



# Up-to-Speed



**JCR** Published by NCRA for  
court reporting and  
capturing students

Student Newsletter



Welcome to NCRA's student quarterly, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. Fall is the perfect time to hit the keys, hit the books, and focus on what you need to get back to school.

## Student Spotlight

### *Striking a different key, and hitting a new note*

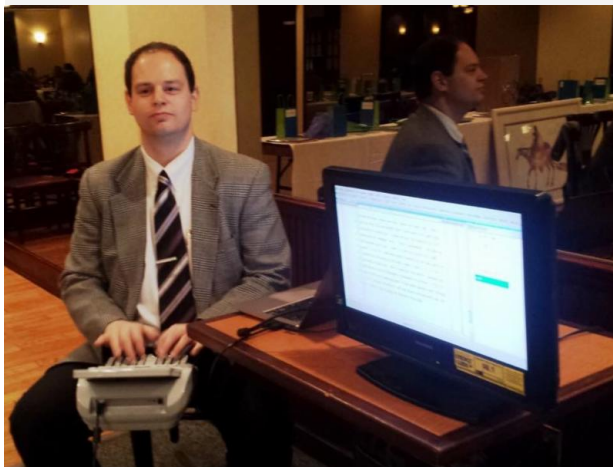
Brittaney Byers has been working at the keys since she was 4 years old, practicing her drills and improving her finger dexterity. Before starting at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma, Ohio, she had been trained by some of the best at Cleveland State University. But Byers isn't a lifelong stenographer; she's a pianist who went searching for a different tune.

[Read more](#)



In this issue, *Up-to-Speed* features a student who turned her love of music into a talent for stenography. Do you know a student or students who should be in the spotlight? Let us know. Students in the spotlight must currently attend an NCRA-approved court reporting program.

## Back to School



### *Access to a master: The value of having a mentor*

By Joshua Edwards -- All of us know how hard court reporting is. We can all empathize with the student who has been stuck at a particular speed for what feels like eons and the bitter disappointment of failing that speed test week after week. The difference between walking away in frustration and becoming a successful court reporter often hinges on wise input from a mentor.

[Read more](#)

***Join the NCRA Virtual Mentor Program. Mentees have the opportunity to gain valuable experience by working with a court reporter or captioner. Mentors can provide you with a support system and introduce you to the professional world beyond the classroom. [Sign up today!](#)***

## *A broadcast captioner sees the future in realtime*

*By Cathy Penniston* – As a busy broadcast television captioner and an instructor of court reporting students, I encourage my students to embrace realtime. At first, realtime stenography can seem quite daunting. But here are seven tips from a broadcast captioner and court reporting instructor to get started on your journey to learning realtime.

[Read more](#)



## *Scoping through school and beyond*

*By Gretchen House and Roanna L. Ossege* – Scoping can accomplish many things for a budding reporter, but there are pitfalls to avoid, lessons to be learned, and trust to be earned. Scoping can be a great way to make money, stay in steno mode, and get on-the-job training. In addition, student scopists gain knowledge and ideas and begin to get an idea of the kind of reporter they may want to be.

[Read more](#)

# We want to hear from you!

It's almost time to ring in the New Year! Are you planning to make any New Year's resolutions to get you through the rest of the school year? Fill out our short questionnaire, and we may feature you in our January issue.

[Share your thoughts](#)

## Grants and Scholarships

### *NCRF accepting nominations for scholarships*

The National Court Reporters Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Frank Sarli Memorial Scholarship and the Student Intern Scholarship. The deadline for both of these scholarships is Dec. 1.



[Read more](#)

[Submit a nomination for the Frank Sarli Memorial Scholarship](#)

[Submit a nomination for the Student Intern Scholarship](#)

## 2017 NCRA Convention & Expo



### *Convention conversations*

“It was awesome to see how excited all the working reporters were to meet students and to hear them talking about what a good career reporting is and how much they love it after all these years. It was also nice to hear all the tips they had to share for practicing speed,” said Hailey Treasure, a student at MacCormac College in Chicago, Ill. *Up-to-Speed* asked attendees for feedback on the student experience and they shared their highlights of the 2017 NCRA Convention & Expo. (Photo from Stan Sakai.)

[Read more](#)

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For more information, visit [NCRA.org/VMP](http://NCRA.org/VMP).

**FEBRUARY 10-17**



*Learn how to get involved!*

## Schools in the news

- [Speed challenge gives students serious practice time by treating it like work](#)
- [DMACC court reporting student receives scholarship](#)
- [Eileen Beltz from College of Court Reporting honored with 2017 CASE Award](#)
- [Court reporters in demand in Bexar County](#)
- [Court reporter: One good job that doesn't require a four-year degree](#)

## Testing center

- Good luck to everyone taking the RPR Written Knowledge Test in October!
- The next [RPR Written Knowledge Test registration](#) period is Dec. 1-31.
- The fourth quarter for the [online RPR Skills Test](#) opened Oct. 3 with new testing opportunities.
- [Read the online skills testing FAQs.](#)

Want to see your school in the news? *Up-to-Speed* is looking for news from court reporting programs to feature in our newsletter. Send ideas and information to [schools@ncra.org](mailto:schools@ncra.org).

## Questions of the Quarter

### What is your writing style?

- 29% – Type. Every. Thing. Out.
- 35.5% – Brief short or go home!
- 29% – Shh. I'm developing my own style, thank you very much.
- 6.5% – I don't have a style.

### What do you wish you knew that you weren't taught in school?

- 47.6% – Practice swearing in a witness before your first job.
- 9.5% – Jeans are not appropriate legal attire.
- 19% – Never leave your machine in your car.
- 23.8% – Always eat a big breakfast before work.

How do you reward yourself after passing a test?

The only reward is the knowledge that I've improved.

Select

I treat myself to something that I've been wanting.

Select

Who has time for rewards? Get back on that machine and pass another test!

Select

Happy hour anyone?

Select

When it comes to my writer ...

... we're best friends.

Select

... I'm still learning the ropes.

Select

... it's out to get me; I know it!

Select

... we have now reached synchronization. Beep boop!

Select

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