



# THE GUARDIAN

College of Court Reporting

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”*

-Thomas Edison



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Issue 5

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## A Captioner's Day - What it Takes to Succeed

*By Susan Hahaj*

Captioning... Did you know that the average person talks at least 180 wpm (words per minute) and that as a captioner we caption at an average of at least 200 wpm and up to 325 wpm (and sometimes more!)?

Being a live-television broadcast captioner is a wonderful, challenging, ever-changing career that I feel blessed to have been part of for over 15 years now. Each step in my career has been a stepping stone. I knew almost immediately when I began court reporting school that this was going to be a challenge... from the stumbling over the keys to learn the basics, to building up to 225 wpm, and the certification tests at the end. If anything will humble you, it's testing at 225 wpm and then writing live for Deaf and HOH (hard-of-hearing) kids as I did in the school system and colleges to then building into becoming a broadcast captioner. I knew though that being a captioner was really what I had worked towards all along once I went on air.

Many people are curious and oblivious to not only captioning, but to the work and details "behind the scenes" that it takes to be performance-ready once the program begins. As a captioner, the day begins with reviewing my schedule of shows. I caption quite a bit of news, both local and national, and it's been beneficial to be exposed to the daily news. I have a greater understanding of what is happening in the world.

I will, before my shows, start my word list for the day on the Internet under the main sites for the station I am captioning. In this case, it is often [cbc.ca/news](http://cbc.ca/news). I can see what the top stories of the day are, and search for any specific names and countries, towns, or groups that I believe may be mentioned while I am live captioning. I intentionally over-prepare so that when that elusive word or person's name comes up, I can feel proud of myself for having it ready to rock n' roll and put up for the viewers to read!

Also, working with a tremendously talented group of captioners, I know how fortunate I am that we share words that come up in specific stories that they've captioned in the hour(s) before me, so I can feel as well prepared as possible once I take over the newscast for my timeframe. More info is the key to success, in my opinion, and I always want to be the best I can be at my job. I feel that I have been blessed to be given the skills necessary to do this job, and I don't want to disappoint myself by doing anything other than the best I can do!

## Students of the Month

### Jennifer MacDonald

One of Jennifer's instructors said, "At midterms, Jennifer transcribed and submitted a total of 11 evaluations. She passed nine evaluations in total with an average of A in punctuation and passed a 160 in all three categories. She is a punctual and conscientious student who strives to do her best in all her assignments. She has submitted a total of 22 SAPs since Week 4 of this semester and has passed over 75% of those she has taken.

You are awesome, Jennifer!



### Brett Schatzle

Brett has been putting in hours and hours of work this semester in order to improve her writing. She is always switching up her practice routine in order to write more effectively. She is meticulous in her work and very deserving of the recognition.

Keep up the hard work, Brett!  
You are doing a wonderful job!

That's not to say that there are difficult days, for sure, and they can be frustrating! Most of the time it's just an off day when your hands/mind combination cannot find a rhythm and you have more errors, or untranslates, and splitting of strokes. I try, though, to be positive about these tougher days because it's a great time to add new entries to your dictionary and to see what can be turned from an error to a perfect caption.

Besides the work of actually captioning a program, as a captioner, we have to maintain the equipment necessary in order to carry out our jobs. I have several stenography machines, a spare is necessary in case something is damaged, plus the same for modems that are used to connect through telephone lines to faraway stations. There are several monitors for not only my software for captioning to run on but also for viewing the program live and another for internet searching and office emails and messaging with the office. There are times that you will be pulling double-duty – captioning while quickly trying to reach over to google a key word to pull up a spelling that is elusive! Over the years, as my skill levels have increased, I find this easier to do since nowadays I can often caption while thinking of words to remember to look up and even sometimes what I am planning to cook for dinner!

Since I work from home, I feel I have the best of both the working and home life worlds. I have learned how to balance my time and to separate when I'm not working from the office to give myself the needed mental downtime. I usually head to my craft room to recharge my batteries between captioning programs. Plus, my dogs have a great life with their "mommy" home all day with them!

It's a wonderful thing to know that you are making a difference to those with hearing loss and to know that you are doing the job that you were meant to always do, and I feel so, so fortunate to be a captioner! Signing off... at my last speed status for this afternoon at 312 wpm!

*Re-printed from JCR*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

#CCRGRADS #NCRA16  
#YOURFUTUREISNOW

Will you be in Chicago for the 2016 NCRA Convention? You're invited to join us in celebrating our graduates before the convention starts!

College of Court Reporting  
Established in 1984

**Look for more information coming in May!**

### Word Tripper By: Barbara McNichol

**Ignorant, stupid** – “Ignorant” means lacking knowledge or information; being unaware, uninformed; uneducated. “Stupid” means being unable to understand things or think rationally due to a lack of intelligence or an inhibiting factor such as fatigue.

“Being *ignorant* of the topic showed when he had to take a test on it. He wasn’t *stupid*; he simply hadn’t studied.”

“The student who had been home schooled was *ignorant* of the ways of traditional schooling. After entering public school, her inability to relate to her peers made her feel *stupid*.”

### March Evaluations Passed

*These students have all passed one or more SAP evaluations during the month of March.*

<u>15 SAPs</u>	<u>4 SAPs</u>	Jessica Wills	Lindsay Heaton	Kayde Reiken
Jennifer Macdonald	Amanda Olivares	Karina Hannah	Lisa Major	Kelsey Michael
Rachel Schmidt	Amanda Vernon	Katelyn Berch	Marialaina Rintone	Linda Day
<u>13 SAPs</u>	Christil Mcallister	Kathy Bruner	Martha Obstalecki	Lisa Jay
Allison Oosterhous	Debra Selsavage	Kelly Garland	Melanie Segalla	Najah Danner
<u>11 SAPs</u>	Holly McKay	Kimberly Wilkerson	Sindee Baum	Priscilla Roman
Donna Alexander	Jamie Bleicher	Kristi Hendrick	Summer Vaughan	Berarducci
<u>10 SAPs</u>	Jessica Frizzell	Natalie Sandi	Taisha Herr	Rhonda Wentzell
Baley Sargent	Katherine Evangelou	Veronica Stewart	Taylor Behnke	Robin Willey
Kiana Luke	Kristine Rebar	<u>2 SAPs</u>	Tyler Adkins	Shery Skeen
<u>8 SAPs</u>	Madeleine Lauer	Amy Powers	Yvette Granados	Stephanie McGinnis
Cheyenne Smith	Melissa Hicking	Angela Viray	<u>1 SAP</u>	Tammy Burk
Jamie Johnson	Nicole Miller	Ashley Wilson	Ashley Kramer	Victoria Huntley
Jessica Williams	Oanh Dang	Brian Nelson	Ashley Williamson	
Lauren Reichenbach	Sarah Hamilton	Carol Casstevens	Barbara Ufer	
<u>5 SAPs</u>	Tracie Blocker	Christine Obermeyer	Brandi Smith	
Ashley Guillermo	<u>3 SAPs</u>	Darby Valle	Brett Schatzle	
Ashly Richter	Adam Marcus	Erin Claybrook	Camille Montgomery	
Cassi Knight	Alisa Church	Jessica Vanatta	Christine Angel	
Geneva Wildcat	Corree Brooks	Kathleen Steadman	Daniella Savidge	
Jennifer Hall	Daisy Tamez	Katie Jaraczewski	Holly Reese	
Valerie Melkus	Erica Jenkins	Kirstie Anderson	Jamie Dorgan	
	Holly Granquist	Kristen Stegeman	Jessica Rhykus	
	Jessica Bustos	Lexi Klasing	Julie Domanico	

## What's Happening in the Court Reporting World?

### May Events



5/4 SEEDS for Growth 12 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. CDT

Online webinar hosted by CCR's Lynette Eggers

5/4 Meet the Court Reporting Community 6 p.m. CDT

CCR is holding an online event where you can hear from four reporters working in the industry.

5/10 Onsite Open House 6 p.m. CDT

We're holding an open house at our onsite location at CCR!

5/17 Meet the Voice Community 7 p.m. CDT

CCR is holding an online event where you can hear from two voice captioners currently working in the industry.

5/25 Veterans History Project 11 a.m. CDT

NCRF and NCRA have partnered with the United States Library of Congress in an effort to protect and preserve the rich and extensive history of American wartime Veterans. Students and instructors from CCR will be hosting a Veterans History Project Day at the Maria Reiner Center in Hobart, Indiana.

### June Events

6/5 Keeping our Profession Alive

Court Reporting Seminars: Texas, and Louisiana.

6/13-15 Iowa Court Reporters Association Annual Convention 2016

Des Moines, IA. Contact Allison Wise at info.iacra.org.

6/17-19 Florida Court Reporters Association Annual Convention 2016

Clearwater Beach, FL. Contact Julie Dross at jdross@kmgnet.com

6/25 ProCAT Seminar

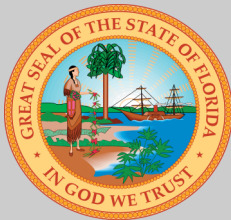
Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association, Los Angeles, CA. Contact Michele Hyson at michele.hyson@laccra.org.



Position: **Coulter Reporting, LLC**,  
Freelance Reporter

Location: Louisville,  
Kentucky

We are a busy mid-sized firm with loyal clientele and seasoned reporters. We have openings for freelancers, preferably with 1-2 years' experience. An RPR is helpful but not required.



Position: Official Court Reporter, **Twelfth Judicial Circuit**

Location: Sarasota, FL

Salary: \$4,370.40 per month / \$52,444.80 per year

If you would like more information about any of these positions, please contact

[Natalie.Kijurna@ccr.edu](mailto:Natalie.Kijurna@ccr.edu)

## Student Corner: Interview with Voice Captioner

Name: **Bettye Keyes**

Currently resides in: Annapolis, Maryland

Position: Official Court Reporter, State of Maryland

Certifications: CCR, CSR, CVR-M, RVR



Why did you decide to become a voice writer?

Court reporting seemed to be way more interesting and meaningful work than what I had been doing at the time, and it was most appealing due to better flexibility in hours and the enticingly higher pay, but what drew me to voice writing specifically was the coolness of being on the cutting edge of technology with speech-recognition-based realtime reporting. Not only would I have a well-paying career, but it was more unique than anything else I could have pursued.

What are you most proud of in your career?

I obtained my national *Realtime Verbatim Reporter* certification on the first try, after only 10 months of working in the field as a newly-certified court reporter at the state level.

What advice/tips would you offer for any students or new reporters?

Don't limit the types of jobs you're willing to take in the beginning. Make yourself available, open up your skill range, and establish a history of dependability while cultivating your professional relationships. Once you have a proven track record, long-term success is yours.

What do you love most about your career?

I love having a full-time job that doesn't require me to work in an office five days a week.

Have you accomplished something unrelated to your career that you'd like to relate?

Those instances that I've been generous to friends and even strangers who were in great need, providing the help they needed to regain what was lost, what I did during those makes me feel accomplished.

**College of Court Reporting**

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**the\_college\_of\_court\_reporting**

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

*Sunday*

*Monday*


*Tuesday*

*Wednesday*

*Thursday*

*Friday*

*Saturday*

1	2 180/200 Multivoice	3 National Teachers Day <b>Sumaya Hussein</b>	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day 	9 <b>Nicole Wicks</b> 140/160 Multivoice	10 <b>Tami Taylor</b> <b>Kate Hargis</b>	11	12 Finals Prep <b>Jessica Frizzell</b> <b>Madeleine Lauer</b> Faculty Meeting	13 <b>Corree Brooks</b> Finals Prep	14 <b>Lan Le</b>
15	16 <b>Toya Gabeletto</b> <b>Amy Powers</b> <b>Jalene Hutseal</b> Finals Prep	17 Finals Prep	18	19 FINALS/ D&E	20 FINALS	21
22	23 <b>Lisa Jay</b> <b>Melanie Segalla</b> FINALS/ D&E	24 <b>Kathleen Stempeck</b> <b>Decaree Jacobson</b> <b>Claudia Meyers</b> FINALS	25 <b>Jamielyn Bleicher</b> SAPs close 11:59 p.m.	26	27 <b>Heather Windle</b> Coursesites/ Communicate close 11:59 p.m.	28 <b>Kimberly Wilkerson</b>
29	30 Memorial Day	31	Semester Break			