

Congratulations Students of the Month!

Michelle Basili, Horacio Mendoza Martinez, Samantha Castillo, and Joshua Veno



OCTOBER—Michelle is a single mom who works hard to put her family first. She is doing so by attending Empire so that she can find a more secure job to help support them. You can see Michelle providing advice, a listening ear, an anecdotal joke, and a shoulder to cry on to many of her fellow students. She is always smiling and positive, and she approaches each new class or skill with excitement. Michelle serves as a Team Captain in clinical class and volunteers at events.



NOVEMBER—Horacio has earned his Linux+ and Linux Professional Institute Certification Level 1, as well as A+, Net+ and Windows 7 certifications. Horacio is focused on getting certified and is willing to share that experience with other students, giving them confidence that they too can earn their certifications. As a student mentor, Horacio is willing to help others. He is professional and already working in the IT field.



DECEMBER—Samantha is positive and always prepared. She exhibits qualities of professionalism in keeping with her chosen profession. She is pleasant, friendly and committed to her personal success. Samantha is a leader in the classroom, always volunteering an answer and often providing input to further a classroom discussion.

JANUARY—Josh's diligent work habits and friendly manner make him a role model for his classmates. He shares his accounting knowledge with other students who need help and with the wider community as a VITA volunteer. Josh has earned the respect of his peers and his teachers by approaching every challenge with optimism and looking for solutions.



WE GOT THE JOB!

Accounting

Sarah August	Accounting Clerk	Vinquiry
Danielle Butterworth	Bookkeeper	Cline Cellars
Chris Calder	Credit Clerk	Soligent
Victoria Reyes	Bookkeeper Assistant	Year-End Results
Manjit Singh	Store Manager	R and B Market
Susan Suiter	Payroll Associate	Premier Business Services
Marie Vanderbeek	Bookkeeper	Cline Cellars

Business

Shelley Carver	Office Support Assistant	Employer Administrative Services
Ta'Yauna Freeman	Front Office Assistant	Family Optometry
Manuel Laines	Front Desk Assistant	Redwood Baseball Institute
Shay Prasad	Concierge	Villa Capri
Angela Rosas	Office Assistant	Trione Vineyards



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The School of Law In Brief

2014 Pro Bono Award Recipients

On November 7th the Sonoma County Bar Association hosted their annual Pro Bono Awards luncheon honoring over 1,000 volunteers in Sonoma County. Empire College was proud to present awards of “Special Recognition” to six exceptional people for volunteering their time in service to the community during the year.



- Raquel Bailey was recognized by Professor Adam Brown for taking on difficult challenges for the Disability Law Clinic and winning her case before an Administrative Law Judge.
- This past year, Professor Lauren Gardner was fortunate to recognize two individuals who supported the Elder Law Clinic. Zachary Carroll, Esq. volunteers his time and expertise at the Clinic nearly every Thursday and has since graduating from Empire Law School in 2008. Susan Cerovski participated in the clinic as an exceptional student, while also volunteering at the Marin County Public Guardian Conservatorship program.
- Through the newest clinic at Legal Aid of Sonoma County, Amy Woodruff got a disabled tenant reasonable accommodation and prevented him from losing his housing.
- Darren Dalby has volunteered over 100 hours in the Small Claims Clinic, which has served over 19,000 community members since 2005. He was recognized with his first Pro Bono award in 2013 for his above-and-beyond work in the Elder Law Clinic.
- Ede Figueroa volunteered as a translator in the Small Claims Clinic for almost two years while she pursued her paralegal degree.

Fall Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to those who were recognized for legal scholarship at the annual Awards Ceremony and Pizza Party in November and to all who are progressing through their legal studies.

Trayce Beards	Contracts, Criminal Law, Torts
Chandra Caffery	Community Property
Alicia Durand	Moot Court – Top Oralist
Jacob Faircloth	Community Property, Criminal Procedure
Joel Fleck	Evidence
Claudia Heyde	Moot Court – Top Oralist
Dana Morelini	Constitutional Law
Dennis O’Reilly	Moot Court – Top Brief
David Sears	Professional Responsibility
Tera Udall	Professional Responsibility
Tracy Talbert-Low	Wills & Trusts
Tera Udall	Moot Court – Top Brief, Wills & Trusts
Caitlin van Loben Sels	Contracts, Torts
Heather Wise	Community Property, Moot Court – Best Brief, Wills & Trusts
Jesse Wurtzel	Civil Procedure, Evidence, Real Property

Competition Teams Selected

ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS – Congratulations to fourth-year students Jean Clifford and Dana Morelini. They have been selected to represent Empire College School of Law in the 16th Annual State Bar of California Student Environmental Negotiations Competition. This year’s team competes in San Francisco at Golden Gate University on Friday, March 13, 2015. The team will receive the case problem soon and Professor Tina Wallis will coach them as they prepare for this statewide competition. Go Empire Law!



Paralegal Department News

Sonoma County Family Justice Center

The student members of Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) have had a very busy and exciting fall. In September, ELSA members and former ELSA board members were pleased to present the Sonoma County Family Justice Center with a check which brings the combined amount contributed to SCFJC from ELSA to \$1,000. After presenting the check the members were given a tour of the center, getting a first-hand look at the dynamics of their facility.

Tour of the California First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco

In December, the ELSA board president, Megan Linsenmeyer, organized a tour of the California First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Sixteen paralegal and law students attended, along with paralegal program director Monica Lehre and law professor Heather Bussing. This included a chance to sit in on oral arguments.

One of the cases before the court that day was Bertoli v. City of Sebastopol, a case which originated in Sonoma Superior Court. Steven Mitchell of Geary, Shea, O'Donnell, Grattan & Mitchell was one of the attorneys arguing the case in front of the justices. The issue on appeal had to do with a Public Records Act request and petition filed by plaintiff's counsel, David Rouda, which resulted in Judge Tansil not only denying the request, but finding it to be frivolous and sanctioning Mr. Rouda approximately \$48,000. If upheld, it would be the first reported decision on a finding of a frivolous Public Records Act request. The students read all of the briefs on the case before the arguments, so they could follow what was happening in front of them. Several Amicus Curiae briefs were submitted. It will be interesting to see if the court's decision is published.

After oral arguments, the students were able to meet with Presiding Justice Ignacio Ruvolo in the justices' conference room. They asked him questions about his experiences as a partner in a large law firm and his transition to becoming a judge. He also talked about what he would expect to see from this upcoming generation of lawyers and paralegals.

ELSA hopes to make this trip a yearly tradition. This year they plan to sit in on oral arguments in front of the California Supreme Court.

CLA/CP Exam

Empire is proctoring NALA's CLA/CP (Certified Legal Assistant/Certified Paralegal) exam in January. Legal department head Monica Lehre, ACP and legal instructor Laura Krieg are proctoring the exam. All proctoring fees from this exam are being donated by the proctors and will go to a discretionary fund for the legal department to spend on our student association, Empire Legal Student Association.

New Day Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) Board

Congratulations to the newly elected Day ELSA board: Rebecca Heath, Jeanette Tidd, Remy Berger, and Megan Linsenmeyer (photo right). A huge thank you to the former Day ELSA board for the wonderful work you did to support ELSA and its mission.

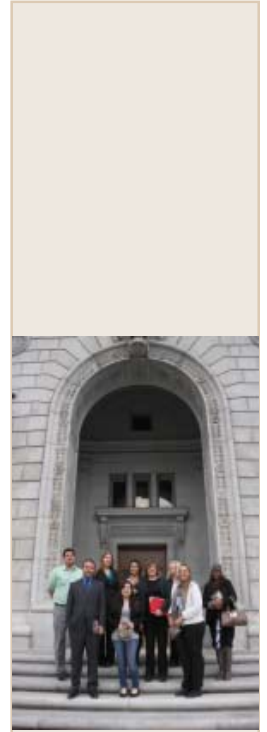
Guest Speakers and Field Trips

In January, law office administrator for O'Brien, Watters, & Davis, Ceanne Herndon, was a guest speaker in the Law Office Management class. She spoke about her experience hiring legal staff and her work as Director at Large for the Golden Gate Chapter of the ALA (Association of Legal Administrators).

Paralegal and Law Office Administration students in the Discovery class went to Redwood Reporting and held a mock deposition in one of their beautiful conference rooms (photo right). A court reporter, Rene Markarian, took down every word and transcribed the deposition for the students to use in class to write deposition summaries. It was a great opportunity for the students, and we are grateful to Rene and Redwood Reporting for their support of our legal students.

Award to Legal Instructor Grace De La Torre

Evening legal instructor Grace De La Torre was asked to come to the podium at the Presiding Judge's Luncheon on Tuesday, January 20, where she was presented an award for her service on the Sonoma County Bar Association



Paralegal and law students toured the First District Court of Appeals.



Information Technology Department News

IT Grad Shares Experience and Insight

Empire graduate Steve Little came to speak to IT students on November 18, 2014. Steve graduated last year and in his final module of school was placed at TeamLogic IT for his internship. Upon completion, he was offered a job at TeamLogic as an IT technician. Steve has come a long way since he started at Empire. He was in the Marine Corps for a number of years and worked many dead-end jobs before he started at Empire. He had no computer experience when starting the program, and he worked very hard to get where he is today.

Steve gave many words of advice to students. One of the most important things he said to do was “smile.” A positive attitude is what people want to see and be around, especially in IT. The better attitude you have, the more possibilities there will be. Soft skills are so important, especially human relations. Sharilynn Koch helped him quite a bit after class and gave him the book *How To Win Friends and Influence People in the Digital Age* by Dale Carnegie. Steve recommended that everyone read this book as it has been very influential and “changed his life.” Steve also said that it was really important to build a network of people you know, get to know your fellow classmates, and participate in the IT Club. One of the people in your network might just be able to get you a job, as one of Steve’s former classmates helped him at TeamLogic. And last, but not least, Google is your friend, many problems are simple and easy to overlook; the answer is always out there and there is a good chance someone else ran into the same problem you are having.

Steve recently moved to Yuba City to be with his family and has started his own consulting firm.

IT Club Holds LAN Party

On Thursday, November 20, 2014, the IT students held a LAN party in Room 202. The game was “Urban Terror” in a tournament format with the proceeds going to Autism Speaks. The action was fast and furious....buttons were clicked, people were “pwned” and egos were crushed. And, when the smoke cleared, only one IT gamer geek was still standing...Anthony Nuno (top right). Anthony won a \$10 Amazon gift card and the title of “Empire College Gaming Champion”. Over \$85 was raised for autism awareness. Great job IT Club!

Certification Update

Congratulations to the IT students and graduates who passed certification exams during September-December 2014:



Core

Travis De Blicke
Tyler LeBrun
Derrick Machado
Michael Mayne
Courtney Sullivan
George Turner

Michael Mayne
Anthony Nuno
Richard Powell
Michael Seitel
George Turner



Ryan Clair



Horacio Mendoza, Installing/
Configuring Windows Server
2012



Practical/OS

Cyndey Ancic
Travis De Blicke
Tyler LeBrun
Derrick Machado



Brandon Bustillos, CCNA



Paralegal (continued)

Board of Directors as the paralegal liaison for the Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals.

Legal Dept. Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee for Empire’s Legal Department met in October. Members of the committee are: Trudy McQuiddy, paralegal for Senneff, Freeman, & Bluestone; Ceanne Herndon, Law Office Administrator for O’Brien, Watters, & Davis; Pamela Kruse, Law Office Administrator for Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz; Claire Spector, JD, CDF, President & CEO Advanced Collaborative Team Solutions, Inc.; and Martin McOmber, Esq., McOmber Law. The Legal Department is working to implement advice from the committee and we appreciate their time and commitment to furthering our student’s education by ensuring that the curricula is relevant to the modern law office. ▲

Accounting Department News

IMA Meetings and Events

The IMA student chapter has held a variety of events during the past few months including several fundraisers and “Meet and Greets” to welcome new students. They have attended seminars on “Internal Controls” and “Investment Behavior” presented by the Institute of Management Accountants parent chapter.

Accounting Students Attain Industry Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved certification during September-December 2014:

- Rachel Bradish – Payroll
- Alexis Cooper – Bookkeeping
- Lila Lawson – Excel
- Kathryn Olenberger – Bookkeeping and Payroll
- Morwenna Seelau – Bookkeeping
- Amy Smith – Bookkeeping, Payroll and QuickBooks
- Joshua Veno – Bookkeeping, Excel and Payroll

Empire Hosts Volunteer Income Tax Clinic for Sixth Year

For the sixth consecutive year, Empire College accounting students are assisting United Way of the Wine Country in delivering free income tax services to low to moderate income families and individuals. In order to participate in this unique, hands-on learning opportunity, each student has become IRS certified in tax preparation.

Suzanne Yeomans, Income Program Officer for United Way, appreciates the dedication and enthusiasm of the Empire volunteers. “Empire College students provide incredible support of the VITA Program through the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Coalition,” says Suzanne. “Last year Empire College students prepared 495 tax returns, returning \$853,101 in refunds to our local communities. Empire College’s participation is truly an asset to this program.”

Empire students hosted and assisted with the Sonoma County Kick-Off Event on Saturday, January 24, preparing tax returns for clients. This year’s VITA program will offer additional benefits and financial services at select sites throughout the County, including the Empire site, made possible through the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Coalition and Health Action. Coordinated by the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, Health Action is a partnership of community organizations, businesses and agencies working in concert to make Sonoma County the healthiest county in California.

“Working at the VITA clinic is very rewarding; it’s a great experience being able to give back to the community,” says Kathryn Olenberger, president of Empire’s student chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants and a volunteer tax preparer.

Beginning February 3 through April 14, tax preparation services will be offered at the Empire College site on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, as well as Friday and Saturday mornings. Those whose 2014 household income was less than \$53,000 are eligible for the free service.

Call 2-1-1 to make an appointment or visit www.unitedwaywinecountry.org for more information. ▲



Above: Rachel Bradish received an appreciation certificate for her volunteer efforts as Publicity Director for the IMA Student Chapter.



Left: Students are recognized for their fundraising efforts.



Far left: Suzanne Yeomans of United Way presenting information on the importance of VITA volunteering to the members of the IMA student chapter at their general meeting.

Left: Part of the 2015 VITA Team: L-R Sarah Cookman, Colette Keeney, Kathryn Olenberger, Neeru Setia, Mary Jose, Amy Smith, Tiffany Inman.

Medical Department News

Making a Difference: Skills Practice for a Healthier Community

Empire College partnered with Sonoma County Public Health to provide Flu Vaccines to our community on two “Flu Shot Saturdays” in November and December at the Empire College campus. Following the on-campus clinics, students took it on the road, providing free vaccination services at two homeless shelters, Sam Jones USAR Center and the Homeless Service Center. In addition, Sonoma County’s Immunization Coordinator contacted Empire’s Medical Department to staff a flu vaccination clinic held at Santa Rosa Junior College.

“These successful clinics would not have been possible without all of the fantastic volunteers. We are so proud of our students’ efforts and the difference they are making in our community,” says Shannon Tinsley, Medical Department Head. “Their smiles and caring nature were a gift to each life they touched.” ▲



Clockwise from top right: Samantha Rodriguez-Lopez made sure her entire family got their flu shots.

The November volunteer group, ready to get started.

Maintenance Supervisor Ken Castor looks like he is having fun getting his flu shot from Anna Fuentes.

Samantha Rodriguez-Lopez, Lynette Bogue and Aimee App at the Sam Jones USAR Center.

Empire’s volunteer team was “outstanding” according to Kit at SRJC.

Nadya Cabrera administers the nasal mist to her wee patient.

Tiffany Vadon vaccinates instructor Deb Barrett. Looks like fun?

Empire College Wins Third White House Award

For the third straight year, Empire College was named to President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction in December 2014. The honor roll program annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

Empire first applied for the annual recognition in 2012 and was among 18 California colleges, including Stanford University, recognized "with distinction." In 2013, 810 colleges applied and 690 were named to various categories of the honor roll. That year, Empire College was among 19 finalists for the top award.

"We are pleased to be recognized among 16 California colleges in the 'with distinction' category again this year," stated Roy Hurd, president of Empire College. "It is a tribute to our faculty and staff's commitment to fostering service-learning and volunteerism among our students who provide a variety of free services each year to local residents and nonprofit agencies."

In addition to free assistance ranging from health screenings to income tax preparation to legal advice, Empire's community outreach program involves raising thousands of dollars and donating facility space each year to local nonprofits.

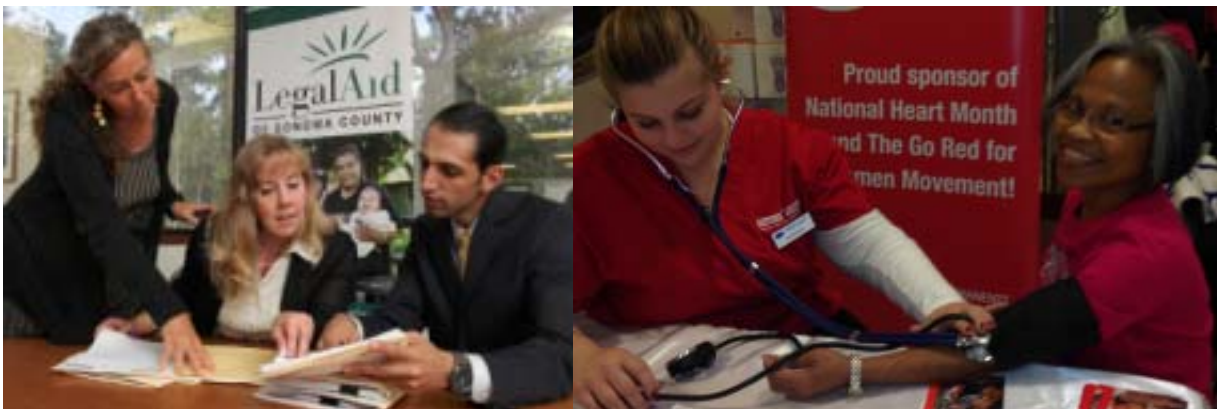
Examples of Empire's accomplishments during 2014 include:

- \$853,101 tax refund for 495 low-income taxpayers assisted by Empire College advanced accounting students at the on-campus tax clinic for United Way's Earn It! Keep It! Save It! program. Refunds included earned income tax credits, child tax credits, education credits, and elderly credits.
- \$191,250 equivalent value of Empire third- and fourth-year Juris Doctor law student and paralegal intern staffing hours donated pro bono to the legal research and writing divisions of both the Sonoma County District Attorney and Public Defender's offices, freeing over-scheduled deputies for court duty in lieu of research and motion writing.
- \$20,000 equivalent value of donated staff attorney services to Legal Aid of Sonoma County.
- \$4,706 raised by Empire's hospitality students for Worth Our Weight.
- \$3,000 equivalent value of Empire paralegal intern staffing hours donated pro bono to Advanced Collaborative Team Solutions and the Sonoma County Small Claims Advisory
- \$2,470 raised by Empire's hospitality students for the Children's Village of Sonoma County
- 1,750 people served by Empire law students through pro bono staffing and management of the Sonoma County Small Claims Advisory (located on campus since December 2005).
- \$800 raised for 2014 Walk Now for Autism Speaks by Empire's information technology students.
- 700 free flu vaccinations, blood pressure and/or glucose screenings administered by medical assisting students at employee health fairs and the Empire Flu Shot Clinic (a Sonoma County Flu Task Force site).
- \$405 donated to the Sonoma County Family Justice Center and Crossing Jordan by Empire's paralegal students.

Adds President Hurd, "As we begin our 54th year, we at Empire College proudly reaffirm our commitment as a community resource and educational asset. We express our profound appreciation to our founder, Henry Trione, for modeling these values for the benefit of the North Bay." ▲



**With Distinction
2012-2014**



Volunteer and pro bono work in 2014 included donated staff attorney services to Legal Aid of Sonoma County and volunteer services for the American Heart Association.

News from the Business Administration Department

The entrepreneurship class was given a VIP tour of Redwood Credit Union on November 24. Olivia Olmsted, whose father Jim Olmsted (left) has served on the board of directors since 1993, arranged the tour with Samantha Paull, the Events and Meetings Manager for RCU. The students were able to tour all of the departments, including the board room, and receive information on the philosophy and mission by which all decisions are made. Samantha shared information with the students putting into perspective how the education and training they are receiving applies to the day-to-day operations of an organization.



Business Students Attain Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved certification during October-December 2014: Taylor Sepulveda – Outlook and PowerPoint
Octavia Thomas – Word

IAAP Bake Sale Raises Funds for the American Cancer Society

The IAAP held a bake sale during the crafts fair on November 20. The students created hot chocolate reindeer in addition to making baked goods at home. All of the proceeds from the sale were donated to the American Cancer Society to benefit cancer patients as one student has a friend battling brain cancer and another has an aunt undergoing chemotherapy. Thank you to everyone who supported our sale! ▲



Sonoma County Craft Beer Survey – What's in a Name?

The Hospitality Department's case study class is conducting a survey to shed some light on what is in a name. With craft beer names like Hairy Eyeball, Boneshaker, Lost Monarch, Jekyll's Best Bitter, and Pliny the Younger, it seems Sonoma County breweries are using the uniqueness and flexibility that comes with untraditional labels to set themselves apart from the typical crowd.

What the students are trying to find out is the origin or story behind these off-the-wall monikers and what purpose they serve. Is it for marketing? Is it to connect with their consumers? Is it all for the money? What is so important about these very specific names to them, the makers?

Log on to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XHRGDL6> and share your thoughts!



Medical Department News (continued)

Medical Skills Certifications

Congratulations to medical majors who have earned injection, EKG, and/or phlebotomy/urinalysis skills certifications during September-December 2014:

Nell Aquino	Kayla Craft	Stephanie Fuentes	Gabriela Navarro	<i>And congrats to those who are now CCMA certified!</i>
Diana Avalos Solano	Teena Croft	Jessica Garrison	Elaine Oliver	Danielle Acevedo, CCMA-AC
Heather Azarvand	Elia Cruz	Linzy Gingras	Janelle Palm	Brianna Allen, CCMA-AC
Michelle Basili	Tara DeCordova	Sabrina Hernandez	Chrystal Pereira	Anolani Christensen, CCMA-AC
Teresa Beltran	Angelika Delgado	Mida Hubbell	Emily Perez	Monica Guzman, CCMA-AC
E'lise Brown	Jolleen DeLisa	Taylor Johnston	Yazari Perez	Tara Hays, CCMA-AC
Sharmae Bryant	Lindsay Devol	Samantha Madrigal	Analy Rincon	Ashley Moss, CCMA-C
Leidy Carlino	Mayra Diaz	Christine Marlow	Rodriguez	Sara Nerius, CCMA-AC
Jocelyn Casillas	Candy Diener	Diana Martinez	Sandra Sanchez	Juliana Sarmiento, CCMA-AC ▲
Juli Conley	Seth Dorrity	Jessica Martinez	Gia Self	
Jessica Contreras	Yessenia Estrada	Ilse Mercado	Tracie Swint	
Katharine Cortez	Anna Fuentes	Cindy Navarro	Tiffany Vadon	



WE GOT THE JOB! (continued)

Information Technology

Cydney Ancic	Network Operations Lead	MarketLive
Justin Herron	Tech Support	FrontRow
Anderson Mey	IT Assistant	Touch Sonic Solutions
Michael Seitel	IT Help Desk	Redwood Toxicology

Legal

Tina Albrecht	Paralegal	Challoner Law
Kathleen Ambrose	Legal Assistant	Steven Taxman Law
Sara Bigon	Legal Administrator	Campopiano Law
Ana Escobar	Legal Secretary	John Flitner
Edelmira Figueroa	Legal Secretary	Herbert Terreri
Alyssa Gonzales	Legal Secretary	Elissa Urlik
Shonna Gottschlich	Paralegal	Sizemore Law
Melissa Horve	Paralegal	McComber Law
Joanna Huppert	CNR Processor	Brayton Purcell
Marcus McMahon	Legal Administrator	Richard Meechum
Crystal Weinper	Paralegal	England Law

Medical

Kelly Adams	Front Office Medical Assistant-Float	Northern California Medical Associates
Karissa Anderson	Medical Assistant	Dr. James Leoni
Shane Benedict	Data Entry	Health Services Integration
Ed Carrithers	Medical Assistant	Dr. Patrick Devlin
Elizabeth Carter	Medical Assistant	St. Joseph Health/Annadel Medical Group
Megan Crane	Ophthalmic Assistant	North Bay Eye Associates
Lisa Cross	Medical Assistant	Santa Rosa Orthopaedics
Jacob Currie	Administrative Medical Assistant	Dr. Terri Su
Shawnee Curtiss	Medical Assistant Front Office	Synergy Medical Group
Teresa Ericson	Mobile Phlebotomist	Health Exams Inc.
Mayra Espinoza	Back Office Medical Assistant	Alexander Valley Medical Center
Sara Anne Farrell Bearce	Front Office	Neuropsychology Associates
Lyndsay Fletcher	Medical Assistant	Sebastopol Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
Samantha Gentile	Medical Assistant	Redwood Orthopaedic Surgery
Cassandra Green	Medical Receptionist	Santa Rosa Dermatology
Christine Marlow	Front Office Medical Assistant	Dr. Ronald Botelho
Helen Mathias	Front Office Medical Assistant	MedLite Weight Loss
Stephany McHale	Medical Receptionist	Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald, DPM
Stephanie (Holt) McLaughlin	Medical Assistant	West County Health Center
Julia Montiavi	Caregiver	Emeritus Assisted Living
Jennifer Nash	Medical Biller	ProTransport-1
Jessica Ponce	Medical Assistant	Napa Valley Family Medical Group
Sharmila Prasad	Toxicology Tech	Monarch Medical Group
Katherine Rangel	Rep, Phlebotomy Services 1	Quest Diagnostics
Jacklyn Smith	Medical Assistant/PSR	Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation
Kelly Toledo	Medical Assistant	Marin Medical Practice Concepts
Kelsey Tucker	Clinical Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates

In Brief (continued)

MOOT COURT – Further congratulations go to third-year students Joel Fleck, Rich Watson and Jesse Wurtzel for being selected to represent the Law School in the 2015 Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Competition. The team is being coached by Professor Connie Burtnett. This year, teams submit briefs and then compete in oral arguments at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. Oral arguments will be heard on Saturday, April 11 followed by the final round and awards on Sunday, April 12, 2015. We wish the team and their coach the best of luck.

Empire Grads Prove Their Mettle on July California Bar Exam

Congratulations to our Bar Exam passers – Frank Antonini, Robert Blade, Emily Keeran, Lori Molden, Ken Mansfield, Daryl Reese, Irene Flack, and Macci Baldock! Congratulations to Empire's first-time applicants for achieving a 60% pass rate on the July 2014 California Bar Exam. For a bit of perspective on how Empire ranked favorably among other law schools ... USF Law 61%, McGeorge Law 61%, Santa Clara Law 60%, UC Hastings Law 68%, San Francisco Law School 60%, all first-time applicants 61%. Arrangements were made for a swearing-in ceremony on December 10 in the Courtroom adjacent to the Empire College campus.



Law School Graduation

The Law School Class of 2015's graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, 2015. The graduation ceremony will be at the Mary Agatha Furth Center in Windsor. This event will mark the culmination of years of hard work for the Class of 2015, the Law School's 39th graduating class of Juris Doctor degrees and the 2nd graduating class earning their Master of Legal Studies degrees.

Alumni Visit to Bar Survey Class

The law school welcomed back alumni guest speakers on the first night of the California Bar Prep Survey class this spring. Four graduates talked about their experiences and answered questions in an effort to demystify and calm students who will be graduating soon and tackling the rigorous beast of an exam.

Small Claims Advisory Latest Milestone

Empire College's Small Claims Advisory Clinic continues to actively support the community and has served over 19,400 community members since 2005. We thank all law students who support our community.

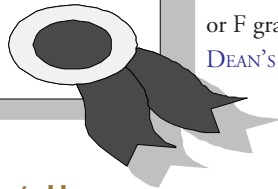
Faculty and Staff Updates

- Professor Kadin Blonski, Empire Law Class of 2006, has returned to lead the Small Claims Advisory Clinic with the assistance of Dan Lanahan.
- Consistent with his responsibilities in administration and admissions, Daniel Lanahan has been promoted to Assistant Dean/Admissions Officer.
- Kim Tucker, JD, MLS, who is the director of the Sonoma County Law Library, has joined Empire Law School as Supervising Law Librarian.
- Dean William A. Robertson, who served as Dean during the past four years and as a faculty member/competition team coach for seven years, retired on December 31, 2014. A search is in progress for the 7th Dean of Empire Law School.
- Professor Edwin Calhoun Shiver, Esq., passed away on September 5, ending his short battle with a rare type of lymphoma. He served with grace and formality at our Swearing-in Ceremonies, at the helm of California Bar preparation courses, and even a short time teaching Remedies when the college needed his support. Rest in peace, Professor Shiver. ▲



Professor Shiver at the June 2014 Swearing-In Ceremony.

Honor Roll



Students listed have achieved President's or Dean's Honors as of January 29.

PRESIDENT'S HONORS: 3.85-4.0 cumulative GPA & no Incomplete or F grades

DEAN'S HONORS: 3.45-3.84 cumulative GPA, no I or F grades

President's Honors

Erica Akers
Adrienne Antone
Neil Karen Aquino
Jennifer Bandt
Suzanne Bellobuon
Dennis Campos
Tina Carnes
Christine Carter
Samantha Castillo
Sarah Cookman
Alexis Cooper
Jeniebel Coto
Maile Daly
Travis De Blicck
Angela Fernandez-Reyes
Marisela Guevara
Rebecca Heath
Emily Hull
Daniel Inthavong
Derrick Machado
Anai Magana Valencia
Lelani Martin
Michael Mayne
Keeley McGowan
Horacio Mendoza Martinez
Isabella Mock
Elaine Oliver
Michelle Patrick
Michael Patterson
Reynaldo Ramirez-Ortiz
Giovanni Renteria-Balistreri
Hanah Reyes
Rebecca Reyes
Alexa Rosemurgy
Karen Ruiz
Tina Russell
Meredith Schuhmacher
Jonathan Scott
Tiffany Stephens
Courtney Sullivan
Jeanette Tidd
Justine Trogdlen
Joshua Veno
Christina Elena Villa

Dean's Honors

Raychel Adams
Maria Bishop
Rachel Bradish
Craig Brior
Nadya Cabrera
Samantha Calderon
Kayla Craft
Teena Croft
Latoya Davis
Suzanna Franklin
Stefanie Garcia Esquibel
Anel Guzman
Jillian Hipschman
Sydney Humphrey
Stacey Huron
Colette Keeney
Heather Kilmurray
Gina Lagomarsino
German Lango-Atilano
Ilse Mercado
Grace Miranda-Leon
Jennifer O'Keefe
Kathryn Olenberger
Juan Carlos Ordaz Juarez
Brittnee Perrine
Catherine Peters
Julia Renninger
Samantha Rodriguez-Lopez
Roselia Rojas-Lopez
Taylor Sepulveda
Amy Smith
Vanessa Spaeth
Christopher Sutton
John Tallent
Jose Tolentino
Blanca Torres
Darian Waterman
Jacqueline Young

Meet Your Medical Mentors

CANDY DIENER is a certified phlebotomist, completing Empire's phlebotomy technician course in 2011 and returning in 2013 to attain her associate degree. "The best way to be successful at school is to stay focused on your work and maintain a good support system," advises Candy. "A great way to study is to get into a study group or find someone who wants to go over the material with you, after school and on the weekends. That really helped me become successful through my coursework."



ELAINE OLIVER previously worked at home so that she could be there for her children as they grew up. Now that they are becoming older and more independent, she felt that it was a great time to "get back out there." She says choosing Empire was an easy decision. "The schedule of classes made it easy for me to work, raise my kids, and go to school in the shortest amount of time. I have also found that Empire's volunteer opportunities and teachers are making my learning much more fulfilling and make me feel more prepared to enter the medical assisting career."

JACQUELINE YOUNG was enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College prior to coming to Empire College. "My success there really fluctuated and I was never really sure of what I



wanted as far as a career goes," says Jackie. "Thus far, having no prior knowledge of the medical field, my education at Empire College has been very rewarding and fulfilling. The teachers are extremely helpful, supportive, and most importantly, they want you to succeed. You'll find yourself immersed into your program very quickly, adapting to new fun and exciting teaching methods rapidly."

Semi-annual graduation a *Celebration of Success*

Semiannual Commencement Exercises were held for graduates of the Business School at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on Monday evening, January 19, 2015.

Steve Falk (top left), CEO of Sonoma Media Investments (aka The Press Democrat and several other local publications) delivered the commencement address. Melissa Horve (below far right), who graduated from the Specialized Associate Degree - Paralegal program, spoke on behalf of the graduating class, and accounting instructor Robert Viera (bottom left) offered remarks from the Empire College faculty.

Five students were presented awards from Empire College, and another ten graduates received awards from publishers and professional organizations. Three of the graduates (below right) wore purple sashes indicating that they are AAFPE LEX Paralegal Honor Society students: Edelmira Figueroa, Crystal Weinper, and Melissa Horve. AAFPE stands for the American Association for Paralegal Education. The Empire Chapter of LEX (Lambda Epsilon Chi) Honor Society has found that these students meet the rigorous academic standards required for induction. In February, the Empire Legal Student Association will hold a ceremony inducting our honor students into LEX. ▲



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