

# THE GUARDIAN

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## 'MICHAEL JORDAN' OF COURT REPORTING SUFFERS UPSET DEFEAT

*Written by: Billy Higgins*



Jo Ann Bryce didn't win any medals in Sochi, but in the Olympics of court reporting, she's a champion.

The quick-fingered, unflappable 59-year-old pulled off an upset at the 2014 national court-reporting championships, sweeping both the real-time and the speed competitions.

In a contest in which a hyphen or comma can spell the difference between victory and defeat, the pressure can get intense. But for the silently scrupulous bunch, it's also their moment to shine, writes WSJ's Zusha Elinson who was on the scene at a hotel conference room in San Francisco to cover last month's event.

Organized by the National Court Reporters Association, the annual contest stretches back more than a century to a time when pen and paper were the

tools of the trade.

The technology hasn't advanced much. Nowadays, court reporters use a machine resembling a miniature typewriter, but they're still in high demand in federal and state court-houses.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said that there were about 21,000 court reporters in 2012 and predicts that the field will grow by 10% by 2022. Closed captioning on television shows has also been a source of employment, the bureau said.

Mark Kislingbury, a 51-year-old regarded as the Michael Jordan\* of court reporters, had been heavily favored to win this year's contest. He boasts a transcription rate of 360 words a minute — a world speed record — employing a new brand of stenography that uses more shortcuts to minimize keystrokes.

But he was bested by Ms. Bryce, a 39-year veteran who scored nearly 100% in accuracy, including a perfect five minutes of question-and-answer testimony read at a blinding 280 words a minute.

"I am still in shock," she said. "I know I did it—it just sort of seems surreal."

*Reprinted from The Wall Street Journal*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"It is by acts and not by ideas that people live."*

**-Anatole France**

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## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

**Online:**  
**Holly Harris**

Holly had some difficulties with her writer for a while, but she didn't let that stop her! She still displayed a winning attitude. She's a "worker bee" for sure! Holly took a look at the obstacles and made a way through. Keep up this drive and determination, Holly!

**Online:**  
**Michelle Dziubla**

Michelle has such a great attitude in everything that she does. Her work is always thorough and she really exemplifies the traits necessary to be a successful reporter. Congratulations on a job well done, Michelle!

**Online:**  
**Ashley Kramer**

Ashley has fabulous attendance, submits all assignments on time, and always produces a quality transcript! She is a pleasure to have in class. Great job, Ashley!



(continued from pg. 1)

## Check This Out!

"Light" refers to the weight of the unit, plus the fact that keys can be actuated by the most gentle of touches. "Speed" refers to faster and more accurate writing by virtue of the elimination of wasted motion due to unnecessary up and down key travel.



Those features are complemented by the unique ability to adjust each individual key's sensitivity by means of a simple graphical user interface in a computer program.

Once key sensitivity adjustments are completed, the changes are saved to firmware embedded in the LightSpeed's memory. Multiple user profiles containing settings for the key adjustments can be stored and applied when desired.

The LightSpeed can be operated while connected to a computer or wireless through Bluetooth. A USB cable connection can be used for serial communication, power, or battery charging. When connected to a computer with a USB cable, the unit is powered by said cable; however, when connected by Bluetooth or operating independently the unit is powered by a rechargeable battery pack.

The LightSpeed provides data storage by means of a removable digital Secure Data card. Steno keystrokes and corresponding time stamps will be stored on these cards. The Secure Data cards can then be inserted into a computer's card reader to transfer the backed up data.

[www.stenovations.com](http://www.stenovations.com)

## JOB OPENINGS

### OFFLINE TRANSCRIBERS

# CAPTIONSSYNC

AST is looking for trained professional transcribers with demonstrated attention to detail and deadlines. Working as independent contractors, individuals have the flexibility to choose when and where to do their transcription. Requirements:

- Transcription experience and excellent typing skills required.
- Must have a foot pedal, transcription software, and professional headphones and/or speakers.
- Must have excellent knowledge of English grammar and punctuation.
- Must have excellent research skills.
- Must be on time and return projects according to strict deadlines.

MUST BE OPEN TO FEEDBACK AND MAKE IMMEDIATE CORRECTIONS.

### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

AST is looking for talented individuals with demonstrated achievement in direct captioning sales. Exceptional customer communication skills coupled with competence in basic computing and web tasks are a must. If you think you have what it takes to join our team, send your CV to

[jobs@automaticsync.com](mailto:jobs@automaticsync.com).

## Word Trippers By: Barabara McNichol



**Afflict, inflict** – Both words mean to cause pain, suffering, distress and discomfort. “Afflict,” which uses the preposition *with*, usually describes an illness or condition. “Inflict,” which uses the preposition *on*, concentrates on the force with which the punishment, suffering, distress, pain or discomfort is administered.

As a noun, “affliction” is synonymous with disease, misfortune, suffering; “infliction” is synonymous with imposition, enforcement, exaction.

“He did not intend to *inflict* shame on his friend by his calloused remark. It later *afflicted* him with a deep sense of remorse.” – Dr. Ron Minson

## AUGUST EVALUATIONS PASSED

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

**Students who have passed an exit speed have been bolded.**

<b>14 SAPs</b>	Christine Angel	Hilda Tsai	Heidi Hammond	Erin Gaffney
Angela Viray	Denise Hoisington	Kayde Rieken	Holly McKay	Holly Goodwin
<b>11 SAPs</b>	Joelle Maxfield	Megan Reeves	James McAllister	Jenna Gaito
Katelyn Berch	Kristine Mowery	Michelle Kowalsky	LeeSa Lyons	Jessica Rykhus
Monica Robinson	Lucetta Robinson	Monica Eskenasy	Madison Pacana	Jessica Vanatta
<b>10 SAPs</b>	Melissa Claborn	Rob Leifer	Melanie Segalla	Joan Yeatts
Jodi McCall	Rebecca Wasser	Sherrona Williams	Melodie Lewis	Jonathan Abrams
Matthew Van Pelt	<b>4 SAPs</b>	Stella Vaks	Michelle Dziubla	Julie Christopher
Summer Vaughn	Amy Powers	Timothea Brewer	Nicole Simchak	Kassandra Walter
<b>9 SAPs</b>	Andrea Davis	Abby Crouse	Pamela Filewood	Keely Nelsen
Sarah Hamilton	Holly Harris	<b>2 SAPs</b>	Stacey Haines	Kimberly Prebstle
<b>8 SAPs</b>	Lisa Major	Abigail Lancaster	Susanne Gorman	Marion Vanhorn
Christil Mcallister	Rey Russell	Ashley Ballard	Veronica Stewart	Megan Newsom
Michelle Jones	Roxanna Yau	Ashley Kramer	Yolanda Pena	Nadine Golden
<b>7 SAPs</b>	Thomas Herman	Bee Cimitier	<b>1 SAP</b>	Patricia Martin
Briponca Tate	<b>3 SAPs</b>	Brett Schatzle	Alisa Church	Paul Stevens
Denise Chase	Amy Strickler	Daniel Nied- erkruger	Amy Quintana	Ronald Pacana
Sindee Baum	Brandi Smith	Danielle Cadena	Andrea Beilke	Season Young
Tracie Blocker	Danielle Savidge	Ehmey Liggins	Angel McCullough	Shannon Finton
<b>6 SAPs</b>	Deb Gaston	Elizabeth Meek	Bonnie Fiechter	Sharon Dawes
Carolyn Collins	Elise Townes	Erica Zielinski	Claudia Meyers	Stephanie Hall
Kathleen Steadman	Esperanza Parada	Haley Both	Deborah Langlo	
<b>5 SAPs</b>	Gaylynn Smith		Debrina Jones	

## 2014 ILCRA's Student Scholarship Winner

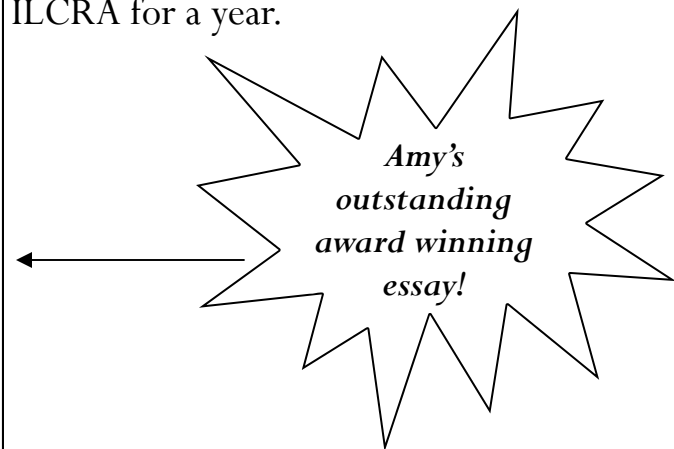
### **The Probable Secret of Success in Court Reporting School**

"You cannot conquer what you will not confront." This statement is one of my favorite quotations of all time, which was written by a national speaker and author named Paula White. Her advice has stayed with me throughout my time as a court reporting student, and I often return to it when I lose sight of the truth. For me, it is a practical reminder amidst feelings of failure, hopelessness, and doubt that often permeate through a court reporting student's daily efforts. We can get so sidetracked by seemingly impossible tests and challenging assignments that it becomes second nature to believe we don't have what it takes to succeed. When every class is more difficult than the previous one, our natural tendency is to revert back to familiar patterns or habits which only have the ability to lead us to the same results as before.

In my experience, the probable secret of success in court reporting school is confronting disappointing grades and gradual speed-building progress with unattempted techniques and a willingness to take a new approach. As court reporting students, we sometimes get stuck in cycles of practice in such an automatic way that we don't consider alternatives. If the straight copy we're using isn't improving our dictionaries anymore, we could turn on the television and type what we hear on our favorite channel. If we feel alone in what we're trying to accomplish academically, we could reach out to an instructor.

We need to learn to analyze our individual struggles and habits critically and thoughtfully in order to transcend them rather than recycling our old solutions over and over again, which, if we were honest, perhaps never worked that well for us anyway. The probable secret of success in court reporting school is moving beyond our comfort zone or the fear of the unknown and strengthening our capacity for courage and personal growth. If we can confront the tendencies we have in school that are outdated and no longer beneficial, we can begin to conquer new tasks in confidence with revised strategies, untried methods, and a transformed hope.

College of Court Reporting (CCR) is proud to announce that one of its very own students is the first place winner of the ILCRA student Scholarship essay contest. Amy Krueger won \$1000, a one-day registration to the 2014 ILCRA Annual Convention with hotel accommodations in Oakbrook, Illinois, and a membership in ILCRA for a year.



## E-seminar review: Recipes for success for court reporting firms: Lessons from NCRA's 2013 Firm Owners' Economic Benchmark Survey

In a recent e-seminar, Jim Cudahy, CAE, NCRA Executive Director & CEO, discusses the results from the 2013 Firm Owners Economic Benchmark Survey. Many valuable types of information can be gleaned by the 2013 numbers, as well as lessons learned from comparing the results. Cudahy adds, "It's helpful to take a benchmark of the industry periodically, to illuminate some of the best practices going on with court reporting firms."

Cudahy also talks about the priorities of the National Court Reporters Association and what's important to membership. He reviews the NCRA strategic plan, survey methodology, gross revenues, and size of firms, as well as trends and best practices such as market intelligence and marketing tactics used to acquire new business.

Court reporters who'd like to learn what's new in the 2013 survey and find out the type of firms, based on geographic location and revenue, that participated should not miss the presentation. Cudahy breaks down all of the categories by size and percentile and shares what firm owners believe were the increased-demand projects. Cudahy also shares insightful information as to whether there's a sweet spot when it comes to revenue increase and a point of diminishing return.

Throughout the presentation, Cudahy weaves in recipes for success and how important it is to cultivate business relations. And, he leaves with a final thought on how to increase your impact when it comes to building business.

This e-seminar is [now available](#) in NCRA'S online collection.

## 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' Cast and Producers Taunt Stenographer During TCA Panel (And It's Hilarious)

The TCA press tour is full of quirks that don't get broadcast to a general audience, because, frankly, a general audience wouldn't care. (Or should not find out about -- seriously, you don't want to know how much food gets served over these two weeks.)

Here is, technically, one of the less intriguing elements of this event: Each session that occurs under the TCA banner is transcribed in full by a noble human being doing good works. Yesterday, a "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" session held on the set of the Fox sitcom did not break with that tradition; however, the stenographer was seated in the eyeline of the (hilarious) cast and producers, who were delighted by her presence and called attention to it after addressing a question about the relationship between Joe Le Truglio and Melissa Fumero. The best way to showcase their reaction? Use the actual transcript she transcribed, as seen below:

**MIKE SCHUR:** *There's some old-timey stenography happening up here.*

**DAN GOOR:** *Everything is all going to be entered into a court of law.*

*(Laughter.)*

**CHELSEA PERETTI:** *Will there be a Q and A with you afterwards? (Laughter.) I don't know how that works.*

**MELISSA FUMERO:** *That's what I'm waiting for.*

**MIKE SCHUR:** *How is that recording anything? There's, like, eight total keys.*

**CHELSEA PERETTI:** *Yeah.*

**PANELIST:** *That's the whole point of stenography.*

**CHELSEA PERETTI:** *She won't talk to us.*

*(Laughter.)*

**ANDY SAMBERG:** *She's the best. Don't question it.*

**QUESTION:** *Technically, she's doing fine.*

**MIKE SCHUR:** *I believe you. She looks extremely competent. I just don't understand it.*

**CHELSEA PERETTI:** *She's writing these words.*

**ANDY SAMBERG:** *I know.*

**MIKE SCHUR:** *Watch this: I am a stenographer. (Laughter.) I am a stenographer. I am a stenographer. (Laughter.) She's still writing it.*

**DAN GOOR:** *That's great.*

**MIKE SCHUR:** *She has no choice. (Laughter.) Your boss is going to think you went crazy. (Laughter.)*

**CHELSEA PERETTI:** *I resign. I resign. I resign.*

*(Laughter.)*

**DAN GOOR:** *My boss is a pig.*

*(Laughter.)*

**MELISSA FUMERO:** *She can't write that one. She can't write that one.*



She clearly did, however (because that's all from the transcript she wrote). So let us raise a glass to that noble stenographer, who did not hesitate to transcribe the people mocking her. The TCAs continue until next week. Keep the stenographers in your prayers.

COLLEGE OF COURT REPORTING

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**ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

*Your CCR newsletter is always changing.  
 Contact Jen at [jen.lewis@ccr.edu](mailto:jen.lewis@ccr.edu) with  
 any ideas that you may have for the next  
 one. It is much appreciated!*

**October**

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

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
28	29	30	1	2	3 <b>Kassandra Walter</b>	4
5 World Teacher's Day	6 Fall semester begins!	7	8	9 <b>Juliane Petersen</b>	10 <b>Charlene Sherman Lisa Morton</b>	11 <b>Christine Obermeyer Heidi Headington</b>
12	13 140-160 4-Voice <i>Columbus Day</i> 	14 National Dessert Day	15	16 <b>Abby Crouse Ehmey Liggins Holly McKay</b>	17	18 <b>Yvonne Wilson</b>
19 <b>Amy Krueger</b>	20 180-200 4-Voice	21 <b>RPR PREP Stacy Drohosky</b>	22 <b>Lisa Major Jessica Vanatta</b>	23 <b>RPR PREP</b>	24 <b>RPR PREP</b> Make a Difference Day	25 <b>Amy Strickler</b>
26	27 140-160 4-Voice <b>Amanda Ladner</b>	28 <b>RPR PREP Jay Vettickal</b>	29 <b>Julie Christopher Brionca Tate</b>	30 <b>RPR PREP Brett Schatzle</b>	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i> <b>RPR PREP</b>	<b>RPR SKILLS</b>