"If you ever think that you can't do this -- that you can't be a court reporter -- I want you to call me so I can talk you out of it. You are going to be an amazing court reporter." I heard those words a few times about eight months ago, and I always assumed they were just the usual platitudes that teachers give to their students. Then, I hit a wall. I was incredibly burned out with school, and I wasn't making the progress that my perfectionist standards said I should be making. My practice felt pointless and useless. I might spend a couple of days on my machine and see success, but when I would try to take a test, well, I think "epic fail" would be a good description. I finally broke down and, almost in tears, called my teacher.

In all honesty, I expected to be blown off. At the other school where I had attended classes online, I was lucky to get an email response back when I had a problem. A phone call would have been a miracle! I assumed that that trend would prove to be true here. I was dead wrong. I got a call back from that teacher, and she talked to me for at least an hour. We might have talked for longer than that. By the end of that conversation, I was soothed beyond belief. The most amazing part was that it didn't end with that one conversation, nor did it end with that one teacher! The teachers here are not just teachers, they are not just mentors or administrators, they are like guardians, always watching and reaching out to catch you when you think you are going to fall.

Whether I was struggling with motivation, I needed some feedback on my practice plan, I wanted someone to vent to about the hard time I was having, or I just needed someone to celebrate that last half of a percent on regrading that helped me pass a test, the CCR guardians are always there. Even when you think they are not paying attention, when you think you are in a place where there is no way that they will see you and you feel invisible, they will find you. They will come to you in any way you want them to. Do you text? So do they. Email? You bet. Facebook? They'll find you there, too. And when they find you, it's always with words of encouragement and positivity.

If it wasn't for the time and energy the people at CCR have put into helping me get over the hurdles of a lack of motivation and learning that not perfect is still okay, I would not still be in school. I would have hit the wall and quit. Thanks to their constant support, I know that I can make it. I know that I will be an amazing court reporter.

(continued on pg. 2)
Online:  
Kim Dundas

Kim Dundas, a transfer student from Orleans Tech, enrolled with CCR in our Summer 2011 semester. Kim has consistently been an Honor student throughout her education here as well as at her former school. She is excellent at managing her time, and practice is her top priority. We were fortunate to meet Kim this year at the 2012 NCRA Convention in Philadelphia. We love to see this kind of dedication in students—immersion in both practice and community. Great effort, Kim!

Online:  
Julie Jardine

Mother, homemaker, and court reporter-in-training
Julie Jardine has been enrolled at College of Court Reporting for three semesters now, and get this: She’s already writing at the 100 word per minute level. Julie has described herself in the past as an “all-in” person. Her dedication shows throughout her homework and class attendance. She passed five SAPs in August and continues to impress her instructors with her attention to detail. Keep up the excellent work, Julie!

CCR Essay Contest #2
Written by Robin Wallbank

I have faced many challenges in returning back to the career that I have always dreamed of having. Believe it or not, I have had people tell me to not do this, that I won’t complete the program, that I should do something else. Having been in court reporting school before, I knew what challenges were ahead of me. After being away from school and my machine for 12 years, I went from working at 180 wpm, to wondering if I had to retake theory because it had been so long. With so much encouragement from Nicky Rodriguez in admissions, to unlimited access to dictation through live and recorded class sessions, to CCR allowing me to take evaluations through ev360 and not only giving me instant computer feedback, but also instructor input, I was able to regain much of what I had lost all those years. They did all of that for me before I had taken my first class.

On a personal note, I have also suffered the loss of my cousin and her husband to a drunk driver a month ago and again, CCR supported me. My instructor allowed me time to mourn my loss, and at the same time, gently encouraging me to pick up the pieces. She did this simply by being available to me and through emails and conversations. Now, after completing my first semester, I have passed my 120s, and I couldn’t be happier about that!

When I was having trouble with the beginning symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome, I emailed President Jeff Moody and asked if we could please have someone give us a lecture on ergonomics. He immediately responded personally to me and also sent my request to Janet Noel. Janet immediately responded with a link to a lecture that had already been given on the subject. I have never heard of a president of any school responding to his or her students so personally and quickly.

Every single time, without fail, whenever I call the school needing help, whether with financial aid, a computer issue, or even when I needed advice, every person I have spoken with has been friendly and helpful. Sometimes, I have felt bad for bothering them with so many questions, knowing they must be so busy with other students. Still, I always get the same response. They are happy to answer all my questions, taking the time to thoroughly work with me. I never once felt like they were rushing to move on to the next person.

And if all that weren’t enough, I feel like the quality of education is second to none. I will be fully prepared when I graduate to succeed as a court reporter. I cannot say enough about CCR.
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.

**14 SAPs**
Kelly Custard
Samantha Coday

**12 SAPs**
Sarah Fitzgibbon
Tanya Powers

**11 SAPs**
Chiquita Smith
Erica Murphy

**9 SAPs**
Melissa Milligan

**8 SAPs**
Angela Macias

**7 SAPs**
Alece DePuey
Angel McCullough
Lisa Litchfield
Ronald Lynn

**6 SAPs**
Amy Schleinz
Brienne Dirscherl
Jessica Deihl
Nicole Simchak
Rebecca Schade
Shannon Eubanks

**5 SAPs**
Julie Jardine

Justine Kiechel
Marissa Veith
Noraima Galvan
Priscilla Romans

**4 SAPs**
Andrea Dalsing
Catherine Savino

**3 SAPs**
Angelia Goins
Ayme Powers
Cindy Forrister
Dave Persaud
Erika Darnold
Francesca Buonpastore
Holly Klockow
Icah Petersen
Jennifer Wesner
Joyce Williams
Kari Rients

Kelli McGarvie
Lan Le
Lisa Major
Lisa St. John
Margaret Abernathy
Michelle LeGrand
Nicole Throne

**2 SAPs**
Alicia Deitas
Amy Quintana
Bob Strohl
Carrie Julian
Chava Ross
Debra Phillips
Emily Garris
Gina Keener
Hannah Kwiatkowski
J. Leslie Del Rossi
Jennifer Mason
Kevin Whalen
Kimberly Dixon
Leigh Ann Dewease
Leslie Kirkley
Marcia Martin
Mitzi Boardman
Monica Wilson

Morrow McLaughlin
Natasha McCall
Nicole Hunter
Patrice Graper
Patricia Feucht
Rhonda Bradley
Serena White
Sue Harrison

**1 SAP**
Aimee Edwards-Altadonna
Alcia Rice
Angela Shaw
BreeAnna Hansen
Brittany Beaver
Carolyn Oakley
Carrie Harville
Charyna Lashley
Christine Koczur
Dalisa Ruiz
Danielle Simpson
Debra Hjelm
Devoureaux Williams

Donna Watkins
Elaine Flanagan
Elizabeth Haarmann-Bailey
Emily Leiker

Geraldine Hurl
Gina O’Neal
Jennifer Fraser
Jonathan Abrams
Karen Payne
Kelly Cason
Kim Grapenthien
Kimberly Dundas
Kimberly Glassner
Lateisha McCleary
Lisa Lewis
Lynn Bannon
Maggie DuRoss
Marcia McMullen
Marie Tibaldi
Meredith Hoffpaur
Monica Gerard
Morgan Gronquist
Nicolle Benjamin
Pamela Filewood
Renee Rodriguez
Roxanna Yau
Sarah Fradue
Sylvia Ward
Tammy Kerekes

**Shout out to Andrea McDowd!**

Though she is still an SH240 student, she has already passed the Jury Charge leg of the RPR!!! This should be an inspiration to all high speed students—you can be successful when taking certification exams.

Good luck to Andrea the next time she takes the exam!
**Ingenious, ingenuous** – “Ingenious” means characterized by cleverness or originality in contriving something new—i.e., an ingenious device; ingenious designers. “Ingenious” means candid or innocent; free from reserve, restraint; sincere; e.g., a thug with the ingenuous eyes of a choirboy.

“It was ingenious how the criminal feigned ingenuous characteristics to avoid making the detective suspicious.” – Steve D. Fine

***

**Touch down, touchdown** – The two-word verb phrase “touch down” means coming into contact with the ground (like an airplane does). In American football, the one-word noun “touchdown” occurs when the team with possession of the ball crosses the opponent’s goal line. In aviation, the one-word noun refers to the act of landing—e.g., “the aircraft’s touchdown was perfect. “A plane that touches down on the runway after a rough flight can prompt grateful passengers to cheer like loyal fans witnessing their team’s winning touchdown.”

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**Verbalize, vocalize** — “Verbalize” means to express something in words (whether by speaking, writing, sign language, or other means); “vocalize” refers to producing sounds using the voice.

“It takes skill and practice to verbalize messages through sign language to a hearing-impaired audience while simultaneously vocalizing for attendees who can hear.” – Chris Ellis

“I resented the way our leader verbalized his demanding and condescending instructions, so I vocalized my feelings by imitating the bleating of sheep.” – Gary Michael

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**Let down, letdown** – The two-word verb phrase “let down” means to disappoint, fail, betray, slacken, or abate. The one-word noun “letdown” indicates a decrease in force or energy; disappointment, deflation, or disillusionment. “Too close to completion to let down our guard, we wanted to avoid a letdown after all that time and effort.”

Barbara McNichol is an expert editor who writes/edits articles, nonfiction books, and book proposals. Of special interest to court reporters, she has created a word choice guide called Word Trippers: The Ultimate Source for Choosing the Perfect Word When It Really Matters. (www.wordtrippers.com) Barbara also produces Add Power to Your Pen, a valuable E-zine filled with tips on improving your writing. For details, go to www.BarbaraMcNichol.com or www.nonfictionbookeditor.com or call 520-615-7910.

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**F R E E L A N C E  J O B  O P E N I N G S**

**Pennsylvania** — Growing court reporting firm has immediate openings for freelance court reporters in south central Pennsylvania. Email résumé to linda@premierreportingllc.com.

**Richmond, Virginia** — Reporters needed (experienced or new graduates) in a busy firm in the surrounding Richmond area. (804)-788-4917.

**Burbank, California** — If you are at 185 wpm or more and want experience, while you earn money, please contact Aegis RapidTex! You can help others learn, while you earn. Contact Lynda Paretts, Manager of Realtime Captioning: lparets@peoplesupport.com.

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**September Poll of the Month Results:**

What is your favorite way to practice?

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<td>ev360 LIVE</td>
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<td>ev360 Infinity</td>
<td>51%</td>
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Hobart, IN--- Each year the Illinois Court Reporters Association holds a scholarship essay contest. The author of the first place essay receives a $1,000 scholarship, and the authors of the second and third place essays receive $500 and $300 scholarships. To apply, students are required to submit a one-page essay on “Court Reporting School: My Own Survival Guide.” The College of Court Reporting is pleased to announce that the 2012 first and second place award recipients are College of Court Reporting students Shannon Barnes and Susan Kemph.

Ms. Barnes enrolled with the College of Court Reporting in our Summer 2010 semester after completing an Associate’s degree in Business. She learned the Moody Method steno theory as a new student and was writing at 120 words per minute within the first year of her court reporting education. Ms. Barnes is a perennial honor student and has been nominated on several occasions for the Student of the Month distinction. Her instructors never run out of positive things to say about her work ethic and drive to become a court reporter. The first place award certainly found an appropriate recipient in Ms. Barnes as she is most deserving.

Ms. Kemph has been an exemplar student at CCR as well. She has overcome many obstacles throughout her education. Her commitment and focus to becoming a court reporter is evident. In her essay Ms. Kemph pays tribute to the instructors, students, faculty members, and mentors who have helped her throughout her journey by stating that “it takes a village to raise a court reporter.” This positive attitude towards collaboration and persistence makes Ms. Kemph an excellent candidate for scholarship opportunities and will certainly contribute to her reputation in the work environment.

College of Court Reporting would like to take this opportunity to not only congratulate these two students for their accomplishments but to also thank the Illinois Court Reporters Association for giving students the opportunity to participate in the essay contest.

The College of Court Reporting was the first online program in the country to be certified by the National Court Reporters Association. Executive Director, Jay Vettickal, recently announced that CCR has been awarded the U.S. Department of Education 2012 Training for Realtime Writers grant. This $300,000 grant will be used for scholarships for enrolled students and to assist graduates in purchasing professional equipment and software and improve their realtime skills. The College is now on track to produce more graduates than any other court reporting school in the country. For more information on furthering your education, contact Nicky at 866-294-3974.

Congratulations to Shannon and Susan!
**College of Court Reporting**

111 West Tenth Street, Suite 111
Hobart, IN 46342
Phone: 219-942-1459
“Work for yourself...Work for the world!”

**We’re on the Web!**
WWW.CCR.EDU

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**POLL OF THE MONTH:**

My New Semester’s Resolution is to…
A. improve my time management.
B. transcribe more often.
C. attend more LIVE classes.
D. create more Infinity content.

*Vote for your choice on the left side of the screen when you log into ev360! Your results will appear in the next issue along with a new Poll of the Month!*

**October**

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

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<tr>
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<td>Freedom from Bullies Week</td>
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<td>Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce!</td>
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<td>Pamela Chilo-Kwabena</td>
<td>Halloween!</td>
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***For next month’s newsletter, send pictures of people and things you are thankful for to nick.trottier@ccr.edu!***