

The Empire Writes Back

Volume 16, Issue 1, Winter 2016

Congratulations Students of the Month!

Alexa Rosemurgy, Priya Latchman, Allison Calder, Neeru Setia, and Hanah Reyes



NOVEMBER—Alexa is a single mom, and she holds down two part-time jobs while living in Sonoma and commuting to college. Alexa was an integral part of the Medical Office Management class's fundraising efforts for Door of Faith Orphanage. She sewed a quilt for the auction and garnered many donations as well as worked the event they hosted.



DECEMBER—Priya arrived at Empire College well grounded and was able to focus on her studies and lead study groups. She has now worked for several modules as Empire's Student Tutor, and students rave about her. She also began volunteering in her first module by offering to serve at the Homeless Outreach Health Fair.



JANUARY—Ali rose as a leader amongst her peers and kept fellow classmates motivated during the Medical Office Management class fundraiser for Mom's of Military Service Members. She is a hard worker, is always on time, and creates a light environment wherever she goes. With her positive attitude, Ali is the first to step up to try a new skill and to help a fellow student.

FEBRUARY—Neeru excels in the lab and in theory classes, and she challenges herself to learn higher-level accounting concepts. Neeru is an active member of Empire's IMA student chapter, serving as publicity director and participating in all the fundraisers. She also is a VITA volunteer preparing income taxes for low income clients.



MARCH—Since transferring from Santa Rosa Junior College, Hanah tested out of Algebra and has demonstrated strong writing skills. Her quality of work is always of the highest standard, and she has been a hardworking and diligent student. Despite a difficult work schedule and a hectic commute, she remains focused and determined. ▲

WE GOT THE JOB!

Accounting

Sarah Cookman	Benefits Coordinator
Jeniebel Coto	Account Clerk
Nam Duangkamon	Accounting Assistant
Mary Jose	Office/Accounting Assistant
Kathryn Olenberger	Bookkeeper
Antonio Santana	Account Clerk
Amy Smith	Bookkeeper

Sonoma County Human Services Department
Sonoma County Human Services Department
MLB Associates
Nieco Corporation
MLB Associates
Marin County Office of Education
Jackson's Paving & Equipment

Business

Amanda Faithauer	Internet Sales Coordinator
German Lango-Atilano	Production Supervisor
Lelani Martin	Reservations Associate
Kassandra Milan	Administrative Assistant

Rhinobee Internet Services
Straus Family Creamery
Wilson Artisan Wineries
Empire College



EMPIRE COLLEGE
 3035 Cleveland Ave.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403
 Tel: 707.546.4000
 Fax: 707.546.4058
 shurd@empcol.edu
 www.empcol.edu

The School of Law In Brief



2015 Pro Bono Awards Recipients

On November 6th the Sonoma County Bar Association hosted the annual “Pro Bono Awards” luncheon honoring over 1,000 lawyers, law students, paralegals and legal secretaries who have volunteered their time in service to the legal community and the Courts during 2015. Empire honored 57 volunteers and had the following special honoree recipients:

- Third-year Law student Olga Komar was honored by Legal Aid of Sonoma County.
- Amy Woodruff, a fourth-year Law student, was recognized for her work in the Small Claims Advisory Clinic. She also earned Sonoma County Legal Aid’s special recognition last year.
- Fourth-year Law student Matt Kabanuck was honored for volunteering in the Elder Law Clinic.
- Class of 2012 alum Tim Doherty was honored by Disability Services & Legal Center.

Fall Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to these students who were recognized for legal scholarship at the annual Fall Awards Ceremony and Pizza Party.

<u>Student</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Semester</u>
Heather Wise	Business Organizations	Spring 2015
Caitlin van Loben Sels	Civil Procedure	Spring 2015
Jean Clifford	Community Property	Summer 2015
Joel Fleck	Constitutional Law	Spring 2015
Christopher Delgado	Contracts	Spring 2015
Justin Smock	Contracts	Summer 2015
Christopher Delgado	Criminal Law	Spring 2015
Robin Bartholow	Criminal Law	Summer 2015 *Tie
Justin Smock	Criminal Law	Summer 2015 *Tie
Michelle Novi	Criminal Procedure	Summer 2015
Caitlin van Loben Sels	Evidence	Spring 2015
Jesse Wurtzel	Moot Court – Best Brief	Fall 2014
Joel Fleck	Moot Court – Top Oralist	Fall 2014
Chandra Caffery	Moot Court – Top Brief	Summer 2015 *Tie
Monica Lehre	Moot Court – Top Brief	Summer 2015 *Tie
Caitlin van Loben Sels	Moot Court – Top Oralist	Summer 2015
Ray Schmidt	Professional Responsibility	Fall 2014
Caitlin van Loben Sels	Professional Responsibility	Summer 2015
Jacob Faircloth	Remedies	Spring 2015
Christopher Delgado	Torts	Spring 2015
Justin Smock	Torts	Summer 2015
Ray Schmidt	Wills & Trusts	Spring 2015

Competition Teams Selected

ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS - Congratulations to fourth-year students Jean Clifford and Destinee Tartuffe who were selected to represent Empire College School of Law in the 17th Annual State Bar of California Student Environmental Negotiations Competition. This year’s team is heavily involved in preparations and will travel to Southern California to compete in mid-March. Go Empire Law!

MOOT COURT - Further congratulations go to fourth-year student, Joel Fleck, along with third-years Michael Caballero Jr, and Caitlin van Loben Sels our 2016 team selected to represent the Law School in the annual Roger J. Traynor Moot Court Competition. Third-year student Dan McCoy is assisting the team and learning the ropes anticipating a 2017 selection. Professor Connie Burnett is coaching the team who just submitted their competition brief and will begin their preparations for competing in oral arguments in Fresno this April. We wish the team and coach the best of luck!



2015 Moot Court Team member Joel Fleck will represent Empire again this year.



Paralegal Department News

Empire Students Earn Certifications and Honors

Congratulations to paralegal students who have recently earned the Lexis-Nexis Paralegal Certificate of Mastery: David Dixon, Rebecca Heath, and Jeanette Tidd.

Congratulations to paralegal graduate Jarrette Ascher who passed NALA's CLA/CP exam! Well done, Jarrette, in passing the exam and obtaining your Certified Paralegal designation from the National Association of Legal Assistants. The exam is proctored at Empire College every January, May, and September.

The Empire College Chapter of Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX) Paralegal Honor Society is inducting four students into the society: David Dixon, Rebecca Heath, Hanah Reyes, and Jeanette Tidd. Congratulations to all of you for your well-deserved honors.

Legal Seminars and Guest Speakers on Campus

On February 27, former Empire legal instructor Daphne Drescher, CP presented a seminar on Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Revisions at Empire. This was a Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals (REAP) seminar. Don't miss the upcoming REAP seminar at Empire on April 9th when Ken English, supervising research attorney for Sonoma Superior Court will be the presenter on Effective Motion Writing for Civil Litigation.

Jim Baker, licensed private investigator and retired Rohnert Park Police Officer spoke to Discovery II students. Mr. Baker is the go-to investigator in Sonoma County for serious felony cases. He spoke about interviewing techniques and interview safety.

Attorney Charles Applegate was a guest speaker in Business Law, telling students about criminal law.

Paralegal Internships

The following paralegal students are currently interning:

- David Dixon – Law Office of Charles Applegate (Criminal Defense)
- Rebecca Heath – Law Office of Ethan Glaubiger (Real Property, Business Law, and Personal Injury)
- Jeanette Tidd – Law Office of Margaret Brothers (Estate Planning and Probate). Jeanette is also interning at the Sonoma County Law Library.



Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) News

Evening ELSA is having a bake sale on March 17th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge.

In January, both ELSA Evening and Day elected new boards:

Evening ELSA Board:

- President – Hanah Reyes
- Vice-president – Tina Carnes
- Secretary – Stephanie Delich
- Treasurer – Keeley McGowan

Day ELSA Board

- President – Nichole Maritzen
- Vice-president – Karen Ruiz
- Secretary – Nicole Graves
- Treasurer – Dee Jay Sweet



Legal Department Mentors

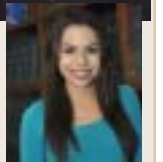


Nicole Graves was a stay-at-home mom for many years. Says Nicole, "I loved being at home and raising my children but something was missing. A few years ago my life changed; I was no longer married and I was working two jobs just to make ends meet when I heard an advertisement for a scholarship to Empire. I decided why not? Although I did not win the scholarship, I decided the time was now! Attending Empire has been one of the greatest blessings of my adult life. I am pursuing my dreams while modeling for my girls that nothing is impossible! When I graduate Empire I will not only have the skills necessary to excel in the legal field but life skills that I can take with me anywhere."



Nichole Maritzen worked in the hospitality industry as a chef and an event planner for over 20 years. Nichole says, "For most of my adult life I was a single mother raising two boys. Even though my wage was decent, I struggled to keep up with bills and the high cost of living in Sonoma County. Last year, due to economics and my medical issues, I needed to find a new career that could sustain my family and not create unnecessary hardship on my body. In 2014, I remarried and was given the opportunity to focus on my health and begin training in any new career I chose. My first thought was Empire College. I had heard so many good things about the quality of education and high success graduate rates. It didn't take long for me to decide to enroll in the paralegal program. My experience so far has been amazing. ▲"

Below: ELSA Day Outgoing and Incoming Board (L-R): Vice President - Karen Ruiz, Treasurer - Dee Jay Sweet, Outgoing Vice President - Rebecca Heath, Outgoing President - Jeanette Tidd, Outgoing Secretary - David Dixon, Secretary - Nicole Graves, President - Nichole Maritzen.



Above: Evening ELSA Board (L-R): Vice-president - Tina Carnes, Secretary - Stephanie Delich, Treasurer - Keeley McGowan. Inset: President - Hanah Reyes.

Information Technology Department News

RSA Conference 2016

On Tuesday March 1st Empire IT students went to the RSA Security conference at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. The RSA Conference is the biggest IT security conference in the world showcasing the newest products and security measures from industry leaders such as Microsoft, Cisco, RSA, IBM and many more.

The RSA Conference has gotten bigger over the years, outlining the growing need of security in modern day computing. Keynote speakers included various CEOs of major IT companies as well as Admiral Michael S. Rogers, the head of the NSA and US cyber command, Actor/Director Sean Penn, and US Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Hundreds of vendors were pushing endpoint security products and cloud based security. Movement of data, user behavior, malware and potential attacks are all monitored, and can be managed in the Cloud by a vendor. Big were products featuring Multi-Factor Authentication (logging on to a system with more than just a password) and such devices as access tokens, smart cards, biometric devices and even cell phone for network authentication were also featured. It would be easy to spend the entire week of the conference in the expo hall and not visit all of the available booths.

The students from Empire got to play games, collect swag, win prizes and attend presentations while learning about the myriad of offerings provided by the vendors. All in all, a great experience for everyone who went!

Donated, refurbished computers benefit the community

Hardware instructor Scott Wilcox has given away many small items as needed by tech students and has picked up recycled equipment to help the person/company dispose of items and help others. This has led to a recycling and donation program that has provided tech students with machines that can be used to build a network at home.

This program has inspired students and graduates to donate some of their old systems for refurbishing and donation. Most recently, alum Chris Sutton donated 19 systems on behalf of his company, Fusion Technology Solutions. So one Friday morning, 10 IT students and 4 of Empire's IT instructors tested the hardware on the CPUs and then uninstalled all software, bringing the systems back to their original state so that they could be donated to schools and individuals.

"Doing something good with the rebuilt systems and helping folks less fortunate is very rewarding," says Chris Rivera, president of the Empire Tech Club (pictured with L-R: Alethea Candia, Steven Knipe, and Bryce Humphrey).

Meet Jonathan Scott, Department Mentor

Jonathan Scott began Empire College in 2014 after pursuing a career in outside sales. "Following my time in the Army, sales was a good way to springboard into civilian life, but when I realized that I didn't love what I was doing, I knew that I needed to make a change." A career shift at 34 years old was difficult for Jonathan, but the GI Bill provided the funding and support necessary to make it happen. "I accidentally discovered that I enjoy IT at my old job. I would spend more time in the office helping people with computers instead of out selling. Empire is the best option locally for IT, and my time here has been the most fun I've had in a while."

IT students attain industry certifications



Core

Alethea Candia
Daron Carter
Bryce Humphrey
Steven Knipe
Randall Lane
Bo Nealon



Practical/OS

Daron Carter
Bryce Humphrey
Steven Knipe
Randall Lane
Edward Marcheschi



Craig Brior
Daron Carter
Tyler LeBrun



Emily Hull
Jesse Sims



Dylan McQueen



Above: IT students Phil Aldrich and Randall Lane snapped selfies as they entered the expo.

Top Right: Tech student Eric Ballinger at the expo.



Accounting Department News

Empire Students Assist with Tax Preparation...for Free!

Empire has a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site which can create and e-file your Federal and State Income Tax returns free of charge by IRS-certified tax preparers. The site is open until April 18th on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m., plus Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Room 100. Make an appointment by calling 211.

This is the seventh consecutive year that Empire College accounting students and faculty are assisting United Way of the Wine Country in delivering free income tax services to low-to-moderate income residents through the Earn it! Keep It! Save It!/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Last year, they assisted with 541 tax refunds that returned \$660,061 to their clients.

Congratulations to the students who have become IRS certified in tax preparation – and thank you for volunteering your time to provide this valuable service to our community!

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. Also, guest speaker Daren Blonski from Edward Jones spoke on financial industry career opportunities. Accounting students also visited Ridgway High School recently and volunteered as instructors for the Redwood Credit Union “Bits of Reality” session in which high school students participated in a financial learning event.

Accounting Students Attain Industry Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who have recently achieved certifications:

- Jeniebel Coto – Excel
- Nam Doran – Bookkeeping and Excel
- Neeru Setia – Excel



Above: The 2016 VITA kickoff event on January 30th was well attended, and radio station 100.9 kept it lively with their broadcast from the event.

Left: Accountants having fun.

Accounting Department Mentors



Jeniebel Coto was working at State Farm as an underwriting assistant for about ten years before they decided to move jobs to Bakersfield. “It was a great job because it had a variety of tasks – filing, answering phones, data entry, handling accounts, training new employees, etc. I like working with numbers and records. I like having order; I don’t like gray area. I do enjoy people interactions; I like helping others. My advice for students is to find a good friend, someone that will help you focus on your goal, let you have time to study, and not get you distracted.”



Last year Nam Doran was looking for another job that would give her good pay and benefits. “Although I have a bachelor degree in Hospitality Management from my country, it didn’t help me to get a good job. Then I decided to go back to school in order to gain more knowledge, switch job fields, and compete with others. My mother recommended me to Empire College because she graduated from here. In this global economy situation, I believe that education is one of the best investments for me.” ▲

Medical Department News

Medical Students Volunteer and Raise Funds Throughout Our Community

Empire students volunteered as information ambassadors and checking blood pressure at a variety of events and locations during the American Heart Association's annual "Go Red" festivities in February.

In addition, the Medical Office Management class raised \$200 for the American Heart Association.



Meet Heather Graham, Student Mentor

"I am the mother of four beautiful children, and that kept me busy and in the waitressing business for an extensive amount of time. Being a single mother, I felt the responsibility to do the best that I can and prove that if you put your mind to it, you can do it! Empire is full of support. They understand that you can get discouraged if you get a grade lower than you wanted on the test. It happens. You only fail if you stop trying!"



Congratulations to new Certified Medical Assistants!

Congratulations to those who have achieved their CCMA certification:

Megan Bauman, CCMA-C	Janelle Palm, CCMA-A
Melissa Camacho, CCMA-AC	Amayanty Torres-Molina, CCMA-C
Samantha Castillo, CCMA-AC	Elizabeth Williams, CCMA-AC ▲
Stacey Huron, CCMA-AC	



Volunteers Needed for the Following Events!

- Earth Day on Saturday, April 23
- Roseland School District Health Fair, April 29
- Homeless Outreach & Health Fair, May 13

If you can help, email Medical Department Head Shannon Tinsley stinsley@empirecollege.com.



JOBS! (continued from page 1)

Business

Grace Miranda-Leon	Admissions Officer	Empire College
Joanna Montes	Accounts Payable Clerk	City of Ukiah
Gail Moss	Administrative Assistant	Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
Rebecca Reyes	Administrative Assistant	Pletkin & Associates Inc.
Suzanne Saville	Tasting Room Host	Williamson Wines
Mary Sullivan	Sales Administrator	Smothers European Dealership
Jonisha Tarpley	Mental Health Worker	Aurora Behavioral Healthcare
Octavia Thomas	Customer Relationship Consultant	So Fi
Christina Elena Villa	Payroll Processor/HR Assistant	Comprehensive Employment Solution

Hospitality

Valerie Flores	Wine Club and Admin. Assistant	Fritz Winery
Gina Lagomarsino	Spa Coordinator	Osmosis Day Spa
Danielle Williams	Spa Coordinator/Concierge	Osmosis Day Spa

Information Technology

John Brundage	Network Support Technician	Ted Baker London
Derek Cleveland	Help Desk Support	Fusion Technology Solutions, LLC
Travis De Blicck	Customer Support Representative	Sonic.net
Daniel Inthavong	Customer Support Representative	Sonic.net
Derrick Machado	Network Systems Technician	St. Helena Unified School Dist.
Anthony Nuno Molina	Customer Support Representative	Sonic.net
Michael Patterson	Bench Technician	Simple Office Solutions
Jose Tolentino	IT Systems Analyst	HealthRITE 360

Legal

Remy Berger	Legal Administrative Assistant	Rush Services
Erin Bozzo	Paralegal	Cal Coast Credit Service, Inc.
Tiffany Bustillos-Calvillo	Administrative/Legal Assistant	CER/National Trench Safety
Kellie Freitas	Legal Assistant	Brayton Purcell Law Firm
Laura Hiatt	Legal Secretary	County of Mendocino
Megan Linsenmeyer	Legal Assistant	Brayton Purcell Law Firm
Torah Nelson	Paralegal	Boly:Welch
Hanah Reyes	Legal Secretary	Grancell, Lebovitz, Stander, Reubens &
Kirsten Scheiern	Legal Assistant	Brayton Purcell Law Firm

Medical

Raychel Adams	Back Office Medical Assistant	NorCal Dermatology
Michelle Alanis	Ophthalmic Tech/Back office MA	North Bay Vitreoretinal Consultants
Aimee App	Medical Assistant	Redwood Orthopaedic Surgery Associates
Samantha Beale	Medical Assistant	Institute For Health Management, Inc
Suzanne Bellobuon	Medical Assistant	St. Joseph Health
Leidy Carlino	Health Information Coordinator	Petaluma Health Center
Samantha Castillo	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Latoya Davis	Medical Assistant	TrueNorth Health Center
Jolleen DeLisa	Medical Assistant	Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery
Nicole Eddy	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Evelyn Enriquez	Scheduler	Northern California Medical Associates
María Espinoza	Medical Assistant	St. Joseph Health
Yessenia Estrada	Medical Assistant	St. Joseph Health
Stephanie Fuentes	Toxicology Technician	Monarch Medical Group
Stefanie Garcia Esquivel	Data Entry Specialist	West County Health Centers, Inc.
Virginia Gelvin	Medical Assistant	Summit Pain Alliance
Marisela Guevara	Medical Assistant	Sebastopol Orthopedics
Cynthia Gutierrez	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Joshua Guzman	Medical Assistant	West County Health Centers, Inc.

Moving Up!
 Congratulations to Camille Shaffer, a December 2013 graduate with a Medical Assistant/Phlebotomy Specialized Associate Degree. Camille received an impressive promotion at the research company she's worked at since 2014. Her recent Facebook post states: "Just confirmed I will be site manager of pharmaceutical research. I have come so far, I finally feel like hard work and struggle pays off!" Empire prepared her for a phenomenal career ladder – from Research Assistant to Clinical Research Coordinator to Site Manager in 2 years. Who knows what is next for Camille... or for you!

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 18, 2016.

California Senator Mike McGuire (photo top right) delivered the commencement address. Grace Leon (middle right), who graduated from the Administrative Business Professional program, spoke on behalf of the graduating class, and Carl Oeschger (bottom right) offered remarks from the Empire College faculty.

Four of the paralegal graduates (below) – Jeanette Tidd, Rebecca Heath, David Dixon, and Hanah Reyes – have been inducted into the national LEX paralegal honor society. Five students were presented awards from Empire College, and another ten graduates received awards from publishers and professional organizations. ▲

EMPIRE COLLEGE OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AWARDS

Accounting

Amy Smith

Business

Grace Leon

Information Technology

Charles Fuhrman

Legal

Angela Fernandez-Reyes

Medical

Jacqueline Young

PUBLISHER & ORGANIZATION AWARDS

California Medical Assistants Association Award for Medical Assisting

Suzanne Bellobuon

Cengage Learning Accounting Award

Bonnie Sheehan

Cengage Learning Business Award

Leilani Martin

Cengage Learning Information Technology Award

Reynaldo Ramirez-Ortiz



Cengage Learning Medical Award
Stefanie Garcia Esquibel and Marisela Guevara

Kaiser Permanente Medical Student Achievement Award

Anai Magana Valencia

McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Outstanding Student Award

Derrick Machado

Pearson Education Spirit Award

Jeanette Tidd

Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals Award

Rebecca Heath ▲



Photo Right: Business graduates Grace Leon and Leilani Martin inducted in Senator McGuire's Santa Rosa office.

Financial Aid Corner

Attention Ladies!

After 11 years with Empire College, Lauri Brown will be retiring as Student Loan Repayment/ Financial Aid Advisor next month. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service to help Empire College students understand and manager their student loans.

We are pleased to announce that Kass Von der Mehden, who has been our Bookstore Manager for 8 years, will be taking on Lauri's role. Congratulations, Kass! ▲



 SEE MORE PHOTOS @ www.facebook.com/EmpireCollege.SchoolofBusiness

Hospitality Department News

Funds raised for YWCA's "A Special Place"

Students in the evening Event Planning class held a series of events to raise funds for A Special Place, which serves at-risk children.

It started with Nacho Noche and Sugar Rush, through which \$192 was raised. That led up to their primary event on December 4, "A Special Fundraiser for A Special Place." Raffle tickets were sold for fabulous prizes (four Cruiser bikes, a one-night hotel stay in Geyserville, a wine tour for six, and two paintings done by fantastic local artists), beer, and baked goods in the parking lot. In addition, a radio station was procured and a fantastic taco truck helped draw in people. There was also a selfie photobooth, a coloring table, live artists, and a booth for YWCA. It looked fantastic.

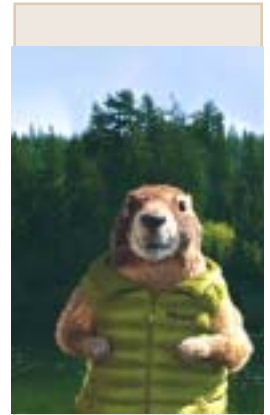
All total, \$1310 was raised. A special fundraiser indeed!

"All Wrapped Up" event for homeless fulfills "It's for the Kids" motto

On December 5th, Empire College's hospitality and business students held an event for 25 children and their parents who are homeless in our community. The student's vision was to give each child a special day, filled with presents, warm jackets, blankets, pictures with Santa Claus, family-style sit-down meal, and care packages to go.

In order to make this event happen, the students reached out to our community, and the response was amazing. Marmot donated 25 coats for all of the children; Toy Works handpicked presents for each child; and donations flowed in for silent auction items from wineries, restaurants, bakeries, and local merchants.

The event fulfilled its motto – "It's for the Kids" – creating an afternoon in which the children and their parents were celebrated, felt special, and knew that people who don't even know them, care. ▲



Thank you, Marmot, for your generous donation of coats for 25 children!



JOBS! (continued from page 7)

Karli Halverson	Front Office Care Team	West County Health Centers, Inc.
Sydney Humphrey	Medical Assistant	Napa Valley Family Medical Group
Stacey Huron	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Wendy Jacobo-Arevalo	Clinical Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Kenia Jimenez	Chiropractic Assistant	Mordecai Chiropractic
Emilia Lemus	Bilingual Medical Assistant	Alliance Medical Center
Ashley Madrid	Medical Assistant	Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation
Diana Martinez	School Based Specialty Care Assistant	Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
Jessica Martinez	Medical Assistant	Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation
Imelda E. Morfin	Medical Assistant	St. Joseph Health
Raechel Morgan	Medical Assistant	Drs. Su and Rowen
Kristina Mosiurchak	Billing Specialist	Northern California Medical Associates
Gabriela Navarro	Medical Assistant	Dr. Darya Soto
Veronica Papastathis	Front Office Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Sierra Perez	Phlebotomist	Health Exams, Inc
Brittnee Perrine	Medical Assistant	Dr. Faye Lundergan
Julia Renninger	Ophthalmic Tech/Back office MA	North Bay Vitreoretinal Consultants
Samantha Resendiz	Medical Assistant 1	Petaluma Health Center
Juan Robles	Medical Assistant	Alliance Medical Center
Roselia Rojas-Lopez	Clinical Medical Assistant	West County Health Centers, Inc.
Carmen Sandoval-Sandoval	Medical Front Desk Reception	Dr. Ronald J. oelho
Danissa Serrano	Medical Assistant 1	Petaluma Health Center
Ashley Simpson	Medical Biller	Novato Fire Protection Agency
Vanessa Spaeth	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Adriana Valdivia	Clinical Medical Assistant	West County Health Centers, Inc.
Darian Waterman	Clinical Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Elizabeth Williams	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Shelly Wilson	Medical Receptionist	St. Joseph Health
Jacqueline Yax Rodas	Medical Assistant	Advanced Fertility Associates Medical Group
Jacqueline Young	Health Technician	Santa Rosa City Schools
Maria Eva Zuniga	Medical Biller	Novato Fire Protection Agency ▲

In Brief (continued from page 2)

February California Bar Exam

Over 20 Empire graduates sat for the strenuous, three-day February California Bar Exam. Now they wait...until May to hear the outcome of their efforts and months of studying.

Faculty and Staff News

We are happy to recognize 2015 Law School anniversaries:

5 Years

Louise Belle
Tracy Chodora
Paul Lozada
Tina Wallis

10 Years

Hon. Allan Hardcastle
Hon. Anthony Wheeldin

15 Years

Adam Brown
Keith Langan

20 Years

Hon. Brad DeMeo

25 Years

Rob Jackson
Kathleen Pozzi

- Hon. Rudy Gerber (Ret.) has joined the faculty as a professor of Criminal Law.
- Tina Wallis, Esq. is teaching a new elective: Agricultural Law & Environmental Compliance Clinic.
- Robert Rutherford, Esq. has returned to the faculty as a Business Organizations professor.
- Rebecca Lack joins the Law School office team as Senior Administrative Support.



Congratulations and thank you for 25 years as faculty members of Empire College School of Law.

Katherine Stanford Awarded P.E.O. Scholarship

Congratulations to first-year law student Katherine Stanford who was awarded a scholarship from the Dorothy L. Weller P.E.O. Scholarship Fund. The Philanthropic Educational Organization sisterhood makes a difference in women's lives with philanthropies that include ownership of a women's college, Cottey College, and five projects that provide higher educational assistance. Empire students are encouraged to review and apply for third-party scholarships and awards that match their backgrounds and interests. We are very proud of Katie's accomplishment.

New Agricultural Law & Environmental Compliance Clinic

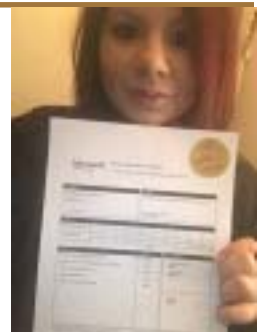
Empire College School of Law has added a seventh legal clinic that offers assistance to the public at no charge. Supervised by Professor Tina Wallis, the clinic will be of special concern for small ranchers especially with possible water and land impacts with drought and El Nino predictions.

Empire's clinics provide students with opportunities to interact with clients, provide advice, follow-up, and direct clients to legal and non-legal resources. Students draft legal documents and correspondence under the supervision of practicing attorneys. ▲

News from the Business Administration Department

Michelle Patrick achieves perfect score on Microsoft Office Specialist exam

Congratulations to business administration major Michelle Patrick who passed her Word certification with a perfect score. That has never happened before!



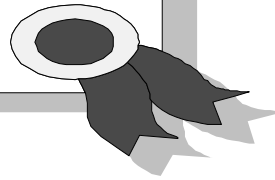
Meet John Rupert, Business Department Mentor

John Rupert has lived in Sonoma County his whole life. "I graduated high school in 2013 and took a year break that turned into two years. During those two years, I realized that if I wanted to be successful I definitely needed to go back to school. Now I'm very motivated for my future, and I can already tell Empire is the perfect school for me. I would like to open my own store in the future, so I especially love the business classes I've been taking. There's so much information I've been learning that is going to help me when the time comes for me to open my store." ▲



 Did you see the article in *The Press Democrat* about Professor Pozzi? Check out the link @ www.facebook.com/EmpireCollege.SchoolofLaw

Honor Roll



Students listed have achieved President's or Dean's Honors as of February 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

Eric Ballinger
Jeniffer Burdick
Erika Camacho
Amy Christensen
Travis De Blicek
David Dixon
Duangkamon (Nam) Doran
Diana Duenas-Brown
Bruno Figarola
Courtney Garcia
John Garcia-Rupert
Donna Graves
Rebecca Heath
Steven Jackson
Christina Kelly
Kasey Koch
Randall Lane
Priya Latchman
Tyler LeBrun
Andrew Lopez
Megan MacIsaac
Nichole Maritzen
Raechel Morgan
Janica Krishel Ocampo
Reynaldo Ramirez-Ortiz
Chris Rivera
Karla Rodas Mejia
Alexa Rosemurgy
Karen Ruiz
Jonathan Scott
Dianne Sforzo
Marlus Shaw
Keira Slover
Lynn Steele
Matthew Strock
Courtney Sullivan

Dee Jay Sweet
Jeanette Tidd
Rebecca Walsh

Dean's Honors

Susana Abrica
Daniela Anaya
Jaritza Avila
Allison Calder
Alethea Candia
Melissa Cherney
Rosa De Jesus
Sherry Driggs
Alondra Favela Sayago
Heather Graham
Bryce Humphrey
Steven Knipe
Michael Marracq
Isabella Mock
Bo Nealon
Guadalupe Nieto
Rebecca Reyes
Isabel Rosas Gomez
Yessica Ruiz
Alea Sanders
Jessica Santana Martinez
Daisy Vazquez
KrystalMarie Zavala

What Can Career Services Do For You?

Along with helping you to have a polished resume, cover letter and interview skills, our Career Services Department works intimately with many employers in your field. Did you know that some companies contact Empire with job openings before they will advertise? Our graduates have an excellent reputation in the community and this is why!

In September of 2015, Career Services hosted a Career Fair to bring some of those employers on campus to meet our students. Empire hosted 25 employers, representing most industries, including Account Temps, CrossCheck, and Redwood Credit Union (Accounting); Hansel Auto Group, Catholic Charities, La Tortilla Factory, Nelson Staffing, & Star Staffing (Business); The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn, Francis Ford Coppola, & Worldmark by Wyndam (Hospitality/Tourism); Sonic and X2nSat (IT); Alliance Medical Center, Healdsburg District Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, MGA Healthcare, NCMA, Petaluma Health Centers, St. Joseph Health, Sonoma County Indian Health Project, and West County Health Centers (Medical).

If you are nearing the end of your program, or need some help with employment prior to graduation, please come by Tammy Sams' (medical students) or Jennifer Sedna's (all other programs) office. We look forward to seeing you. ▲



Empire Board receives Jefferson Award for Public Service



In November 2015 the Empire College Board of Directors was selected as a Sonoma County recipient of the 2015 Jefferson Award for "Excellence in Community Leadership and Civic Engagement." They were honored during a meeting of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, November 3.



Jefferson Award presentation at the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors' chambers.

A national recognition system designed to highlight public service in America, the Jefferson Awards began as part of the American Institute for Public Service in 1972 and was established by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard, a staffer to Bobby Kennedy.

Locally, the program was adopted by the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors in 2006. After an analysis of other local recognition programs, the County's program was designed to highlight the value of non-profit organizations, boards, commissions and advisory bodies, as well as individual efforts for Excellence in Community Leadership and Civic Engagement.

"The Empire College Board of Directors is pleased to be recognized among this year's Jefferson Award honorees," stated Roy Hurd, chairman of the board and president of Empire College. "It is a tribute to the legacy of our founder, Henry Trione, and to our faculty and staff's commitment to fostering service learning and volunteerism among our students. Collectively they provide a variety of free services each year and raise thousands of dollars for nonprofit agencies and local residents."

President Hurd added, "The members of the Empire College Board proudly reaffirm our pledge as a community resource and educational asset. We are committed to providing ongoing leadership to promote engagement in addressing community issues." ▲



EMPIRE COLLEGE
3035 Cleveland Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Tel: 707 546 4000
Fax: 707 546 4058
shurd@empcol.edu

www.empcol.edu