

The Empire Writes Back

Volume 16, Issue 2, Summer 2016

Congratulations Students of the Month!

Jeniebel Coto, Randall Lane, Jeni Burdick, Karen Santana, and Heather Graham



APRIL—Jeniebel has worked as a lab assistant helping students with their accounting problems and software. She has proactively volunteered as an accounting mentor and IMA treasurer. A dedicated student who is always prepared for each class and not afraid to ask questions, Jeniebel has achieved Excel and Bookkeeping certifications.

MAY—Randall was the first in his class to pass the A+ and Net+ certifications. Helpful to fellow students, he goes the extra mile to dig deeper and firmly understand material presented. A hard worker, Randall is great for IT.

JUNE—Friendly, upbeat, caring, excited to learn and try new things...those are descriptors for Jeni. She is the first to ask others if they need anything, not just class related. Jeni is genuine and humble with a smart wit and great sense of humor. She volunteers each chance she gets, including her family in community service.

JULY—Karen epitomizes the poised professionalism required to achieve success as a paralegal. She is

intelligent, kind, and level-headed. She is not afraid of challenges and has improved academically in her paralegal studies. She maintains her work load while working at Empire's front desk and serving as Vice President of the Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA).

AUGUST—Heather is welcoming to all. She is friendly and takes time out of her schedule to help others. She was chosen as a mentor because she had formed study groups in the student lounge to help others, completely on her own. Heather is the first to volunteer for something. She wants to know how things work and is always eager to learn and excited about her clinical skills. ▲



WE GOT THE JOB!

Accounting

Nam Doran
Anel Guzman
Alice Koonkongsatian
Alexis Velazquez

Jr. Accountant/AP Specialist
District Accountant
Bookkeeper
Accounting Clerk

Harmony Farm Supply
Wright Elementary School District
Haas & Reaney, LLP
Gourmet Mushrooms Inc.

Business

Amalia Gutierrez Molina
Lori Miller
Michelle Patrick
Yessenia Torres-Cardenas
Marysa Wilson

Administrative Assistant
Assistant to Agent
Receptionist
Front Desk Administrative Assistant
Secretary

Senior Advocacy Services
Farmer's Insurance
Graton Resort and Casino
Dr. William Hoyer
Discreet Rodent Proofing



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The School of Law In Brief



Twenty-Seven Graduate from Empire Law School

U.S. Representative Mike Thompson delivered the commencement address at Empire College School of Law's graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 5, 2016, at the Mary Agatha Furth Center in Windsor. Juris Doctor degrees were conferred upon 18 graduates of the four-year evening law program, and 9 graduates received Master of Legal Studies degrees.

Professor Kathleen Pozzi, the Sonoma County Public Defender who is a professor of Criminal Law, addressed the graduating class on behalf of the School of Law's faculty. Jesse Wurtzel, who graduated Magna Cum Laude, delivered the valedictory address.

Three graduates – Jesse Wurtzel, Kendall Jarvis, and Joel Fleck – were recipients of Scholastic Achievement Awards provided by four local law firms: Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery PC; DeMeo DeMeo & West; Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz LLP; and Spaulding, McCullough & Tansil LLP.

Congratulations to the following graduates who received degrees:

Dr. Don Claybrook, Sr., MLS
Chandra Caffery, JD
Jean Marie Clifford, MLS, JD *
Kristen Cummings, MLS
Grace De La Torre, MLS
Scott James Emerick, JD
Joel Elliott Fleck, MLS, JD *
Ashlee Marie Hellman, MLS, JD *
Maximiliano Holasek, JD

Christina A. Howard, MLS *
Kendall Jarvis, MLS, JD *
Gerald Lamont Jones, MLS
Matthew Kabanuck, MLS, JD *
Monica R. Kelly, MLS
Gretchen Louise Longshore, JD *
Dale C. Miller, JD *
Ashley Elizabeth Olazar, MLS
Gloria Veronica Posada-De Leon, MLS, JD

Ray Robert Schmidt, Jr., JD *
David Freeman Sears II, MLS, JD
Destinee Louise Tartuffe, JD
Richard Lee Watson Jr., JD *
Rochelle Elizabeth Wattz, MLS
Holland Marcus Webster, JD
M. Isabel Wells, MLS
Amy Elizabeth Woodruff, MLS, JD
Jesse M. Wurtzel, MLS, JD **

* *Cum laude*

** *Magna Cum Laude*

July California Bar Exam

In late-July Empire law graduates sat for the strenuous, three-day California Bar Exam. Now they wait...until November to hear the outcome of their efforts and months of studying.

Informational Law Seminar

A free informational seminar will be held Monday, August 22, at 6:30pm featuring two Empire Law alumni guest speakers, Samuel Daw (criminal defense) and Karin Stoeckenius (adoptions and family building). They will share information about their law school experiences, current careers, and answer questions for prospective law students and anyone interested in learning more about law school. Guests are welcome.

To reserve a space or if you have questions contact: LawAdmissions@empirecollege.com.



Small Claims Advisory Latest Milestone

Empire College's Small Claims Advisory Clinic has served over 21,700 community members. We thank the Law students who support our community. This coming fall the Clinic will be led by Professor Cockerill and Daniel Lanahan III, Esq.

Elder Law Clinic Moves to Tuesdays

The Elder Law Clinic has been supporting the Sonoma County community of seniors at the Silvercrest/Salvation Army location since 2005 and is moving to a new day of the week. They will continue with the same hours but on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays.



Paralegal Department News

Andrea Ruiz Receives Nation's Top Honor for Community Service

Congratulations to paralegal student Andrea Ruiz! Andrea was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for her work as a volunteer aSpanish/English translator at Empire Law School's Small Claims Clinic. Andrea won Gold Level recognition for volunteering over 250 hours of her time at the clinic. Andrea also won the Legal Department's Outstanding Student Award at graduation this July.

Andrea describes her experiences at the clinic as very rewarding. *Volunteering at the Small Claims Advisory Clinic has given me a vast amount of experience. While my only task was to translate for Spanish speakers, I soon became very familiar with the Small Claims' procedures and was able to assist the law students in more than just translating for them. The further I advanced in my legal classes at Empire College, the more I felt confident to be able to assist at the Small Claims Advisory Clinic. At the Small Claims Clinic, we receive a wide range of cases from basic contract law to landlord-tenant law. Being able to sit in with the law students and the supervising attorneys for over a year has greatly complemented all I have learned in my legal classes.*

Paralegals Won!

At the Sonoma County Bar Association's Summer Soiree, legal department head Monica Lehre and fellow legal instructor Deborah Cain teamed up with Trudy McQuiddy, paralegal at Senneff, Freeman, and Bluestone, and Lauren Morris, paralegal at O'Brien, Watters, & Davis to compete with a team of attorneys and a team of judges in the Bar's annual Cook-Off. The teams were given a bag of ingredients, spices, a George Forman Grill, and 20 minutes to cook! A chef from John Ash's Vintner's Inn judged the creations and found in favor of the paralegals! It was great fun!

Paralegal Students Attend Women in Law Luncheon

Seven legal students attended the June Sonoma County Women in Law luncheon (the cost was offset by scholarships from Day ELSA.) The topic of the luncheon was domestic violence and how the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and family law attorneys can work together to help victims.

Guest Speakers and Field Trips Enrich Learning

In May, legal students went to the Sonoma County Civil Clerk's Office to learn first-hand how to file court documents. Also in May, both Legal and IT students sat in on a wrongful death product defect trial to learn about the technology used in modern courtrooms. In July, legal students watched trials in Small Claims Court.

Mediator Cate Griffiths from Recourse Mediation spoke to the Mediation/Conflict Management class. Charles Applegate, criminal defense attorney, spoke to Business Law students. Legal students also had the opportunity to listen to the IT Department's guest speaker, a computer forensic analyst who works with the Sheriff's Department to extract data from cell phones for use at trial.

Legal Department Advisory Committee

The Legal Department Advisory Committee recently met at the Sonoma County Law Library and had their picture taken. The committee consists of Jeanne Browne, Esq. (Family Law Attorney – Mediation and Collaborative Practice), Victoria Litchfield (Paralegal — Law & Mediation Offices of Andrea M. Ponticello), Kim Tucker, MLIS (Executive Director of the Sonoma County Law Library), and Monica Lehre, ACP (Legal Dept. Head)

Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) News

Evening ELSA donated \$1,000 to the Sonoma County Law Library! SCLL has been struggling to find funding. This generous donation will help the library continue to serve the public as well as our legal community. ELSA had a pizza party to mark the occasion and Kim Tucker, Executive Director of the library, joined them to express her thanks. Evening ELSA now has Supreme Court level donation status listed on the SCLL website and will continue to raise funds for worthy causes. They recently sold leis at graduation.



Above: Legal Department Advisory Committee

Below: Check presentation to the Sonoma County Law Library



Information Technology Department News

I.T. Club Hosts Computer Workshop

The I.T. Club held a computer seminar on July 22. Tech students Jordan Padgett and Chris Rivera, along with department head Ryan Donham, gave presentations to users about free I.T. tools and security tips. Through the event, the club raised donations for Autism Speaks.

Meet Phil Aldrich, Department Mentor

Phil decided to pursue a career in I.T. after working in the automotive field where he started as a mechanic, then specialized in electrical, onboard computer troubleshooting, drivability and shop foreman, some teaching, and finishing out building racing cars.

There's a lot more to his story, so say hello and learn more. Phil is outgoing and enjoys helping people.

IT students attain industry certifications



Core

Philip Aldrich
Eric Ballinger
Abraham Gonzales-Zarate
Cody McBurney
Jordan Padgett
Chris Rivera



Practical/OS

Alathea Candia
Bo Nealon
Jordan Padgett
Chris Rivera



Randall Lane



Dylan McQueen



Craig Brior



*IT student mentor
Phil Aldrich*

*Right: Jordan
Padgett talks about
the need for antivirus
software*

Event Planning Students Raise Funds for Schools Plus

The 4th Annual Rally Sonoma County – a delicious scavenger hunt for the hidden jewels of our region – raised \$1,400 for Schools Plus.



Accounting Department News

Empire Students Receive Scholarships from IMA Parent Chapter

Congratulations to Neeru Setia, Nam Doran, and Jeniebel Coto who were presented scholarships from the Institute of Management Accountants at the April 21, 2016 student night.



Accounting Department Advisory Committee

The Accounting Department Advisory Committee recently met on campus. The committee consists of:

- Robert Mitchom, Finance Operations Manager, Amy’s Drive Thru
- Richard Maas, Controller, Discovery Office Systems
- Susan Gugliotta, Owner, Gugliotta Accounting & Consulting

Accounting Students Attain Industry Certifications

Congratulations to Joshua Cazares and Edgar Gutierrez who recently passed the Excel certification exam.



IMA Meetings and Events

The IMA student chapter has held a variety of general meetings, “Meet and Greets,” and a Nacho fundraiser. A fantastic team exercise, the money earned from the fundraiser was donated to the RMJ Foundation which supports the development of youth financial literacy and filters through to the Redwood Credit Union’s Bite of Reality program.

Accounting Department Mentors

Being a Type 1 Diabetic, numbers are a huge part of evening accounting student Jamie Ballentine’s life. *“Adding, subtracting, and balancing numbers are just some of the things I have to do every day. Therefore, when I had an opportunity to go back to school, I felt that accounting was right up my alley. I’m very honored to have been asked to be a mentor for all of my classmates. I am someone who supports and encourages you in your academic and personal growth. You will often find me here around 5:30 p.m.”*

Jennifer Louviere says she decided to attend Empire College because she appreciates the private school setting and the personal attention the students receive here. *“One of the main reasons I chose this program was to get certified in various accounting software programs which will benefit me in my current employment as a bookkeeping supervisor. I enjoy helping others and consider it a pleasure to assist individuals in their new careers as students. My goal is to help others feel comfortable in their new surroundings.”*



Ashley Whitt says she decided to pursue her associate degree in accounting at Empire College for many reasons. *“One of the main reasons was to have the ability not only to get a job but a lasting career in accounting. I realized that accounting was the career for me because I am an analytical and detail-oriented person. I enjoy helping people and feel a sense of accomplishment when I am able to help someone to understand things better, or just listening and offering any help that I can.” ▲*



Top: IMA scholarship recipients

Above: Accounting Department Advisory Committee

Left: Nacho fundraiser

Below: Accounting students have fun placing the 1040 income tax formula in proper order.



Medical Department News

Marlus Shaw Awarded Annual Kaiser Permanente Scholarship

Congratulations to Marlus Shaw, 2016 recipient of the \$2,500 Kaiser Permanente Scholarship.

Empire Students Participate in Career Education Talent Showcase

Twenty-five Empire College medical students are participating in the inaugural program called Career Education Talent Showcase to earn work-ready credentials. Nationally recognized hiring expert Wonderlic, Inc. and leading digital badge platform Credly have joined forces to deliver this program to career colleges and their students.

The Career Education Talent Showcase will provide students and graduates from eligible healthcare training programs the opportunity to earn digital badges that demonstrate job readiness for specific healthcare professions.

Meet Jeni Burdick, Student Mentor

I have been a stay-at-home mom since the age of 19. Two years ago, the last of my children became old enough to attend school for a full day, giving me room to expand my horizons outside the walls of my home. It took me a little over a year of dragging my feet before I finally came to Empire. That has already been one of the best decisions I have made. I truly feel that if you're open and give it your all, Empire will give you much more than an academic education. I am excited to get to know you, help any way I can, and to be your cheerleader.

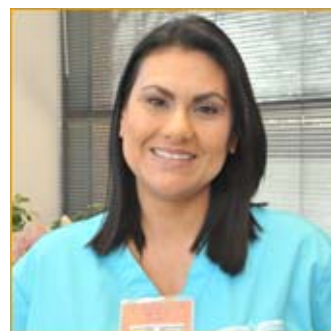
Medical grad Priya Latchman reflects on her educational journey

I decided to come to Empire College to continue my education and pursue my dreams of being in the medical field. Already having two Associate Degrees, I knew that I wanted to go to a school where I could quickly get into the work force. Empire College has opened the door for many great opportunities. Not only was I able to use my skills at school, but I had endless opportunities within the community to put my medical skills to use. While at Empire I had the honor of being the tutor during most of my schooling. I was extremely fortunate to be hired off of my externship at Santa Rosa Internal Medicine where I currently work as a medical assistant. I never imagined that I would find a job that I would enjoy coming into every day while continuously learning new things as I go. I'm extremely excited to see what my future holds for me from here on out.

Congratulations to new Certified Medical Assistants!

Congratulations to those who have achieved their CCMA certification:

Raychel Adams, CCMA-C
Jeremy Becerril, CCMA-AC
Mayra Espinoza, CCMA-C
Cynthia Gutierrez, CCMA-C
Joshua Guzman, CCMA-AC
Wendy Jacobo-Arevalo, CCMA-AC
Ashley Madrid, CCMA-C
Jennifer McClester, CCMA-C
Julia Renninger, CCMA-AC
Roselia Rojas-Lopez, CCMA-AC
Vanessa Spaeth, CCMA-AC
Tiffany Stephens, CCMA-C
Devin Todd, CCMA-AC
Tiffany Vadon, CCMA-AC
Adriana Valdivia, CCMA-AC
Darian Waterman, CCMA-C
Bianca Woodberry, CCMA-C
Jacqueline Young, CCMA-AC



Vanessa, Brenda, and Jasmine had a great time volunteering at the annual River Rock Casino health fair.



JOBS! (continued from page 1)

Information Technology

Charles Fuhrman	Systems Specialist	River Rock Casino
Tyler LeBrun	Remote/Telephone & Onsite Support	DMI Networking Solutions
Reynaldo Ramirez-Ortiz	Level I Technician	TeamLogicIT
Jonathan Scott	Desktop Support Specialist	KLH Consulting

Legal

David Dixon	Legal Assistant	Omar Figueroa, Attorney at Law
Rebecca Heath	Paralegal	Douglas Fladseth, Attorney at Law
Jeanette Tidd	Library Technician	Sonoma County Law Library

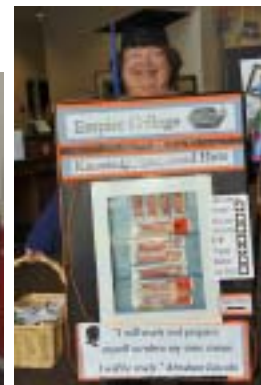
Medical

Raychel Adams	Medical Assistant	Northern California Medical Associates
Jaritzza Avila	Medical Assistant/ Front Office Combination	Northern California Medical Associates
Katie Calegari	Medical Assistant	ReviveMD Medical Spa
Tanya Chretien	Medical Assistant	Sebastopol Orthopedics
Ivette Corral	Medical Assistant	Alliance Medical Center
Jorge Cruz	Front Office Care Team	West County Health Centers
Luis Diaz	Medical Assistant	Alliance Medical Center
Mary Driskill	Medical Assistant	Dr. Nikola Lozanov
Suzanna Franklin	Medical Assistant	Sebastopol Orthopedics
Marisol Guzman Fernandez	Back Office Medical Assistant	Neck Pain, Back Pain, Headache Relief Center
Veronica Hermsillo	Ophthalmic Tech/ Back Office Medical Assistant	North Bay Vitreoretinal Consultants
Rebecca Lee	Medical Assistant	Redwood Family Dermatology
Emilia Lemus	Care Team Medical Assistant	West County Health Centers
Samantha Madrigal	Medical Records Clerk	Redwood Orthopaedic Surgery Assoc.
Anai Magana Valencia	Medical Assistant	Santa Rosa Community Health Centers
Alana Martin	Medical Assistant	NorCal Dermatology
Alyssa Molina	Front Office Combination	Northern California Medical Associates
Emily Papich	Medical Front Office Assistant	Hittenberger Orthotics and Prosthetics
Nicole Peixoto	Medical Front Desk Reception	Dr. Ronald Botelho
Jessica Pittman	Medical Assistant	Concentra
Alexa Rosemurgy	Medical Assistant	Marin Medical Practice Concepts
Sharon Ruiz	Medical Assistant	Redwood Coast Medical Services, Inc.
Maria Sanchez	Chiropractic Assistant	Mordecai Dumadse Chiropractic
Carmen Sandoval-Sandoval	Front Office Medical Receptionist	Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics
Angela Santa	Data Entry Specialist	Marin Medical Practice Concepts
Tiffany Stephens	Medical Assistant	Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation
Blanca Torres	Unit Secretary	St. Joseph Health
Merewalesi Tuinabewa	Medical Assistant	True North Health Center
Liliana Villicana	Medical Assistant	Family Care Allergy and Asthma ▲

JOB FAIR: SAVE THE DATE!

Ready to meet some employers who think you're great? Mark your calendar for Wednesday afternoon, September 28th, for Empire College's Job Fair.

The job fair is a great place to practice networking and try out your interview outfit (and to see Barb's latest costume).



Summer graduation ... a *Celebration of Success*

Commencement Exercises were held for graduates of the Business School at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts on Monday evening, July 25, 2016.

California Assemblymember Jim Wood (photo top right) delivered the commencement address. Chris Rivera (middle right), who majored in the Specialized Associate Degree–Information Technology program, spoke on behalf of the graduating class, and Sharilynn Koch (bottom right) offered remarks from the Empire College faculty.

Paralegal student Andrea Ruiz received the College's first-ever Volunteer Service Award (see story on page 3) for her work in the Small Claims Advisory Clinic. Thirteen graduates received awards from Empire College, textbook publishers, and professional organizations.

Congratulations to all graduates on your hard work and accomplishments. You did it! ▲

EMPIRE COLLEGE OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AWARDS

Accounting
Neeru Setia

Business
Olivia Ohmsted

Information Technology
Travis De Blicek

Legal
Andrea Ruiz

Medical
Alexa Rosemurgy

PUBLISHER & ORGANIZATION AWARDS

California Medical Assistants Association Award for Medical Assisting
Heather Graham

Cengage Learning Accounting Award
Nam Doran

Cengage Learning Information Technology Award
Shacara Sims

Cengage Learning Medical Award
Jaritza Avila and Nicole Peixoto

Kaiser Permanente Medical Student Achievement Award
Erika Camacho

McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Outstanding Student Award
Priya Latchman

Pearson Education Spirit Award
Tina Carnes ▲



Save the Date!

2017 Commencement

Thursday, June 15, 7pm

Above top: Vicky Locey, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nurse Executive of the Marin/Sonoma Region of Kaiser Permanente, presented the Kaiser Permanente Medical Student Achievement Award to Erika Camacho.

Above middle: Jenifer Alvarado, Regional Manager for McGraw-Hill Education, presents the McGraw-Hill Outstanding Student Award to medical graduate Priya Latchman.

Above bottom: Tina Carnes, recipient of the Pearson Education Spirit Award, with President Hurd.

Right: Irais Maya-Aguayo won the award for most balloons and flowers!



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

News from the Business Administration Department

IAAP Fundraiser Nets \$100 for the Sonoma County Animal Shelter

The Empire student chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals raised \$100 for the Sonoma County Animal Shelter with their “Buy a Dog to Save a Dog” fundraiser.

Business Students Achieve Microsoft Certifications

Congratulations to the following Business students who passed their Microsoft Certifications:

- Julissa Alfaro: Word and Excel
- Payton Fedrick: Word and Excel
- Olivia Olmsted: Word and Excel
- Katarina Riggs: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook
- John Ruppert-Garcia: Outlook

Cindy Hanna Recognized as Empire Business School’s “Educator of the Year”

Empire College School of Business was pleased to nominate Evening School Dean and Business/Hospitality Department Head Cindy Hanna as a candidate for the “Excellence in Education” award in the two-year college category.



Since joining Empire’s faculty in 1990, Cindy has directly contributed to the success of thousands of students. She has developed diverse curriculum including Business Correspondence, Office Management, and Entrepreneurship courses. Her internship connections have placed students into environments with social benefits including public policy (see story below) and child services such as Pediatric Dental Initiative.

Olivia Olmsted Begins Internship at Senator McGuire’s Office

Specialized Associate Degree–Business major Olivia Olmsted began her internship with California Senator Mike McGuire’s office the week of August 8. A few days into her internship experience, she gave us this report:

My internship at Senator Mike McGuire’s office has been an enriching experience. Empire College’s Business Department Head, Cindy Hanna, contacted the Senator’s District Office Manager, Karlene Rebich, to arrange this position. Being certified in Excel has proven to be an important aspect in performing administrative work. Having taken a filing class at Empire allows me to be confident in electronic and hard-copy filing. This environment requires me to utilize a professional, but friendly, personality when answering phones and interacting with office staff. Attentively listening, asking questions, and clarifying task directions are key to a successful work day. ▲



In Brief (continued from page 2)

Professor Rubinoff Recognized for “Excellence in Education”

Empire College School of Law was pleased to nominate Professor Ronit Rubinoff as a candidate for the “Excellence in Education” award in the post-graduate category. Professor Rubinoff is the Executive Director of Legal Aid of Sonoma County and in 2014 established the Legal Aid Clinic at Empire, where she serves as a professor to further serve disenfranchised clients of Sonoma County.

Students certified by the Committee of Bar Examiners and supervised by Ms. Rubinoff are allowed to appear in court, sit at counsel table, and represent clients. One student stated: *Legal Aid was the foundation for my legal development. I learned not only about client intake, conflict checks, and file building, but also about initial and subsequent interviews, gathering of evidence, legal research, writing declarations and filling out forms, court filing, and court appearances on behalf of clients.*

Under Ronit’s supervision, students provide assistance and representation in the Domestic Violence and Civil Harassment courts. One student aptly stated: *I cannot say enough about Ronit as a person, a leader, and activist. She and her wonderful staff have given me the training to be able to navigate my way through the legal process. Her volunteer and staff attorneys are incredible mentors, and as a law student, I felt incredibly fortunate to be able to assist clients with their struggles and triumphs, as well as being able to make the pleadings and general legal process a little less of a mystery for them.*



Law Staff and Faculty News

- Professor Bayles-Fightmaster, retired Sonoma County Superior Court Commissioner, is joining the law faculty and will be leading the fall session of Self-Help Access Center (family law clinic).
- Professor Rutherford is returning as professor of Business Organizations in the Fall.
- Professor Ornell is taking a sabbatical and Professor Belle will teach Real Property.
- Professor Bussing will teach Professional Responsibility in Fall.
- Professors Daum and Ravitch will team-teach Criminal Law this coming year.
- New upcoming Fall elective offerings: Jurisprudence, taught by Professor Gerber; Non-Profit Organization Law, taught by Professor Rydell; and Governance in Context, taught by Professor Stogner. ▲

Paralegal (continued from page 3)

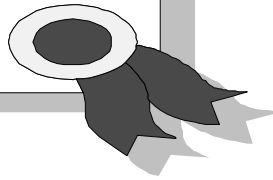
Day ELSA held a huge tamales fundraiser on Cinco De Mayo and raised \$300 for their scholarship fund. They followed it up with a corn-on-the-cob fundraiser in August, which raised another \$100.

Day ELSA has elected a new board! Pictured below: Alea Sanders, Vice President; Andrea Ruiz, President; Dee Jay Sweet, Secretary; Diana Duenas-Brown, Treasurer. Thank you past and current ELSA boards for your service to a wonderful organization that makes a difference in the lives of our legal students and to our legal community! ▲



Congratulations to Commissioner Rasmason, Empire’s 11th judicial alum and Professor of Community Property, on her appointment as a Sonoma County Superior Court Commissioner.

Honor Roll



Students listed have achieved President's or Dean's Honors as of July 31.

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

Avina, Rosalia
 Ballinger, Eric
 Christensen, Amy
 Dawson, Shelley
 Doran, Duangkamon (Nam)
 Duenas-Brown, Diana
 Figarola, Bruno
 Garcia, Courtney
 Ginnett, Anna
 Graves, Donna
 Holtsclaw, Jessica
 Hunter, Marc
 Kelly, Christina
 Koste, Jaime
 Longley, Michelle
 Louviere-Hammons, Jennifer
 MacIsaac, Megan
 Poole, Patricia
 Rivera, Chris
 Sarmiento, Krista
 Setia, Neeru
 Shaw, Marlus
 Sundstrom, Ashley
 Thomas, Mark
 Walsh, Rebecca
 Wilson, Linette
 Zamora, Wesley

Dean's Honors

Abrica, Susana
 Aguayo, Elena
 Aldrich, Philip
 Anaya, Daniela
 Banuelos Corona, Daniela
 Brinson, Kyle
 Camara, Connie
 Candia, Alethea
 Cherney, Melissa
 Cronin, Krystina
 Ghiringhelli, Haley
 Gomez, Elisia
 Graham, Heather
 Humphrey, Bryce
 Lozano, Karina
 Luna, Jennifer
 Maritzen, Nichole
 Marracq, Michael
 Mowforth, Iris
 Nieto, Guadalupe
 Ocampo, Janica Krishel
 Padgett, Jordan
 Ralston, Tea
 Ruiz, Andrea
 Santana Ruiz, Karen
 Slover, Keira
 Steele, Lynn
 Sweet, Dee Jay
 Vazquez, Daisy
 Wassana, Stacy

Egg Drop Challenge reinforces human relations concepts

Human Relations instructors Laura Krieg and Carl Oeschger chose the Egg Drop Challenge as a fun way to reinforce HR concepts (communication skills, conflict resolution, group dynamics, and creativity). Winning team members were Bryce, Gabrielle and Anahi (with the Mars landing balloon), Jennifer, John and Yessica (popsicle stick box), Megan, Jessica, Rachel and Karl (blue balloon carrier). Connie, Nam and Jessica's purple and red nest didn't fare as well, but provided the most dramatic video footage as their egg went splat!



Financial Aid Corner

Know Before You OWE!

Kass Von der Mehden is now working in Financial Aid. She is here to answer questions about Federal Student Loan repayment.

- **Income-Based Repayment Plan** – Depending on your income and family size, you may qualify for reduced loan payments.
- **Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness** – Many public, not-for-profit, and government employers qualify for this program- work fulltime, make income-based, on-time loan payments and a portion of your loans could be forgiven!
- **Build Great Credit** – By making on-time payments, students can build or repair their credit.

Kass is your partner in repayment; stop in and see her anytime! Email kvon@empirecollege.com. ▲



Finley Foundation gifts \$100,000 to Empire's GED Prep program

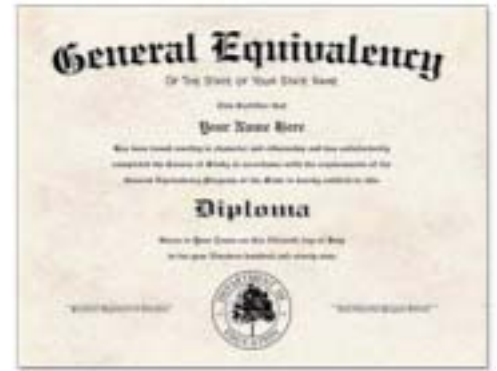
The Ernest L. and Ruth W. Finley Foundation recently gifted \$100,000 to the Empire College Foundation for the furtherance of the College's free General Education Diploma (GED) preparation program for the public. The program was initially funded by a \$250,000 donation to the Empire College Foundation from the estate of former Empire College board member, businessman, and civic leader Evert Person. The new grant from the Finley Foundation is estimated to perpetuate the program through 2021.

"We felt it important to use the original bequest in a fashion that would benefit the community and provide grants to students, thus creating a legacy that is in alignment with Evert's, and his wife Norma's, wishes," says Empire College president Roy Hurd.

Training and materials, along with the cost of the four-part GED exam, are all provided at no cost for those whose current educational equivalency is at the eleventh or twelfth grade level. Classes are held at the Empire College campus Monday through Thursday, with a choice of morning and afternoon sessions.

Since the program's inception in 2012, 171 individuals have attained their GEDs. With 17 to 25 percent of high school students in Sonoma County not completing high school during the past 6 years, along with higher unemployment rates and lower earnings for this group, the need for preparation programs for the GED is increasing. To further exacerbate the problem, effective July 1, 2012, the U.S. government cut off access to federal grants and loans to those without their GED, whether or not the applicants are able to pass college-level entrance exams.

"We thought it was important to help fill this educational gap for students who are seeking a smaller school environment with access to personalized attention," says president Hurd. ▲



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