

July 2019



Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. The 2019 NCRA Convention & Expo in Denver, Colo. is just around the corner. Learn why you don't want to miss it. You can also read about a student who realized early on that a four-year degree – and the price tag that came with it – were not the right fit.

## Student Spotlight



### ***Switching Schools, Switching Careers***

Nineteen-year-old Zeke Alicea had a plan for his future that included a four-year degree. He was interested in the legal field, but nothing really clicked until a criminology professor discussed the role of court reporters. Alicea decided to turn in his \$50,000/year tuition for a court reporting degree at community college.

[Read more.](#)

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Do you know a student currently attending an NCRA-approved court reporting program who should be in the spotlight? [Let us know.](#)

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## My Journey to Captioning

Shawn Condon shares his personal path that led him to his current career as a captioner.

*"My journey has taken me through the initial desire for a new career, the well-documented highs and lows of completing a rigorous court reporting program, and the uncharted waters of seeking employment in an area that was related -- but in many ways foreign -- to what I had been preparing for in school."*

[Read more.](#)



## A Student Asks, "Why Am I Here?"

Last Spring, Stephanie Famber attended *Georgia United*, a seminar sponsored by the Georgia Court Reporters Association in Atlanta, Ga.

Read about her first impressions, her reasons for starting court reporting school, and her compelling answers to the first note she made in that initial seminar, "Why am I here?"

[Read more.](#)

## Did you know?

NCRA court reporters and captioners do the [coolest things](#)?

- Check out the all the great places our members are working, like Coachella, Hollywood, spellings bees, and more.

Court Reporting isn't just for the courtroom?

- [Read about these reporters](#) working on a ski slope, in a parking garage, on a bus, and at a construction site.

NCRA has a Facebook page just for students?

- Connect with fellow court reporting students at [www.facebook.com/NCRAStudents/](http://www.facebook.com/NCRAStudents/)

**Get a jump on earning an RPR or CRC certification!**

**Written Knowledge Test (WKT)**  
Register Sept. 1-30  
for testing Oct. 8-22

**Online Skills Test (SKT)**  
Register Aug. 1-20  
for testing Sept. 1-20

**NCRA**



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## *How can you get involved with NCRA?*

[JOIN](#) NCRA with a student membership. Become a member to get discounts on testing, convention registration, study guides, and more.

[CONTRIBUTE](#) to *Up-to-Speed* by submitting articles, study tips, questions for reporters and instructors, and suggestions.

[LEARN](#) about upcoming scholarship and grant opportunities.

## 2019 NCRA Convention & Expo

### *Top 10 Reasons to Attend 2019 NCRA Convention & Expo*

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 0

Maybe you have already registered for the 2019 NCRA Convention & Expo in Denver, Colo. Aug. 15-18. Or maybe you are still trying to decide whether to go. Check our top 10 reasons why students should take advantage of the great opportunity. Number 3 will surprise you, and you won't believe number 9!

[Read more.](#)

## Grants and Scholarships



## ***2019 CASE Scholarship Awarded to Five Students***

Congratulations to the recipients of the NCRA 2019 CASE (Council on Approved Student Education) Student Scholarships! The winners were chosen based on their winning entries in an essay writing contest. The essay question was "Describe the importance of earning your Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification as a new professional." Click below to learn more about each of them.

[Read more.](#)

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## ***Congratulations to all of the First NCRA A to Z Scholarship Recipients***

Winners of the first NCRA A to Z™ Scholarships have been announced. The recipients are students that have completed an NCRA A to Z™ Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program and are enrolled in a court reporting program. Click the link below to read about all of this year's scholarship recipients.

[Read more.](#)

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## NCRF Announced 2019 Scholarship and Grant Recipients

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) has announced the winners of the 2019 Frank Sarli Memorial Scholarship, the Robert H. Clark Scholarship, and the New Professional Reporter Grant. Click below to read about what inspires them.

[Read more.](#)



**You still have time to attend the  
2019 NCRA Convention & Expo**

**Register online until July 31  
Register on site Aug. 15-18**

**Student discounted rates  
Special student-only sessions**



**Aug. 15-18**

Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado  
Convention Center, Denver, CO



**NOT AN NCRA  
STUDENT MEMBER?**

**JOIN NOW:**

- Save on testing fees, event registration, and the NCRA Store
- Receive discounts on products and services, savings on insurance, and specials on entertainment and travel
- Get access to networking, industry updates, and scholarships/grants

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP  
IS ONLY \$46!**



## Questions of the Month

**What type of material do you use to warm up  
for a dictation test:**

37.0% – New material.  
14.8 – Something familiar.  
37.0% – Briefs and phrases.  
11.1% – Theory rules.

**What speed do you use to warm up  
before a dictation test?**

22.7% – At the test speed.  
59.1% – 20 words faster than the test speed.  
9.1% – 40 words faster than the test speed.  
9.1% – 10 to 20 words slower than the test speed.

If you are a court reporting student, when did you start your program?

Right out of high school.

Select

After transferring from a different degree program.

Select

After completing a different degree first.

Select

After a career in a different field.

Select

Other.

Select

If you could caption just one big event, what would it be?

The Women's World Cup Final.

Select

The State of the Union Address.

Select

The Summer Olympics.

Select

The Academy Awards.

Select

A Beyoncé concert.

Select

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).

## Schools in the news

- [NCRA member Mary Beth Johnson promotes court reporting in news story](#)
- [Sharing steno in Taiwan](#)
- [Arlington Career Institute salutes newly certified alumni](#)
- [Plaza College in Queens, NY highlighted in Wall Street Journal article on the 'silent problem facing the nation's courtrooms'](#)

## Testing center

- [Online Skills Test registration opens Aug. 1.](#)
- [Review online testing tutorial and information before registration and testing](#)
- [Read New Exam Retention Policy](#)