

January 2021



Welcome to NCRA's student newsletter, *Up-to-Speed*, featuring insights and tips especially for court reporting students. In this issue, a student shares how she found court reporting, a new professional shares what it was like to graduate during a pandemic, schools get ready for Court Reporting & Captioning Week, and a scholarship update.

Student Spotlight



Perseverance does pay off

Julia Licona describes her path to court reporting which started in Big Bear Lake, Calif., and included years of piano and work in the biotechnology industry before finding court reporting school.

"I had just enough money to support myself and pay for school for one year. However, trying to complete a three-to-four-year program in just a year would be challenging, but it was a challenge that I was ready to take on," Licona said.

[Read more.](#)

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

School spotlight

Green River College

The mission of Green River College in Auburn, Wash., is to: "Ensure student success through comprehensive educational programs and support services responsive to our diverse communities."

[Read more.](#)



Showing some student style



Graduating during a pandemic

By Meredith Seymour

At NCRA Connect Virtual in August of 2020, the new professionals group had so much to talk about. I met many amazing stenographers, namely Chris DeGrazio from Fort Pierce, Fla., a new professional who, at the time, was two months in and was soon to graduate.

[Read more.](#)

Court Reporter Holiday Karaoke

By Margary Rogers

Court Reporter Holiday Karaoke was a fun event for court reporters who love music. My goal, when I was creating this event, was to cheer up court reporters and student reporters during the holiday season. Practice doesn't always have to start with "Ready Begin."

[Read more.](#)



Testing



Student earns RSR and more in Washington State

Rachel Helm, RSR, a freelance court reporter from Poulsbo, Wash., found a way to get certified by her state even when its testing shut down due to COVID-19 pandemic. She received her Registered Skilled Reporter (RSR) certification in November 2020 and Washington State gave her reciprocity for its Certified Court Reporter (CCR). *Up-to-Speed* spoke with Helm about her educational and testing experiences.

[Read more.](#)

Members appreciate convenience of online Written Knowledge Tests

October marked the first time NCRA members and nonmembers had the opportunity to take the Written Knowledge Tests for the RPR, RDR, CLVS, and CRC certifications online through Pearson VUE; and the feedback so far has been positive. The online tests are available four times a year (January, April, July, and October).

[Read more.](#)



Court Reporting & Captioning Week

SAVE THE DATES
FEBRUARY 6–13



2021 Court Reporting
& Captioning Week

[NCRA.org/Awareness](https://www.ncra.org/Awareness)

Schools plan for 2021 Court Reporting & Captioning Week

Schools are gearing up to celebrate NCRA's 2021 Court Reporting & Captioning Week Feb. 6–13 with the theme "All you need is love and steno." NCRA encourages all schools and students to participate in the week as a way to share what they love about the profession. Events held this week promote the profession and showcase the career opportunities in the court reporting and

captioning fields.

[Read more.](#)

How You Can Get Involved with NCRA

JOIN NCRA as a student member and get access to discounts on testing, conference registration, study guides, and more.

CONTRIBUTE to *Up-to-Speed* by submitting articles, study tips, questions for reporters and instructors, and other suggestions.

LEARN about upcoming scholarship and grant opportunities.



We prepare future
COURT REPORTERS

 Humphreys University
EST. 1896

- Nonprofit, WASC accredited university established in 1896.
- 11-week quarters with attentive, accessible, and experienced instructors.
- Programs are 100% online with live classes, including multi-voice.
- We accept transfer courses from accredited institutions.

www.humphreys.edu

The advertisement features a woman sitting at a desk with a laptop, a statue of a person on a pedestal, and a yellow and black striped chair.



Save the Dates!

ONLINE SKILLS TESTS (SKT)
RSR, RPR, RMR, CRR, and CRC
REGISTER FEB. 1-20, 2021,
for testing March 1-20, 2021.

Click for testing requirements and to register.



The advertisement includes an image of a whiteboard with a marker tray and a blue and white logo for the NCRA Skills Test.

Grants and scholarships



NCRA announces the opening of the CASE Scholarships

The Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) will issue a call for nominations on Feb. 1 for the 2021 CASE Student Scholarships. Students from NCRA-approved reporter education programs are encouraged to apply for consideration of the five scholarship awards offered through the National Court Reporters Association.

[Read more.](#)

NCRA A to Z Scholarship

The NCRA A to Z Scholarships open Feb. 1! Up to 10 students will receive a \$500 scholarship.

[Read more.](#)



NCRF names Shines, Bilous as Student Intern Scholarship winners

The National Court Reporters Foundation announced that Andriana Bilous of Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Alberta, Canada, and Jessica Shines of MacCormac College in Chicago, Ill., were selected as its 2020 Student Intern Scholarship awardees.

[Read more.](#)

Milton H. Wright Memorial Scholarship application deadline now March 1

The application deadline for the Stenograph Milton H. Wright Memorial Scholarship has been extended to March 1. Students from NCRA-approved reporter education programs are encouraged to apply for the merit-based two-year award, which is worth up to \$5,000 per year and will include use of a student writer and software.

STUDENTS, APPLY NOW!
Scholarship worth up to \$5,000!



 Stenograph
Milton H. Wright Memorial Scholarship
National Court Reporters Foundation Partnership

DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 1

[Read more.](#)

Questions of the Month

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

10.3% – Turkey
31.6% – Dressing/stuffing
24.8% – Mashed potatoes/Yams
10.3% – Green bean casserole
23.1% – Pumpkin pie

How did you vote?

22.3% – By mail
12.8% – Absentee ballot drop-off
11.7% – At a pop-up voting location
48.9% – At my regular polling place
4.3% – I did not vote

If you are a student, how long have you been in school?

Less than 6 months

[Select](#)

7-11 months

[Select](#)

1-2 years

[Select](#)

3-4 years

[Select](#)

5 + years

[Select](#)

What would you change about the court reporters you have seen portrayed in movies and TV shows?

Where the reporter sits

[Select](#)

The reporter's hand position

[Select](#)

The reporter's interactions with people

[Select](#)

The reporter's machine

[Select](#)

Everything!

[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.

Schools in the news

- [Students participate in virtual mock trial](#)

Testing center

- [Online Skills Test registration opens Feb. 1](#)
- [Online Written Knowledge Test registration opens March 1](#)
- [Exam Retention Policy – Don't wait until it's too late!](#)