

# The Empire Writes Back

Volume 15, Issue 2, Summer 2015

## Congratulations Students of the Month!

**Justine Trogden, Kathryn Olenberger, Jacqueline Young, Amy Smith, and Erin Bozzo**



**FEBRUARY**—Justine has been an active member of the Evening ELSA (Empire Legal Student Association), serving as secretary. She completed her internship at the District Attorney’s Office in their Victim’s Advocacy Department, helping with legal paperwork and attending hearings.



**MARCH**—Kathryn is a dedicated accounting student, always asking questions for clarification when she is confused. She has an optimistic attitude, is enthusiastic, and meticulous. She has served as president of the IMA student chapter, a VITA volunteer, and a mentor to new students.



**APRIL**—Jackie is both a Student Mentor and Student Tutor, and she launched an idea for bulletin board topics associated with medical issues that are interesting and informative. Jackie excels in everything she does and has been volunteering since her second module of school, which she continues to do.

**MAY**—Amy is always positive, helpful, and friendly to her peers and often acts as a tutor for her classes. She is prepared and asks questions when in doubt. Aimee has achieved certifications in bookkeeping, payroll, QuickBooks, and VITA.



**JUNE**—Erin is secretary of the Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) and actively participates in fundraising events. She is intelligent and direct, combined with great empathy. Erin is a natural mentor and extends a welcoming hand to her peers. ▲



## WE GOT THE JOB!

### Accounting

Rachel Bradish	Bookkeeper	Bergin University of Canine Studies
Amanda Cimino	Bookkeeping/Admin.	Wright Engineered Plastics, Inc.
Molly Dailey	Bookkeeper Assistant	On The Mark Digital
Carmen Morales Guzman	Account Clerk	County of Sonoma – ACTC
Nickoline Stevens	Accounts Receivable	Seguin Moreau
Joshua Veno	Project/Expansion Manager	Community Market

### Business

Dawn Hollingsworth	Customer Service Rep.	Perfect Timing Personnel Services
Heather Kilmurray	Office Admin	NovaVine
Alvaro Martinez	Warehouse Administrator	Bucher Vaslin
Stephanie Norman	Office Assistant	Hogan Land Services
Taylor Sepulveda	Administrative Assistant	Mead Clark Lumber
Mary Sullivan	Sales Administrator	Smothers Volvo Dealership
Diana Tapia-Garcia	Receptionist	RG Fine Furnishings



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# The School of Law In Brief

## **Congratulations Empire Class of 2015!**

May 31 marked the culmination of years of hard work for the Class of 2015 and a beautiful graduation held at the Mary Agatha Furth Center. This was Empire College School of Law's 39<sup>th</sup> graduating class of Juris Doctors and the second graduating class earning the Master of Legal Studies degree. The graduates were recognized and applauded by family, friends and faculty. Valedictorian Heather Wise represented her classmates with heartfelt memories and eloquence.



Faculty speaker Judge Brad DeMeo and commencement speaker Rob Jackson evoked emotions in the graduates and audience members as he commended them proudly and encouraged them to Stand.

## **J. Michael Mullins Takes the Helm as Seventh Dean of Empire Law School**

J. Michael Mullins was appointed Dean of Empire College School of Law effective March 1, 2015. As the seventh Dean in the history of Empire Law School, he succeeds William A. Robertson, who served as dean since 2011.

Well known as the Sonoma County District Attorney from 1994-2002 and with more than 38 years as a prosecutor, Mr. Mullins also has a place in Empire Law School's history. He was involved during the formation of the Law School in 1973 and was selected to be Associate Dean to the school's first dean, Hon. Lawrence G. Antolini. Mr. Mullins served on the faculty and was an instructor of Empire Law School's first graduating class, whose members became Superior Court Judges, prosecutors and public defenders, and prominent members of the Sonoma County Bar.

In addition to Empire College School of Law, Mr. Mullins has been an instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College and a lecturer for the California District Attorney's Association. For the past three years, he has been involved in pro bono work with Legal Aid of Sonoma County and Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa's immigration project.

Mr. Mullins earned his Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Arts in History from University of California at Los Angeles and served as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army, Military Police.

## **The "Perfect Ten"**

On January 5, 2015, Grant Barrett was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge for Calaveras County. This marks the tenth Empire College School of Law alumnus to become a member of the California judiciary.

*Hon. Shelly Averill, Sonoma County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1996*

*Hon. Raima H. Ballinger, Sonoma County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1978*

*Hon. Grant Barrett, Calaveras County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1995*

*Hon. Carla F. Bonilla (Ret.), Sonoma County Superior Court Commissioner, Class of 1982*

*Hon. Ron W. Brown (Ret.), Mendocino County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1978*

*Hon. Jeanne M. Buckley (Ret.), Sonoma County Superior Court Commissioner, Class of 1979*

*Hon. Thomas S. Burr (Ret.), Juvenile Court Referee, Merced Superior Court, Class of 1980*

*Hon. Lawrence Ornell, Sonoma County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1991*

*Hon. Francisca P. Tischer, Napa County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1980*

*Hon. Michele Verderosa, Lassen County Superior Court Judge, Class of 1996*

## **Professor Gardner Recognized for Excellence in Education**

Empire College School of Law has nominated Professor Lauren Gardner for the 2015 Excellence in Education Award as an outstanding educator in the post-graduate category. Professor Gardner has been a faculty member at Empire College School of Law since 2011, teaching and supervising the Elder Law Clinic.



*Prof. Lauren Gardner*



*J. Michael Mullins*



*Hon. Grant Barrett*



# Paralegal Department News

## Guest Speakers and Field Trips

Attorney Charlie Applegate recently spoke to Business Law students about the interesting cases he has had as a criminal defense attorney.

Jennifer Sedna, from the Career Placement Department, spoke to the Law Office Management class about LinkedIn and other networking websites.

In May, Legal Writing students toured the Sonoma County Law Library. The tour guide was our own Empire Law School librarian Kim Tucker, who is also the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Law Library.

The Discovery I class participated in a mock deposition in a conference room at Redwood Reporting. Certified court reporter Lori Lafranchi took down every word as our students asked questions of their deponent. Thank you Lori and Redwood Reporting for giving our legal students a chance to see what it's like to depose a witness.

## REAP Holds Legal Writing Workshop at Empire

The Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals held the first in a series of three workshops on legal writing at Empire. The presenters were Legal Department Head Monica Lehre and legal instructor Laura Rosenthal. Thank you Empire Legal Student Association for providing scholarships so that day and evening legal students could attend.

## Certified Paralegal Exam

The May Certified Paralegal exam was proctored at Empire College by two legal instructors, Monica Lehre, ACP, and Laura Krieg, CP. The exam is an arduous two-day, multi-section substantive and procedural law test given by the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). Recent evening paralegal graduate Jarrette Ascher took time out from her busy new paralegal career at the law firm of Kwansneski & Davis to study and take the exam. We wish her success!

## Community Service and Fundraisers

Legal student Andrea Ruiz is working as an English/Spanish interpreter for the Law School's Small Claims Clinic.

ELSA held a bake sale and raised money to fund scholarships for its members to attend special events and seminars where they can network and learn more about the local legal community.

Evening ELSA continued its fundraising tradition of making flower leis available for purchase before and at the July graduation.

## Paralegal Success Stories

### Nancy Clark, Paralegal, Galanti & Copenhaver, Inc.

"While I was a student in the paralegal program at Empire College, my Legal Department Head arranged an internship for me. The internship primarily consisted of non-profit work, and I felt as though I needed more paralegal experience. My Department Head notified me that Galanti & Copenhaver, Inc was interested in an Empire College Paralegal Intern with the possibility of future employment, and I jumped at the opportunity to learn more. Galanti & Copenhaver, Inc. primarily practices Estate Planning and Trust Administration which was not an area of law that I had intended to practice. However, after completing my internship I found that I really enjoyed practicing in the area of Estate Planning. That is the beauty of internships; you never know what you might learn!

"I had been working as a cashier/manager at Molsberry's Market for a total of 12 years prior to making the decision to change my career. Having graduated from Sonoma State University with a degree in Sociology, I made the decision to attend Empire College because at Empire College your books are ready for you, your class schedule is decided for you, and the class size is small (12 vs. 40-50). Walking across the Graduation stage already employed with a full-time job was very gratifying.

"My advice to students is: network and get involved in ELSA! I was active in ELSA (Empire Legal Student Association) while a student and am currently the vice president of REAP (Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals). The effort you put in to your studies will reflect who you will be as an employee."

### Sarah Helstrom, Marcus McMahon & Mariela Valdivia, Paralegals, Law Office of Richard J. Meechan

The Law Office of Richard J. Meechan specializes in worker's compensation and civil litigation. Mr. Meechan is a 1987 graduate of Empire College School of Law. The firm's other attorneys also have Empire College roots – Benjamin Karpilow is an Empire Law School graduate, and Laura Rosenthal is an adjunct professor at Empire Law School and an instructor in Empire's paralegal program.



*Congratulations to Legal Department Head Monica Lehre, who obtained her Master's in Legal Studies degree from Empire Law School.*



# Information Technology Department News

## IT Graduate Success Story – Empire Grad Hiring Empire Grads

Scott Schulze, a 2001 graduate of Empire College, is the owner of Fusion Technology Solutions, an I.T. support/managed service provider and cloud services integrator that is rated one of the fastest-growing cloud service providers in the western region by Ingram Micro. During the past year, he has hired three Empire graduates (L-R in photo):



Christopher Sutton, Kevin Rudy, and Michael Patterson, all graduates of the Specialized Associate Degree - Information Technology program.

SCOTT: “The reason I went to Empire College was to get more technical training. After finishing Empire, I got laid off from my employer. That’s when I decided to start my own business. I started doing a lot of work in the mortgage industry and ERP project management for automotive aftermarket companies. After traveling quite a lot, I decided to settle down in Sonoma County and work on building the business. Mortgage had been lucrative, but it evaporated in 2007. That is why Fusion Technology is not industry-specific, and with the advent of the Cloud we have customers everywhere.

“Once you start to hire, you look for a team. Beyond the technical acumen, customer service is the #1 skill I look for. A customer will generally forgive the fact that you did not fix their problem the first time if they know you care about their situation and are genuinely trying to help them. Help Desk Technicians need to sound happy and be empathetic. I consider their work history and how well they will mesh with the team.

“I get a lot of positive feedback about our team. Three of them are Empire College graduates, and I can attest that Empire’s I.T. curriculum is a higher caliber than other local schools. The fact that Empire includes an internship is perfect because it gives students real-world help desk experience and we can see how well the techs will fit with our team. I prefer to hire people with at least their A+ and NET+ certification for help desk positions, and I want them to continue on with their certifications.”

### Guest Speakers and Field Trip

On April 15 Justin Hough spoke to the Empire College I.T. department about his experiences in the workplace. Justin is an Empire graduate who now works as a Tier 1 Help Desk Manager for TeamLogicIT in Santa Rosa. Justin stressed that having good people skills is very important for being in I.T. Good customer service and relating to people is one of the main traits employers look for and one of the main reasons he is where he is today. He also recommended that everyone keep in contact with their fellow students. Justin got one of his first I.T. jobs from a fellow student after he graduated. Students should build a network of contacts through a site such as LinkedIn to help with employment. Also, it’s important for students to get their certifications while they are going to school. Empire students have a great opportunity to pass their certifications while they are here; take advantage of it!

On April 21 the Empire College I.T. Department made their annual field trip to the RSA conference at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Students got to see firsthand some of the newest computer security technologies in action from all of the major players in Information Technology. The event only gets bigger as the Expo filled up two conference rooms, and it seemed the amount of people who showed up for the event was much more than in years past. I.T. security is constantly changing but some themes stayed the same.

There is also a push to get away from the ever-convenient, yet insecure use of passwords. Passwords can be cracked, shared or forgotten. Microsoft made a splash with their new “Windows Hello” logon. Microsoft solves the password problem by using their gaming technology Kinect to incorporate facial recognition. Just sit down in front of your computer; you are now logged in and have access to all your resources!

Once again, many companies were pushing the cloud, managing and monitoring your network through the Internet. This concept of hosted security is only getting bigger with many companies offering this service.



# 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 and share advice for future classes. Guest speakers have included Dede Papa on accounts receivable collections and solutions, Jennifer Sedna on résumés and the importance of certifications, and Sherie Whittemore and Sheila Hayes from Certified Employment Group.

## Accounting Students Attain Industry Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved certification during January-June 2015:

- Samantha Calderon – Bookkeeping
- Alexis Cooper – Payroll
- Colette Keeney – Bookkeeping, Payroll
- Alice Koonkongsatian – Bookkeeping, Excel
- Isabella Mock – Bookkeeping, Payroll
- Amy Smith – Excel

## Accounting Students Awarded Scholarships from IMA Parent Chapter, Elected as Student Chapter Officers

Congratulations to Kathryn Olenberger, Sarah Cookman, and Neeru Setia who were awarded scholarships at the Institute of Management Accountants’ annual student night in April.

Also to be congratulated are the new Board members of the IMA Student Chapter: President - Kathryn Olenberger, Vice President - Amy Smith, Publicity Director - Colette Keeney, Membership Director - Mary Jose, Secretary - Isabella Mock, Treasurer - Jeniebel Coto (not in pictured). ▲



*Top to bottom: Alice Koonkongsatian, Alexis Cooper, Isabella Mock, Samantha Calderon, and Colette Keeney*



**IMA Scholarship Recipients**



**IMA Board of Directors**

*NCMA made  
its 100<sup>th</sup>  
Empire  
graduate hire  
in May 2015!*

## Medical Department News

### Medical Success Stories @ Northern California Medical Associates

#### Kathleen Karp, CCMA-C, Cardiovascular Technician Supervisor

"I was employed as a clinical medical assistant with NCMA after externing here. I started my externship at Santa Rosa Internal Medicine. They were a great team of people and encouraged my independence. Halfway through my externship I switched to cardiology and loved it.

"Initially I was hired in cardiology, then worked per diem in orthopedics. I think it is important to be open to all fields of medicine; you want

to get your foot in the door wherever you can. After about a year an opportunity opened up in cardiology. Su Chew, my supervisor, told me I needed to upgrade my CPR skills for ACLS and take a basic arrhythmia class, which I did. For about two years I was a cardiovascular technician, then became the lead cardiovascular technician for our offices in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, and in May 2015 became the supervisor of eight technicians/medical assistants.

"Before enrolling in Empire's medical program, I was a swim instructor at the YMCA, a private lesson coordinator, life guard instructor, and aquatic coordinator. Then I thought, "You know, I would kind of like to buy a house and have a family one day." I was never really good at long-term education goals, and someone told me about Empire College's short-term, career-focused programs.

"I knew instantly from the first class that I had found my fit at Empire College. I loved my instructors. It was a really good experience. I would not be where I am now in my life without going back to school. The externship was extremely valuable, and I also did volunteer work while attending Empire through which I met some of my current coworkers. The medical world is so small; everybody knows everybody.

"Now I am in a position of training externs myself; we have two from Empire now, Julia Renninger in back office and Veronica Cernokus in front office. I love it when Empire College students come here to extern; I know what I can expect of them. I have never had a poor Empire College extern, but I have had poor externs from other colleges. It may be because of the sequencing of classes at Empire. Cardiology is very difficult; if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere. We support 11 doctors and are a good team."

*So what about Kathleen's goals of a house and a family? She got married about a year after graduating from Empire College, and she and her husband now own their own home.*

#### Kandra Gaitan, Lead Communications Representative

"I was a widow at 29 with children and a mortgage. I lost my job as a marketing manager due to downsizing five years ago and went through JobLink for training. They require you to take job search workshops, research colleges, and interview people in the field. I researched SRJC and Empire College. They are both good schools. I chose Empire because of its good reputation and because I needed to get into the work force as soon as possible. It would have taken much longer at SRJC. I took a modified billing/coding administrative program and worked with Empire's placement department to get employment here as a temporary on the scan team. I was hired permanently after one year as a float, and a little over a year ago I became the Lead Communications Representative.

"I appreciate everything Empire did for me. When I stepped through the doors, I didn't think I could go back to school at 40 years old and be successful. I read the Abraham Lincoln quote in the lobby and said, "I can do this." Roni Brown encouraged me tremendously. I will never forget the second day in Medical Terminology class with Melissa Vineyard. I went out to my car and cried because I lacked confidence. Then I turned it around and said, "yes, you can do this," and I got an A on the first test. I said to myself, "I did this; I got it!"

"My mom, Olga Martinez, is a graduate of Empire College as well – from the late 60s/early 70s. She recently retired after a long career in business with AT&T."



*NCMA cardiologist Dr. Punatar with a group of Empire graduate employees and externs. L-R: Dama Torres, Maribel Aguirre, Amelia Lopez, Kandra Gaitan, Shannon Tinsley, Kathleen Karp, and Julia Renninger.*



## Paralegal Success Stories (continued from page 3)

*“We have been an Empire firm for 25 years.”*  
 – Richard J. Meechan, Esq.

MARIELA: “My work history includes a variety of jobs. I worked in banking, then for a medical clinic, and in daycare when my boys (now 10 and 5) were young. I wanted to be a paralegal since I was in high school. I graduated in 2000, married young, and started a family. Returning to school as an adult with children is a sacrifice, but it can be done.

“I interned with Steven Turer’s law office before I was finished with my program. I graduated on a Friday and started this job the following Monday. When I was hired, I was doing calendaring for two attorneys, then we added a third. We have a variety of responsibilities, including new client interviews; daily communication with opposing counsel, carriers, and the courts; and going to court. I am happy with my career.”

MARCUS: “I have a background in labor and warehouse work. I graduated from high school in 2007 and was planning to go into the construction trade, but that was in a downturn at the time. One of my friends said, “Did you consider Empire College?” I started out as a business major, but after taking Laura Rosenthal’s Business Law class in which we were studying torts, I decided to switch to legal. I find the law fascinating.

“I was hired after completing my internship here. Part of my responsibilities involve organizing files and helping the firm work toward going paperless.”

SARAH: “Before enrolling at Empire College, I worked in the retail and entertainment fields. My first real job was at Blockbuster, then GameStop; I’m a gamer girl! I worked with Jan in Empire’s admissions department. The process was a month long because I think about things for a while before making a decision, and I was deciding between accounting and paralegal. Ultimately I sat in on one of the Business Law classes and enrolled that day.

“Before graduating from Empire, I was hired here to help with paperwork. I completed my internship here and was then hired as a paralegal. My job involves appointment coordination and editing drafts from the attorney. I have the opportunity to do a fair amount of writing and some research. I like the balance of my job.”

As a group, these graduates emphasized the importance of working on deadlines, stating: “In the legal field, two days prior to a deadline is on time!” They also network with the legal community by attending Sonoma County Women in Law and Redwood Empire Association of Paralegal events. ▲



## Information Technology (continued from page 4)

DLP or Data Loss Prevention systems also seemed to be in high demand. DLPs track the movement of data across an organization to prevent loss, theft or to just be compliant with US laws.

Empire students had a great time, learned many new things, got plenty of free tech goodies and learned a little history! The NSA, FBI and the Department of Homeland Security all had a presence. Not only were they recruiting employees but also gave a little history lesson about cryptography, including the famous WWII enigma machine (photo at right).



### Certification Update

Congratulations to IT majors who passed certification exams January-June 2015:



**Core**

Dennis Campos  
 Julio Esquivel Sanchez  
 Charles Fuhrman  
 James Geth  
 Emily Hull  
 Daniel Inthavong  
 Edward Marcheschi  
 Michael Perlas  
 John Tallent



**Practical/OS**

John Brundage  
 Dennis Campos  
 Charles Fuhrman  
 Emily Hull  
 Daniel Inthavong  
 Juan Carlos Ordaz Juarez  
 Reynaldo Ramirez-Ortiz  
 Courtney Sullivan  
 John Tallent



Travis Michael DeBleck  
 Emily Hull  
 Daniel Inthavong  
 Derrick Machado  
 Juan Carlos Ordaz Juarez



Derrick Machado  
 Richard Powell  
 Jose Tolentino



Christopher Sutton

# News from the Business Administration Department

## Administrative Professionals Week Activities

Did you know?

- Administrative Professionals Day is always observed on the Wednesday of Administrative Professionals Week. (It was April 22 this year.)
- Administrative Professionals Day recognizes and celebrates the work of administrative assistants and other office professionals for their contributions to the workplace.



## Entrepreneurship Class Field Trip to the Small Business Convention

Sonoma Coast Shuckers, owned by Empire business student Leilani Martin and her husband, was approached to participate in the 2015 Small Business Convention hosted by Community Action Partnership at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa on May 31. Sonoma Coast Shuckers is the North Bay's Premier Traveling Oyster Bar and Seafood BBQ. The class enjoyed their delicious raw and grilled oysters from Tomales Bay as well as the tiger shrimp skewers served over a bed of lettuce with a spicy crema. Sonoma Coast Shuckers was honored to be a part of this event, which included approximately 60 vendors, and it was a great networking opportunity for the students for promoting and supporting small businesses. Leilani said, "We all need to support one another in the business world of Sonoma County."



## Redwood Credit Union Field Trip

Samantha Paull, the Events and Meetings Manager for Redwood Credit Union, led the entrepreneurship class on a tour on May 27. Samantha shared information with the students on her journey from beginning in the Call Center to her current position in management. networking opportunity for the students for promoting and supporting small businesses. Leilani said, "We all need to support one another in the business world of Sonoma County."

## Business Students Attain Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who attained their Microsoft Office Specialist certifications:

Janine Alfaro – Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint

Julissa Alfaro – Outlook

David Granigan – PowerPoint

Alvaro Martinez – Excel, Outlook Word

Cheyenne Medvin – PowerPoint

Oceana Medvin – PowerPoint

Joanna Montes – PowerPoint

Carmen Morales – Outlook ▲



# WE GOT THE JOB! (continued)

## Hospitality

Erika Kirby	Bath Attendant	Roman Spa Hot Springs Resort
Shayal Prasad	Front Desk Guest Service Agent	America's Best Value Inn & Suites

## Information Technology

Craig Brior	Jr. IT Administrator	Hansel Enterprises
Horacio Mendoza Martinez	Technology Support Specialist	Calistoga Ranch
Juan Carlos Ordaz Juarez	Technical Support	Sonic.net
Michael Patterson	Level 1 Technician	Fusion Technology Solutions, LLC
Christopher Sutton	IT Support	Fusion Technology Solutions, LLC

## Legal

Tracie Hofstetter	Legal Secretary	DeMeo & DeMeo, Attorneys At Law
Stephanie Juarez	Legal Secretary/Paralegal	Dennis A. Fordham Law
Edee Thomas	Admin. Asst./Paralegal Support	Cal Coast Credit Service, Inc.
Lizbeth Torres	School Office Assistant	Wright Elementary School District
Justine Trogden	Administrative Aide	Sonoma County District Attorney

## Medical

Teresa Beltran	Phlebotomist/Medical Assistant	Institute for Health Management
Lynda Brennan	Medical Assistant	Annadel Medical Group
Elise Brown	Medical Assistant	Siyon Clinical Corporation
Christine Carter	Coder Technician	Northern California Medical Associates
Juli Conley	Mobile Phlebotomist	APPS Portamedic
Juli Conley	Clinical Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Elia Cruz	Medical Assistant-Front	Santa Rosa Spine Institute
Mayra Diaz	Front Office Medical Assistant	Grund Chiropractic
Jessica Garrison	Medical Assistant	Kaiser Permanente
Ana Gonzalez Ibarra	Medical Assistant	Santa Rosa Community Health Centers
Taylor Johnston	Medical Assistant	Marin Gastroenterology
Kayla Kraft	Medical Assistant	Dr. Faye Lundergan
Ilse Mercado	Medical Assistant	Petaluma Health Center
Jennifer O'Keefe	Medical Assistant	Drs. Bomar and Redko
Danika O'Leary	Phlebotomist	LabCorp
Elaine Oliver	Medical Assistant	Kaiser Permanente
Melissa Phillips	Mobile Phlebotomist	APPS Portamedic
Katie Reed	Medical Assistant	Coastal Health Alliance
Analy Rincon Rodriguez	Medical Assistant 1	Petaluma Health Center
Samantha Rodriguez Lopez	Medical Assistant	Dr. Moses Goldberg
Angela Santa	Medical Biller/Data Entry	Marin Medical Practice Concepts
Juliana Sarmento	Medical Assistant	Advanced Fertility Associates

## Medical Skills Certifications (continued from page 6)

Congratulations to medical majors who have earned injection, EKG, phlebotomy, and/or urinalysis skills certifications during January-June 2015:

Raychel Adams	Jolleen DeLisa	Taylor Johnston	Danissa Serrano	Dawn Campbell
Michelle Alanis	Luis Diaz	Emilia Lemus	Vanessa Spaeth	Juli Conley
Aimee App	Candy Diener	Samantha Madrigal	Courtney Stewart	Michelle Gomez
Karin Aquino	Seth Dorrity	Antoinette McAnallan	Elizabeth Williams	Cassandra Green
Samantha Beale	Ashley Dozier	Karen Mercado-	Shelly Wilson	Mary Ellen King
Teresa Beltran	Nicole Eddy	Izquierdo	Jacqueline Yax Rodas	Amelia Lopez Meza
Lynette Bogue	Yessenia Estrada	Jessica Mora	Vanessa Zasueta Bermudez	Kimberly Nordby
Sharmae Bryant	Linzy Gingras	Elaine Oliver		Tiffany Revilla
Jocelyn Casillas	Joshua Guzman	Julia Renninger	<i>And congrats to those who are now CCMA certified!</i>	Martha Sanchez-Salazar
Samantha Castillo	Nhi Haas	Samantha Resendiz	Alejandra Avila	Lisa Schumann
Kayla Craft	Stacey Huron	Samantha Rodriguez-	Lynda Brennan	Laura Voight ▲
Elia Cruz	Wendy Jacobo-Arevalo	Lopez	Joy Brooner	
Angelika Delgado	Kenia Jimenez	Cintia Sanchez		



# In Brief (continued)

Professor Gardner has specialized in Elder and Family law since her Cum Laude graduation in 2004 from Empire Law School. Adult students from diverse backgrounds and from cross-generations appreciate Professor Gardner's breadth of knowledge and willingness to instruct. Her practical hands-on approach allows students to act as elder law advocates. *"Professor Gardner is rock solid. It is comforting to know the clinic's best interest is at heart."*

## Moot Court Competition Team

Compliments and congratulations to our 2015 Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Competition team comprised of third-year students Joel Fleck, Rich Watson and Jesse Wurtzel and coached by Professor Connie Burtnett. In April, the team proudly represented Empire Law at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. They competed valiantly against strong California opponents including Stanford, U.C.L.A., Hastings, Loyola Law School and others. The team can be extremely proud of their endeavors bringing home a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish for "Best Oral Argument." Competing oralist, Joel Fleck, took 5<sup>th</sup> place for "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Oral Advocacy." The Team also took 3<sup>rd</sup> place for "Excellence In Appellate Advocacy: The Bernard E. Witkin Award." This team proudly continues Empire's tradition of excellence.



## Informational Law Seminar

Paul Miller, Esq., Class of 2002 will be the keynote speaker at the next Law School Informational Seminar on Tuesday, August 4. Anyone interested in learning more about law school should attend this information night, the last that will be offered in 2015. Contact Law Admissions at 707.546.4000 or email [LawAdmissions@empirecollege.com](mailto:LawAdmissions@empirecollege.com) for more information. Law classes begin on Monday, October, 5.

Paul Miller is a 2002 graduate of Empire College School of Law. In addition to running his estate planning practice with his sister (also a 2002 graduate of Empire Law School), Mr. Miller is the Director of Legal Services at the Council on Aging Services for Seniors in Santa Rosa, where he assists seniors in Sonoma County with their estate planning needs. Mr. Miller is completing his Masters in Tax Law (LL.M.) at Golden Gate University this semester.

## February Bar Exam

Congratulations Banyan Parker and Blaine Sullivan on being newly admitted attorneys after passing the rigorous February California Bar Exam. They waited patiently until May to hear the outcome of their exam results.

## LSAT and MPRE Exams

Empire College is a test center for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) and the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE).

LSAT -The next LSAT will be held: Saturday, October 3, 2015. Interested parties can find registration information at: [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org). Future 2015 LSAT administrations: Saturday, December 5

MPRE-The next MPRE exam will be held: August 15, 2015. Interested parties can find details about online MPRE registration through their NCBE accounts at [www.ncbex.org/ncbe-number](http://www.ncbex.org/ncbe-number). Future 2015 MPRE administrations: November 7

## Faculty and Staff Updates

- Professor Becky Rasmason is teaching Community Property
- Professor Murray Cockerill is supervising the Small Claims Clinic in partnership with Daniel Lanahan III
- Professor Anthony Zunino – leading the Self-Help Access Center summer session
- Professor Dan Lanahan III - began supervising the Clinical Education program in spring.
- Remy Berger has joined the team as a part-time law office assistant.
- New summer elective offerings include: Law & Literature, taught by Professor Louise Belle, and Immigration Law, taught by Professor Julie Cyphers. ▲



Paul Miller, Esq.

# Honor Roll



Students listed have achieved President's or Dean's Honors as of June 11.

**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

Michelle Alanis  
 Janine Alfaro  
 Adrienne Antone  
 Neil Karen Aquino  
 Jennifer Bandt  
 Jeniffer Burdick  
 Tina Carnes  
 Samantha Castillo  
 Payton Cossey(Fedrick)  
 Jeniebel Coto  
 Maile Daly  
 Travis De Blicck  
 Nam(Duangkamon) Doran  
 Charles Fuhrman  
 Stephanie Godinez  
 Marisela Guevara  
 Marisol Guzman Fernandez  
 Rebecca Heath  
 Daniel Inthavong  
 Gina Lagomarsino  
 Priya Latchman  
 Taylor Levy  
 Reva Lopez  
 Jasmin Lopez-Arreguin  
 Derrick Machado  
 Anai Magana Valencia  
 Alana Martin  
 Lelani Martin  
 Keeley McGowan  
 Isabella Mock  
 Nicole Peixoto  
 Wrendy Phinney  
 Reynaldo Ramirez-Ortiz  
 Chris Rivera  
 Alexa Rosemurgy  
 Andrea Ruiz  
 Karen Ruiz  
 Suzanne Saville  
 Jonathan Scott  
 Marlus Shaw  
 Tiffany Stephens  
 Courtney Sullivan  
 Jeanette Tidd  
 Danielle Williams  
 Lisa Williams  
 Noel Wood

## Dean's Honors

Erica Akers  
 Suzanne Bellobuon  
 Craig Brior  
 Reyna Caballero Mejia  
 Aracely Castillo  
 Alexis Cooper  
 David Dixon  
 Angela Fernandez-Reyes  
 Stefanie Garcia Esquibel  
 Ronald George  
 Heather Graham  
 Emily Hull  
 Bryce Humphrey  
 Sydney Humphrey  
 Colette Keeney  
 Steven Knipe  
 Tyler LeBrun  
 Claudia Lizarraga  
 Megan MacIsaac  
 Ashley Madrid  
 Edward Marcheschi  
 Kassandra Millan  
 Grace Miranda-Leon  
 Kathryn Olenberger  
 Juan Carlos Ordaz Juarez  
 Veronica Papastathis  
 Mike Perlas  
 Jessica Pittman  
 Julia Renninger  
 Hanah Reyes  
 Maricarmen Reyes  
 Roselia Rojas-Lopez  
 Alea Sanders  
 Bonnie Sheehan  
 Amy Smith  
 Vanessa Spaeth  
 Christopher Sutton  
 Jose Tolentino  
 Darian Waterman  
 Marysa Wilson  
 Jacqueline Young

## Hospitality Program Highlights

### Five students awarded Toni Felciano Memorial Scholarships

Five Empire College hospitality majors were honored to receive a Toni Felciano Memorial Scholarship on July 28. Antoinette "Toni" Felciano was an Empire graduate who worked at the California Welcome Center. Her coworkers wanted to give something back to the community that she would approve of and raised enough money to fund classes for five Empire students. Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce CEO Jonathan Coe and members of Toni's family attended the presentation. Congratulations to Monica, Gina, Heather, Randi, and Danielle!



### Fundraiser for Sunny Hills Services

At the 7th Annual Potluck Chef Showdown "From Tasting Room to Tailgate" in May, event planning students raised \$3,940 for Sunny Hills Services, a regional child welfare organization dedicated to protecting, serving, nurturing and healing at-risk children and adolescents. ▲





# 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, July 20, 2015.

Jonathan Coe (top left), CEO of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, delivered the commencement address. Julia Renninger (below far right), who graduated from the Medical Assistant Essentials program, spoke on behalf of the graduating class, and legal/business instructor Deborah Cain (bottom far 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. Congratulations to: Janine Alfaro, Aimee App, Karen Aquino, Remy Berger, Maria Bishop, Samantha Castillo, Joshua Guzman, Horacio Mendoza Martinez, Kathryn Olenberger, Julia Renninger, Michael Sanchez Arreaga, Christopher Sutton, Justine Trogden, Joshua Veno, and Christina Villa,

In addition to celebrating the graduates' success, the annual \$2,500 Kaiser Permanente Scholarship was awarded to Jacqueline Young (below with Judy Coffey, Senior Vice President and Area Manager, Kaiser Permanente). ▲



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