

CCRA

California Court Reporters Association

C C R A O N L I N E

Never Stop Learning: Be a Lifetime Student

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California Court Reporters Association

CCRA ONLINE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.

CCRA ONLINE COPY DEADLINES

The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Online is the first of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. Articles, ad copy, changes of address, complaints of nondelivery, and subscription requests should be directed to CCRA, 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 95656 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries should also be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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BUZZWORD STUDENTS

By Carlos Martinez, CSR, RPR, CMRS
President, CCRA

"Students," one of CCRA's top buzzwords this year. I don't know if I've said it too many times yet, so I'll say it a couple of more times, students are the life's blood of the court reporting profession. Without students filling the court reporting schools and moving through and taking the State's CSR exam, the reporting profession will eventually wilt and die just like a plant that has not been watered.

CCRA has made it a priority this year to expand our relationship with students and schools. I've written before that we've visited nearly every school in the state this year. We have also promoted our mentorship program, and we have seen a substantial increase in the number of students that have requested a mentor to help them get through school and out into the working world. For some mentors, the program has given them a chance to not only give back but to also make new friends. I know that when I have traveled to the different CSR test sites this year and when I was at BOOT CAMP that I have enjoyed speaking with those that I mentor. We have developed a bond through a mutual goal, getting into the profession.

NCRA has also begun to ramp up their focus on getting students into the court reporting schools throughout the country. In their latest JCR Weekly publication, they wrote about attending the American School Counselors Association's annual conference in Florida. There they were able to present to the attendees of the conference the changes that court reporting has gone through since the pen and paper days and the viability of the profession and the fact that a shortage of reporters is looming in the next five years.

This step by NCRA to attend a conference of school counselors shows the depth of the need to get students into the court reporting programs. It's a step in the right direction and one that will hopefully lead to attendance by NCRA at local state counseling conferences also.

For myself, I don't know where I would be in life right now if I had not found a court reporting school to attend. This profession has given so much to me and to my family. It's allowed my wife and I to raise our children in a completely different lifestyle than I lived in as a child. For that, I am deeply thankful. And that is the main reason why I push so hard for court reporters to reach



out to students and educators and to offer any and all assistance that we can give to either the educators or the students. We were once in their shoes. All of our lives have been changed substantially by this profession. Giving back, from where I stand today, is the right thing to do.

I don't know where the profession will be in 10 or 20 years, but I do know this, CCRA will continue to strive to get students enrolled in court reporting schools so that this profession can continue on for the generations behind us.

In this month's edition, I hope that you enjoy the emphasis on the students. We have so many that are willing and able to help and want to be involved. We owe it to them to continue to fight for the sustained viability of the profession of court reporting.



IF YOU CAN INVEST IN ONLY ONE CONVENTION THIS YEAR... MAKE YOUR INVESTMENT COUNT WITH CCRA

Inspired by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from previous convention attendees, CCRA is heading back to the Miramonte Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, California, October 3-5, 2014. Why is this the best investment for your hard-earned dollars?

- 1. PRICE!** CCRA's convention is an incredible value! Other conventions being held in California this year will cost you over \$450, and that's just to get in the door. Their room rates are also higher. Get those CEUs instead with CCRA for just \$349 (students \$165), which includes 4 meals and 2 receptions at a luxurious hotel and spa.
- 2. LOCATION!** The Miramonte Resort & Spa is remarkably close to metropolitan areas of Southern California and Ontario International Airport, yet far enough away to still feel like you're getting a refreshing getaway in the Palm Springs Valley, nestled at the base of the beautifully scenic Santa Rosa Mountains. SoCal residents can pop over just for the day. And did we mention shopping? The Desert Hills Premium Outlets is tantalizingly close.
- 3. NETWORKING!** The convention this year will include two receptions and five meals. Bring those business cards, because you will not only renew friendships with colleagues but also meet more people from your own state who are in the best position to help you expand your career opportunities. Our conventions typically draw over 350 people, more than any other state association in the country.
- 4. SEMINARS:** We are excited about the wide range of seminars we are developing. We have expanded and intensified our offerings on technology and realtime. Plus, interested in CART and captioning? Wondering if you have what it takes? Thinking about transitioning to a new career path? We are introducing a CART/Captioning track. Bring your writer and get some hands-on practical training from some of the top realtimers in California.
- 5. STUDENTS:** When you attend a CCRA convention, we don't track you into a limited number of classes. Your low registration fee admits you to your choice of any of our seminar offerings.

We at CCRA believe reporters and students should attend all the conventions they can. But if you can only afford one in 2014, you will be sorry to have missed CCRA's 104th, our best convention yet.

Like us on Facebook and regularly visit our website to receive all of the exciting details in the coming months.

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CULTIVATING YOUR TESTING GAME

By Gareth Briscoe, CSR

Take a moment and see if this scenario sounds familiar to you. You've put in the hours. You can write at your goal speed comfortably in practice sessions. You feel like you're "there," but somehow you're having a hard time converting that into a pass. What gives?

The field of sports psychology sprung into being in the early 1920s as a discipline which sought to better understand how psychological factors affect physical performance. Although initial interest in the subject appears to have been tepid, the Cold War (and the associated Olympic medal superiority posturing) galvanized both the United States and the Soviet Union into investing heavily in this new area of research. Study after study confirmed that yes, indeed, the psychological component of performance is just as if not more critical than the physical preparation itself in various settings. These results were great to have, but at the same time they weren't particularly useful to people beneath the level of Olympic athletes.

By the late 1960s, divergent thought was abundant and young men all over the West took to ashrams in search of meaning in an increasingly complex world. Many Westerners were introduced to the principles of Zen Buddhism; and once their spiritual endeavors were "complete," they returned home eager to apply the ancient philosophy to their lives, professionally as well as personally.

Several went on to channel what they learned into sports psychology. Timothy Gallwey, author of *The Inner Game of Tennis*, went on to publish what's widely regarded as the definitive guide to the psychology of peak performance. Eugen Herrigel, author of *Zen and the Art of Archery*, wrote about his experience as a German philosophy professor learning the principles of Zen through archery and (perhaps unintentionally) offered a blueprint for applying Zen ideas to any physical pursuit. While these perspectives are far from objectively scientific, they (with wonderful clarity) break down an issue that plagues court reporting students everywhere: test nerves.

You may be wondering what on earth tennis or archery could possibly have to do with court reporting. While court reporting isn't a sport in the literal sense of the word, it is absolutely a pursuit which requires the same sort of seamless cooperation between body and mind.

According to Gallwey, suboptimal performance inevitably results from too much dissonance between our two "selves": Self 1, the voice in our head that is constantly telling its counterpart how to do its job; and Self 2, the part of us that learns, and ultimately executes, physical actions. To illustrate the difference, let's consider a couple of scenarios.

Scenario A: It's test time. Five minutes at 200 WPM. You hear "ready, set, begin," and it's off to the races. "Ugh, I just wrote 'this' instead of 'that'... AGAIN" "Wow, I just dropped like half of that question." "This is going so well!" "This is the last test before the quarter ends.. better not blow it!" Does any of that sound familiar?

Scenario B: It's a regular practice dictation with the same length and speed. "Hmm, I wonder where I should go for lunch

today." "Heh, that word on the whiteboard is misspelled." "I should buy a drone." For a little bit, you're so focused on the dictation that your mind is completely quiet.

In Scenario A, Self 1 is deeply aware of what Self 2 is doing at each and every moment. It is judging every missed ending, every dropped word, and it's even trying to estimate how much longer it has to remain in this hyperaware state. In Scenario B, Self 1 is comparatively detached from the situation. It is thinking about completely unrelated topics to the task at hand, if at all, and it allows Self 2 do what it already knows how to do without judgment or interference.

Now, I'm certainly not advocating making a conscious effort to think about random things during a test (as that would be committing the cardinal sin of "trying too hard," according to Gallwey), but I think my point is clear. All other things being equal, one would generally perform closer to the best of his or her ability in Scenario B, where Self 1 is more spontaneous and less judgmental.

The good news for court reporting students is that opportunities to hone the psychological game of testing are abundant. I can't speak for all schools, but at mine I had multiple chances four days a week to test. If you take anything from this article, I hope it's the following: change your perspective on testing if you feel like the inner game is getting the better of you. You don't have to just shut up and tolerate the running commentary Self 1 specializes in giving. Reining in Self 1, just like writing machine shorthand itself, is a skill which requires specific attention.

Instead of testing with the goal of passing, I encourage you to test with the goal of making Self 1 work for you instead of against you. Set specific goals, such as "This time, I'm not going to get my feathers ruffled if I write 'in' instead of 'and'" or "No matter what, I am not going to break eye contact with Ms. Teacher's eyes." The actual scores are irrelevant for now, but I can almost guarantee that focusing inward and giving deep attention to your inner game will allow your true ability to surface during tests more consistently.

The concept of Self 1 and Self 2 is the tip of the iceberg that Gallwey and others address in their work, and I'd encourage anyone who struggles with test anxiety to take advantage of sports psychology resources. Ultimately what we do is perform, and the parallels are easy to identify even between such seemingly unrelated disciplines as tennis and shorthand.

I'll leave with an anecdote from Gallwey's *Inner Game of Tennis* which I think nicely illustrates the ideal to look to. "[discussing a cat stalking a bird] Effortlessly alert, he crouches, gathering his relaxed muscles for the spring. No thinking about when to jump, nor how he will push off with his hind legs to attain the proper distance, his mind is still and perfectly concentrated on his prey. No thought flashes into his consciousness of the possibility or consequences of missing his mark. He sees only the bird. Suddenly, the bird takes off. At the same instant, the cat leaps. With perfect anticipation he intercepts his dinner two feet off the ground. Perfectly, thoughtlessly executed action, and afterward, no congratulation, just the reward inherent in his action: the bird in the mouth."

Determination



MOCK CSR – SAGE COLLEGE

By Jorge P. Dominguez

As a member of the Board of Directors for CCRA, I have been afforded the opportunity to work with wonderful people all over the state. We have different backgrounds, disciplines, and points of view, but what we commonly share is a passion and love for our profession: court reporting.

CCRA firmly believes that court reporting schools and their students are vital to the health and sustainability of our profession. Not only is CCRA involved on a legislative level to ensure that there will be jobs when students graduate, but CCRA also gets involved on an individual level through mentorship of students and by hosting mock CSR exams.

On June 21st CCRA held a mock CSR exam at the beautiful campus of Sage College in Moreno Valley, and I was fortunate enough to participate. The Campus Supervisor of Sage College, Cris Kauffmann, and her staff provided tremendous support and hospitality.

The goal of simulating the California CSR exam is to provide a valuable learning experience that we hope the students could then apply when taking the real exam, not just the skills aspect, but more importantly the mental and emotional. After registration, a few doughnuts and some much needed coffee, the 34 registrants started with the Working Knowledge Test

(WKT) portion. And just like the CSR exam, no one was allowed to leave the room until everyone was finished. Upon completion of the WKTs, the students were directed to set up for the dictation portion.

Keeping in the spirit of mimicking the CSR exam, we had four readers who volunteered: Bob Sullivan, Dixie King, Mary Rae and Tammy. They are all very experienced readers. In fact, Bob mentioned to the students that he's been a test reader for a countless number of state exams in the past (what a treat to have him read and interact with the students).

Following the dictation portion, a panel of working reporters were made available to the students for a Q&A session: Dallas Erwood, Official; Crystal White, Freelance; Regina DeMoville, Captioner; and Teresa Russ, CART provider. CCRA is extremely proud to be the only state association that represents all these disciplines. Our profession is expanding and diversifying, and our goal is to expose students to the many options and opportunities they have before them.

Thanks to all the volunteers, vendors, and staff at Sage College for making this event a success. Good luck to all the students who will be taking the CSR exam on July 25th. CCRA will again be hosting a reception following the test. We hope you'll stop by and join us for some good food and great company.

CAPTION IT FORWARD: STUDENTS WANT TO KNOW!



By Regina DeMerville, CSR

This month, I wanted to do something a little different. Instead of writing an article on stuff I think you want to know about, I went in search of a student eager to learn more about Broadcast Captioning and CART. A student I have been mentoring for a little while, Dwayne Dyals, wanted to know a little more about the field. So below are his questions and my answers! And remember, my answers are *MY* opinions based on my experience in the field.

Dwayne: As a student, what is the number one personal trait that should be honed to make a good provider of CART/Broadcast? Is it the same for both?

Regina: I think students should hone in on accuracy. One way to do this is by building your dictionary. And this goes for all fields of Court Reporting, but specifically CART and Broadcast because they are 100% realtime. It's never too early to start building your dictionary. The sooner you start, the more time you will have to add words. It's a never-ending battle, really. Doesn't matter how far you go in your career, or what career path you take, you will ALWAYS be adding words to your dictionary.

D: Do you think traditional CR schools will eventually offer CART/Broadcast Captioning tracks as a normal course of business? Most schools only offer the legal track, and it seems that valuable career opportunity skills are missed by leading ALL students down the court/depo path.

R: I absolutely agree. I am really hoping that schools will start to offer CART/Captioning classes in the very near future, but it's hard to say. I know there are a few schools who offer classes, but, in my opinion, it's nothing even close to what it should be. I feel that schools would benefit by offering CART/Captioning classes from Theory. But at this point, it doesn't seem that schools are interested in offering more about these amazing fields.

D: What are the minimum speed and accuracy levels one should attain before attempting to enter either path?

R: I started CART while I was in 180. However, most agencies have upped their standards, and are not hiring students until they're well into 200s. Even though I started in 180, I feel 200s is a good place to start. I had good realtime, even in 180. Your skills need to be "good" before you attempt CART. You are working with a deaf student who is depending on your captions to hear what is being said in that classroom. If you have an untranslate every other word or are dropping whole sentences, you are doing a disservice to the student and to the field. With that said, *IF* you have good realtime, like I did, I don't feel you should let that skill go to waste. Apply to a CART agency. Most of them give you an assessment test anyway. So if you have the skill, more than likely, they'll notice.

D: Is there a special designation available from NCRA specifically for CART and Broadcast?

R: Yes. You can obtain a CBC (Certified Broadcast Captioner) and CCP (Certified CART Provider). Both tests consist of a written test along with a skills test (machine portion). You can learn more about both these tests at: <http://bit.ly/1wC2uSD>

Although many companies do not require a CCB or CCP, it is always valuable to have. You will be set apart from other captioners with those letters behind your name. Keep striving to be the best!

D: I have heard that in CART/CAPTIONING that it isn't really "verbatim." Is there a fair amount of paraphrasing involved?

R: You are correct. CART and broadcast are not verbatim records. We are 100% realtime. Everything we do is for the end user to be able to participate in that moment. With CART, we do send the notes to the student, usually, after the class. But in broadcast, there is no going back and fixing your mistakes. We have about a two-second delay on television. If we don't catch a mistake within a split second, it goes out to the encoder and out to the viewer on their tv. We cannot take it back. So this is where "selective dropping" comes in handy. There are misconceptions out there that because we are not verbatim, that means we are paraphrasing like crazy or dropping every other word. That is not true. Of course, we all strive to be verbatim. But in television and sometimes in a CART setting, the speakers can get fast. We paraphrase or selective drop to help us keep up with the speed.

D: Do CART/CAPTION providers use a lot of briefs? Most briefs learned in school are legal jargon and not common in any other setting.

R: I can only speak for myself, because every captioner is different. But I use briefs for common terms in the news such as "AccuWeather Forecast" (A*UFT), "partly cloudy" (PAU*RT) or "Eyewitness News" (WAO*US). Terms like these will come up in almost every newscast. So briefs help a lot in these situations. I also brief the anchor names, the station name, and the nearby cities in that particular viewing area. But all those briefs will come once you start doing those stations. You can prep a little beforehand, but you will hear many terms that you haven't prep.

That's all for now. Dwayne had many more questions, but I am limited on space. Maybe I will do a Part 2 next month! For anyone who has more questions or would like to chat with me about CART or Broadcast Captioning, always feel free to contact me at rdemerville@hotmail.com. I am happy to help!

Happy 4th of July!

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Restart Print Spooler

Q. When I try to print certain photos, I get an error message that tells me that Windows cannot connect with my printer and that I need to restart the spooler. What the heck is a spooler and how do I restart it?

A. Spooler alert! A print spooler is software that temporarily stores print jobs on your computer's hard drive or in memory (RAM) until the printer is ready to print them. Think of it as a print queue. The way a print spooler is typically restarted is to restart the computer. That clears the queue and resets it.

To manually restart the spooler, be sure you are logged into your Administrator account in Windows, then go to your Control Panel and click System and Maintenance, then click Administrative Tools.

Next, double-click Services. If you are prompted for an Administrator password or confirmation, type the password or provide confirmation. Right-click the Print Spooler service, then click Properties. On the General tab, next to Startup Type, make sure that Automatic is selected.

If the service is not already running, under Service status, click Start, then click OK. If you are prompted for an Administrator password or confirmation yet again (enough is enough!), type the password or provide confirmation.

It is certainly possible that the problem you are experiencing has to do with the source files (photos) and not your computer/printer and if that's the case, that would be beyond your control. If your printer works fine for just about everything other than a few specific photos, chances are it's the photo files that are the culprit.

Q. I had Hotmail which then changed into Outlook.com and in the process, all my Contacts were lost. I called Microsoft but they have done absolutely nothing to help me. Is there any way I can get my Contacts back?

A. Gosh, Microsoft wasn't responsive to your phone calls? How unusual. I sure miss the old days, back when I had Bill Gates on speed dial. He would answer the phone and I'd say, "Is Ali Gator there?" Oh, how we would laugh. But I digress...

I can't promise the following will work, but it has worked for some individuals who had a similar unpleasant experience: First, log into your Outlook.com account and click the drop-down arrow next to Outlook in the upper left-hand corner. You

will see options to Choose Outlook.com, People, Calendar or OneDrive. Select People.

Click the drop-down arrow next to Manage at the top of the page and select Restore Deleted Contacts. If there are deleted contacts that Outlook can restore, you can restore all of them or select individual contacts. After making your selection, choose Restore. If the cybergods are smiling upon you, your selected contact(s) should reappear in your Contact list.

Q. A few months ago I changed my Start menu in Windows XP to display the Classic Windows Start menu. I now want to change it back to the default but I can't remember how I changed it in the first place. Can you point me in the right direction?

A. Right-click the Start button and select Properties. That will display the Taskbar and Start Menu Properties screen. Select the Start Menu tab where you can then choose between the XP-style Start menu or the Classic Start menu, as well as a button to make additional customized changes, if you wish. I prefer the Classic Start menu, but try them both and use whichever one tickles your digital fancy.

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

I Fix It – iFixit is a global community of people helping each other repair things. It is heralded as "The free repair guide for everything, written by everyone." If you enjoy repairing things yourself or if you are willing to share your knowledge, you won't want to miss this site. The Guides section has its own featured items and categories of different things you can find repair guides for, such as iPhone and iPad repair, gaming device repair, cars, trucks, phone repair, cameras, household items, appliances and electronics to name just a few. I checked, and parking tickets are not among the items the site's contributors will fix. Pity. www.ifixit.com

Perils at the Great Falls – When you arrive at the site you will notice the river water is flowing and there are markers floating like buoys. Click each marker to view an interesting, educational river fact. After you have examined all the markers, you can scroll down and read the article. As you read you will encounter photos of the river with even more markers offering additional information. tinyurl.com/MrM-FallsPerils

YouTubeTime – If you would like a YouTube video to start playing at a precise point in the video, this site will allow you to type in the time, then create a URL for that designated starting point. youtubetime.com

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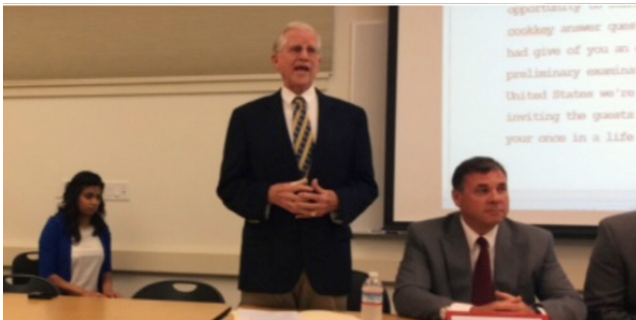
MEET THE CANDIDATES

By Shivaneer Sujata



We had a “Meet the Candidates” night at our college. I was asked to represent our Court Reporting Department and perform real-time for everyone. I was a little hesitant at the thought of real-time, but I know I will be doing real-time in my career often so I agreed to. The day before, my teacher had emailed me a list of names of the candidates that were going to be speaking. I had entered their names in my dictionary the day before, and I also practiced off YouTube. I YouTube’d each candidate and listened to them speak and practiced on my machine. I felt very prepared for this “Meet the Candidates” night.

The night was here and I was all set up with real-time on a large projector for everyone to see. I was really nervous inside, but I



felt a little confident after practicing. I introduced myself to each candidate and let them know what I was doing. They were all really amazed at what we court reporters are capable of doing. They really praised our profession. It was a really good feeling.

Each candidate had about less than 5 minutes to speak. At first I thought it shouldn’t be that bad then, but little did I know it was going to be a nightmare. Each candidate spoke well over 260 wpm. They were trying to get everything about them and why we should vote for them in their speech.

I really felt like bawling because I didn’t know what I was writing. I was just writing. I wrote everything I could. I was so discouraged by the end of the night. It was one of those really bad experiences of court reporting, but I am so glad I did it. Yes, even after crying about it, I am really glad I did it. I think it was a really good practice for me before I go out in the working world; luckily, then I will be able to slow them down.

I would really encourage every student to volunteer for events like these because it’s a great experience. Go out there and practice away. It’s okay if it’s too fast for you. Just do your best and be confident. It’s only to your benefit. The more real-life practice you get, the better you’ll get on that machine.

CARAMELIZED BACON

By: The Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten

Ingredients

- ½ c. light brown sugar
- ½ c. chopped pecans
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground pepper
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 2 Tbsp. maple syrup
- ½ lb. thick-sliced apple wood bacon

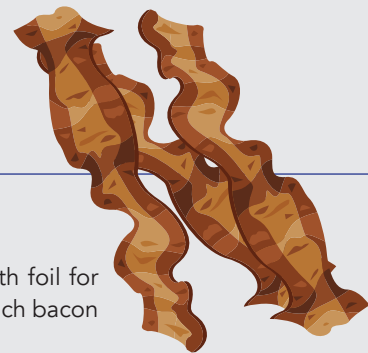
Directions

Heat oven to 375; line baking sheet pan with foil for easy clean-up; place wire rack on top. Cut each bacon slice in half, place on rack without touching.

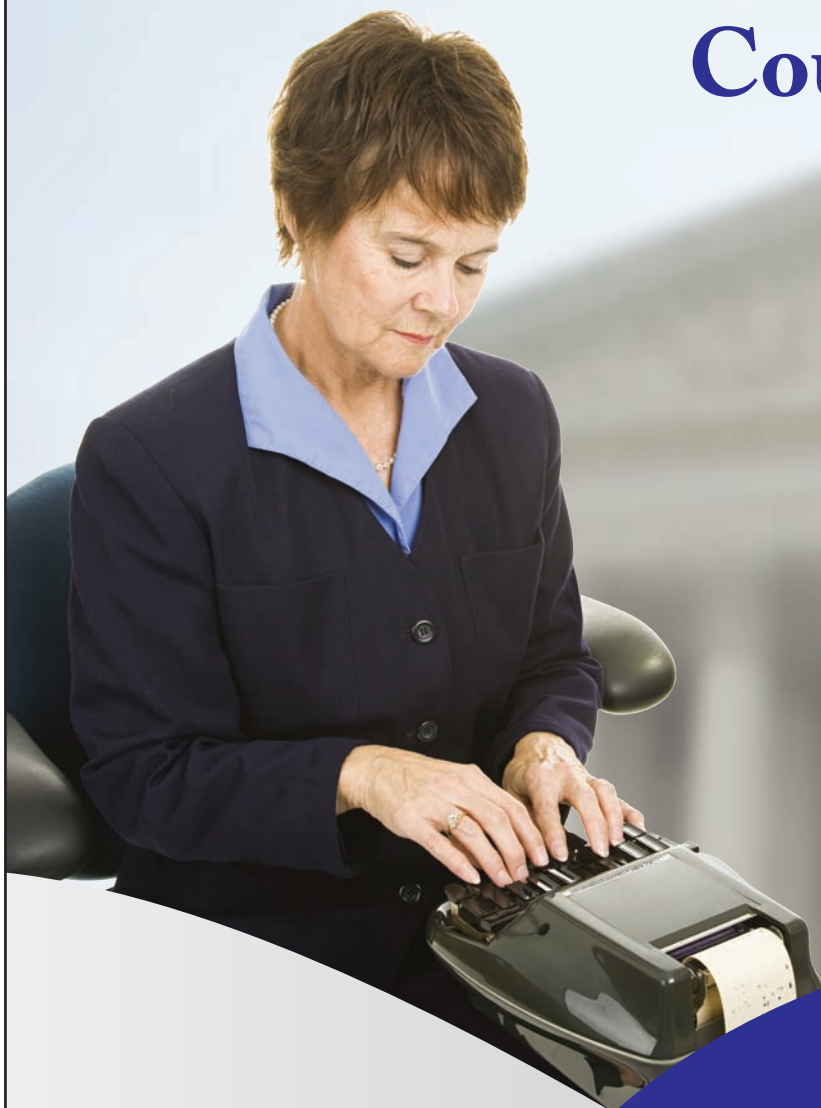
In a food processor, process brown sugar and chopped pecans until fine; then add the salt and peppers, and pulse to combine; then add the maple syrup and pulse to combine.

Using a small spoon, evenly spread pecan mixture on top of each slice, using all of it.

Back for 25–30 minutes until top is very brown but not burnt. While hot, transfer bacon to plate lined with paper towels; and set aside to cool. Serve at room temperature.



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JURY TRIAL: MY FIRST CHAPTER

By Rachel N. Passarella, CSR, RPR

As a student, you learn how to correctly identify at least four speakers, how to designate a question and answer, how to write everything that is said, among many other things. One thing that you don't learn as a student is how to handle your first jury trial. You will find that what works for one reporter in regards to organization, speaker IDs, even the direction to face in the courtroom, may not necessarily work for you.

I received as much direction and advice as I could during my internship hours and even as a new reporter sitting out for experience. I thought I had everything down. Piece of cake.

Jury selection, the process in which the Court and attorneys take turns asking the prospective jurors about their qualifications, personal lives, etc., is a creature unto its own. You will need to be able to identify each attorney, as well as 12-18 people sitting in the jury box. This process takes a lot of focus and is, in my opinion, one of the most difficult proceedings for a court reporter.

I remember my very first jury trial. I was prepared for jury selection. I had my 12 prospective juror briefs (See end of article for those!) and I was ready to go. Then I heard that we were going to take hardships on the record. This is where the judge will have each person with a hardship (some reason that they can't serve) stand up and state their badge number, usually a couple of times, (better practice those numbers!!) and then explain why they can't serve jury duty. Not only is this frustrating in itself, we've heard all these excuses before, but it is extremely difficult to report a person sitting in the back row of the

courtroom who is too shy to speak louder than a field mouse. Each judge handles the jury differently. This method is not my favorite, but we are made and trained to adapt. I definitely got my "speak up, please" practice.

Once jury selection is finally over, it gets to the good stuff. This is what we trained for! This is why I sat in class watching those lights move back and forth for so many hours of my life. The Q&A groove sets in, and you're off to the races. If you're a student, picture yourself as the official reporter while you watch those lights on the wall. Dream about your future as a court reporter. Don't let the time pass by just going to school without feeling. It's an exciting world out there and we need more court reporters in it!

Here are my briefs for Jury Selection:

PRUN – Prospective Juror In Seat Number One:
PRAO – Prospective Juror In Seat Number Two:
PRAE – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Three:
PROUR – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Four:
PRAOEUF – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Five:
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PRAOEUN – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Nine:
PREN – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Ten:
PLEF – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Eleven:
PREL – Prospective Juror in Seat Number Twelve:

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STUDENT OF THE YEAR

By Shivaneer Sujata

All throughout court reporting school, my teachers have been my support. If I had a bad day or if I'm feeling disheartened about not passing a take, I was able to go talk to them and they would encourage me to keep at it. Giving up was not an option because I was once told that with every great success comes many failures. So those of you who are feeling stuck at a speed, don't worry! Just keep trying. Don't let one or two speed takes discourage you. You can do it, remember that! And with every bad speed take, you will learn something new. It will all be worth it at the end.

The day before graduation we had a practice for it, and there Dr. Humphreys told us the ceremony schedule for the graduation. He mentioned how there will be awards given to one outstanding student of each department. I was really excited for that because I had a feeling that I might be getting that award.

The next day was graduation. It was a big day for the whole graduating class. I was really excited and nervous too. We got in

our lines and sat down in our seats. The ceremony began, and my heart was racing. I couldn't wait to hear about the awards. As they were announcing the names for each department, I felt more and more nervous. Our court reporting department was called, and it was another well-deserved student, Carrie Kahn, who received the award. For me graduating and being done with court reporting school was more than enough. Court reporting school is not easy, so that alone was a huge accomplishment.

After all the students were called from each department, then Ms. Reindl goes on describing a student who was to get the Overall Outstanding Student of the Year award. As she went on describing the student, I didn't know it was me until she mentioned how the student will be taking the next CSR. I never imagined I would get the Student of the Year award for my class. As I walked up to receive the award, I could feel my eyes getting heavy. I was speechless, and I had no reaction. I can't describe how I felt in words, but it was one of the best moments of my life.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone at Humphreys College who thought I was capable of such a title and for always encouraging me towards this great career. And to my graduating class of 2014, remember, graduation is not the end; it's only the beginning. So good luck to those who are taking the next CSR, and see you there!



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YOUR SKILLS ARE WORTH MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK

By Saba McKinley

I know that many of you students reading this article are considering using your skill-set to become an official or freelance reporter, but have you pondered the idea of using those skills to help others live a greater quality of life? If the answer is yes, that's awesome! If the answer is no, let me share with you some of the many benefits of saying yes.

There was a young man who attended church every Sunday because he wanted to fellowship and go deeper in his faith by hearing the word of God. His mother always accompanied him to the church service and provided sign language for him. Across town there was a student, a young woman, who wore cochlear implants, which are helpful but still do not allow for discernment in speech as well as natural hearing. She aspired to teach art history to incoming freshmen and sophomores; and to better communicate with them, she needed assistance. There was also a young girl in middle school, and she, too, needed assistance. What they all had in common is the desire to communicate with others, to socialize, and become fully-participating people in society. That is an aspiration, I believe, we all want. Something else they had in common is that they used the services of CART Captioners, and their lives have been forever changed.

The middle-school girl is now a young woman, and I'd like to tell you a little about her story. She is currently receiving CART services in high school; however, that only happened because she was persistent. She and her parents have been fighting for her to receive captioning service for over five years. She was 13 years old when she first began requesting the service. Some of you may be familiar with her story if you follow court reporter pages on Facebook.

This young woman is now a senior at Poway High School in San Diego, California. Currently, she is receiving captioning services as a result of an injunction the family filed while her case is being appealed in the U.S. Supreme Court.

She started a petition online and received 1900 signatures, which she shared in a hearing at the Poway School Board last year, in support of her request for service. Because of her determination and perseverance, she will receive the services for the next six months, in time to complete her senior year at the high school.

It may seem upsetting and truly unbelievable that someone would be denied access to communication, denying them access which would most likely lead to creating a better life for them.

This young woman's case, and many others like it, point to the direction that the profession of court reporting is headed.

The demand for CART Captioners and Broadcast Captioners continues to grow. If you haven't started working on your realtime skills, I strongly urge you to start where you are. Begin writing in realtime everyday. Hook up to your computer and start building your dictionary. Go to YouTube channels and look for college lectures given by professors. That is a great way to start building your dictionary. Once you have mastered

the skills of writing to lectures, begin to write the news and/or sporting events. Attend as many realtime, CART Captioning and Broadcast Captioning seminars as you can. Go to the state and national conventions, where there are many classes to choose from covering these topics.

You can leverage your skill-set the same way I have chosen to leverage mine. I have my CSR license, so I work as a CART Captioner during the school term, and I work in court during the summer months. If deposition work is more your speed, you can work doing depositions and CART captioning and/or Broadcast captioning.

The point is, don't limit yourself. The skills you possess can be used in multiple ways. Leverage your skills by being a realtime writer, thereby, increasing your earning potential.

I am going to get on my soapbox for a minute here. If you have ever thought of CART as a backup plan because you can't pass the CSR exam, I invite you to think again. It is a false perception. The skill-set required to perform quality captions is realtime. Realtime is more complex than simply putting a transcript together after you have had an opportunity to clean it up. The client or clients are relying upon your accurate translation in "real time."

Respect the skill-set of realtime for what it is, and you will have the confidence to not compromise your worth and only accept rates which will compensate you for the skills you have worked so hard to earn. With these skills you have the same earning potential as an official or freelance reporter. Let's, together, uphold the standard of the profession.

Okay, I'm done with that. (Getting down off that box now.)

If you are a student and would like to know how to get started in CART captioning, I can help steer you in that direction. If you are a professional and you want to know how to get started, or you may be feeling that you don't have what it takes to transition, be it skill-set or fear of providing realtime, I work with a colleague who can help you break through those limiting beliefs.

I guess what I am saying is you and your skill-set are greatly needed in the world at this time in history. Don't let the misperceptions of CART, or the fear of choosing it as a career path, or anything else, stand in your way. Be the light that helps someone else shine their light.

To learn more about leveraging your skills to provide CART services, feel free to connect with me, Saba McKinley, at saba@divine-scripts.com. You may also check out my website at www.divine-scripts.com or connect with me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/522874817820250/.

To blast through any limitations, self-doubt, or to simply take a new approach to jumping over that next speed hurdle, feel free to connect with my colleague, Jack Roberts. He is a transformational coach who helps people overcome these issues. You can reach him at jack@yourhighestpotential.com. You may also check out his website at www.yourhighestpotential.com

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OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS

By Gerie Bunch, CSR No. 6669,
VP-Freelance, Support Our Students Committee Chair

A year ago, I retired from working for the courts after over 27 years total in two different counties. I told everyone, "I'm retired from the courts but not the profession." I very cleverly put out a document on legal pleading paper which looked like a court case announcing my retirement to the local bar which enumerated my skills and willingness to do their pro tem court work and depositions.

Within a few months, I got some requests for court hearings which were a "no-brainer" because I walked right in to my old courtroom and sat in my familiar chair with all the same players. No problem.

And then, I got called for a deposition. Though I had worked for a depo firm when I was first out of school for a year, and had done several depositions over the years in my spare time, it seemed to be all new territory.

With my equipment charged and ready to go, I got there early and set up in the small conference room. First, I asked the secretary for a secretarial-type of chair with no arms so I could work properly. Since I am vertically challenged and needed it to be as low as possible, the attorney had to sit on the chair to lower it. That gave everyone a laugh.

First, I asked if there was a trial date set. It's helpful to know this because if the trial is next week, you know you're going to have an expedite on your hands. Next was swearing in the witness. That was no problem too, since occasionally over the years when the clerk was absent, I was requested to swear in the witness.

And we're off and running. And like most depositions, the preliminary questions and answers come fast and furious. Phew, I was grateful for that judge who frequently spoke 300 wpm. Eventually, we settle in to a nice pace and before I knew it, three deponents later, we are done an hour earlier than expected. Yeah!

Transcribing the job was not a problem, and my proofer (who hadn't had much work in a while either) was also ready to do a quick and accurate job.

Now, the main purpose of my article is about the "production" aspect from a one-person operation and not working for a firm. I had to decide if it was more economical for me to print all three copies (O +2) on my printer or print an original and have copies made at a local shop. The same was true for the exhibits, do I copy them on my copier/printer or have them copied. I opted for doing everything myself. The attorneys from this depo did not request anything be delivered electronically. Fortunately, I had enough covers, brads and washers from my officialship days for binding the transcript. But what do I do

with the exhibits? Every depo firm has their production people who take care of these things.

Since I was on a shoe-string budget, I looked through the different types of tabs I'd acquired over the years and decided to use some that required being hand cut, labels being inserted and the edges taped so the labels didn't fall out. Wow, that was a pain! And I've since purchased some tabs that are very user friendly and look professional.

So after binding the depositions in their covers and attaching the now-tabbed exhibits to the back, I put them in the properly-address envelopes and sealed them. Then I realize I forgot that I needed to put in a copy of the witness letter and a bill in with the depositions. Darn! Now, I have to do new envelopes. I tell myself, "Don't seal them until you're headed to the post office." I must have taken the depositions out of the envelopes another two or three times just to double check that things were accurate, and that they looked good.

There is the letter that goes to the witness apprising him/her that their depo is ready to read and we need to make arrangements to read it if they don't want to read the copy that's now in their attorney's office. The attorneys get a copy of that letter too.

Though I will continue to be a one-woman operation, I believe there is a lot of value in working with a deposition firm that does the production every day. In our electronic age, it's so much easier to email the pdf to the firm and have them take care of all the copying, binding, labeling, notifying, billing, mailing and tracking. The percentage of the bill that goes to the firm for giving the reporter a job and doing all the production and collection is well worth it in the long run. It allows the reporter to do what we do best, make an excellent record, and not get caught up in the paperwork.

So this old dog, after years of doing things a certain way, is being flexible and learning new tricks of the trade. I am grateful to have made the transition from official to freelance and continue to enjoy this great profession.

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