed audio video system which captured the video portion but not the sound. This is but one of many hearings affected by the failure.

**Court Records have Disappeared or are Useless because they're Inaudible**

In addition to outright audio or video failures, court records have disappeared or are otherwise useless because they are inaudible. An older case dating back to 2003 is a good example of this. In this case, the defendant was found guilty of one charge on appeal while the second charge was dismissed completely because the audiotape of the original hearing discussing the second charge wasn't available.

Massive delays, hearing repeats, and charges being dismissed outright are among the main reasons that courts are switching back to live court reporters. Reliable, professional, accurate, tried-and-true – that's why Texas State District Courts are going back to live court reporters!
**February**

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

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<td>31</td>
<td>Black History Month</td>
<td>Cindy Forrister, Melinda Burrows Groundhog Day</td>
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*Any Suggestions?*

If you would like to submit an article for publication in our monthly newsletter, feel free to contact nick.trottier@ccr.edu. We would love to hear from you!