

STENOTECH

CAREER INSTITUTE

Summer 2008 Newsletter

Greetings from Mary Ellen, Admissions Coordinator!

I hope that your summer has been relaxing and fun because the big day you have been waiting for is quickly approaching! As you know, new classes begin on September 8, 2008. Orientation dates and times will be included below. But first some success stories:

Open Houses

Our Summer Open Houses had solid showings at both Fairfield and Piscataway campuses. Congratulations to those of you who were so impressed that you will be joining us in September! We are certain you will love the world of Court Reporting.

Liana Rivas gave informative presentations and our owner and founder, Jean Melone, was there to assist. Jean shared her experiences as both a working reporter and teacher at the Fairfield campus and gave wonderful insight as to the great possibilities a reporting career offers.

Tracy Lovell, of our Piscataway campus, was very informative in sharing her experiences from a student's perspective and gave the audience a preview of what real-time writing is all about.

Rich Connell did an awesome job of arranging the rooms and setting up all of our equipment. He gave a real-time writing demo at the Fairfield Open House and "mini" lessons to interested parties so they could get a feel for that little machine called the stenewriter that enables a reporter to write like the wind and earn those big salaries!

My sincere thanks go out to all those involved in making each evening a success in its own right.

And now for the September Start News...

The deadline for all applications is September 3rd. If you have not already applied for the September 8th start, I suggest you do so now. Upon receipt of your application, we will schedule your entrance exam and from there you can meet with Financial Aid. Although the 8th is right around the corner, the whole process can be done in less than two visits. Classes are filling quickly, so don't hesitate. Please contact marce@stenotech.edu with any questions. You can also reach me by phone at 973-882-4875.

Orientation Information for New Students

Orientation will be held on the following dates:
Piscataway: Wednesday, September 3rd at 10:30 a.m.
Fairfield: Monday, September 8th at 11:15 a.m.

Bring your smiles because you will be photographed for your student IDs on this day.

* Orientation will take approx. 2 hours. Fairfield students, please arrive at your scheduled class start time of 8:15!

Fairfield Campus News

News on the Fairfield front, compliments of Mrs. Butterfield:

Congratulations to Jessica Aiazzino, who graduated this month! Jessica accepted her first job for a New York reporting agency the very next day after completing her graduation requirements. Jessica let's no grass grow under her feet!

Alexis Jenio has been working in The Big Apple while attending school at the 225 level and has been doing a fantastic job teaching theory to our evening students. She has been reporting some really tough jobs and loving the challenge. The students listen wide-eyed while she tells us of her adventures. A big welcome to Pee-Wee the Lhasa Apso, a new addition to her family.

Candice Carucci became Mrs. Garza. She tied the knot on 8-8-08. (Play those numbers, Candice!) Her reception was held at the Landmark in Carlstadt. Congratulations and Good Luck!

Jessica Gonzales gave birth to her second child while a StenoTech student on August "13th" (Mrs. Melone thinks that's an all-time record.) Welcome Little Aniya Lilianna. The baby weighed in at 6 lbs "13" oz. Congratulations, Jessica, to you and your family! If we find Jessica and Candice missing from class on the same day, we will assume they are on the way to Atlantic City to hit the roulette wheels to play those lucky numbers!

Courtney Brown will become a bride on September 27th. She is working furiously to pass the last two tests she needs to graduate. Will she do it before the wedding? Who writes faster? A Miss or a Mrs.?

Alicia Walsh has returned to school after having her baby, Caleb. Only back a week and Alicia has passed a test at the 225 level. A new mom has to be fast!

Last but certainly not least, Valerie Giacomo has been hired to work for the Bergen County Hearing-Impaired Program and will be providing full-time CART services as of September 3rd. With those beautiful notes, she can't go wrong!!

FEATURED EVENTS & GUEST SPEAKERS UPDATES FROM JEAN MELONE, FAIRFIELD CAMPUS DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Jessica Gonzalez, Susan Istad, Diana Rodriguez, and Alicia Walsh on passing the Written Knowledge Test given by NCRA since the publication of our last newsletter. This is one of four test parts (or "legs") needed to obtain certification and licensure as a registered professional reporter (national recognition) and certified court reporter (NJ state recognition).

The Fairfield Campus hosted the NJ CECA (Cooperative Education Coordinators Association) luncheon for the third time this past winter, and Michael Diamond, former admissions coordinator, gave those in attendance some great insight into StenoTech's programs and the great demand that exists for court reporters not only in New Jersey but nationwide. The CECA has chosen Christian Salazar as the recipient for StenoTech's half tuition scholarship toward his court reporting program beginning this September. Four graduates of his high school (North

Bergen) are currently enrolled in the 125/150 speed levels of the program, so he will be in good company when he arrives this September.

Speaking of Michael Diamond, as most of you know by now, “Mick” has recently left us for employment in the teaching profession effective this September. While we are saddened to see him leave without realizing his full potential at our campuses, both Mrs. Haberkorn and I are very happy for him and truly wish him the best as he enters the world of teaching – his dream career!! With Mick’s journalism background and English expertise, his work ethic and values, *and* his love of teaching, I know that those whose lives he touches will be truly blessed.

On April 3rd and June 10th Fairfield hosted Level-Up Parties to recognize students who had moved up a speed level (or two) within the previous 12-week term (too numerous to mention here). We also recognized two students with outstanding attendance records: Iva Crandall and Lynn Forrest.

At the June party our guest speaker was none other than Regina Tell, incoming president of the CCRA-NJ (Certified Court Reporters Association of New Jersey). Regina is a certified court reporter, registered professional reporter, and certified realtime reporter and the official reporter for the Vioxx trial that was so highly publicized a few years back. Her frank and lively discussion about her career and changes in the field of court reporting was enjoyed by all. The fact that she’s a working mom who works full-time in the court system was of particular interest to our married female students in the audience. The fact that she took a day off from her court officialship to drive up from Atlantic City to Fairfield made her visit all the more special and appreciated!

Vendor presentations were given by Eclipse, ProCAT, and Stenograph during the past several months. As new writers evolve and upgrades are made to computer-assisted transcription software, our students are given many wonderful options to choose from as they transition from student to graduate status. All 200 students are reminded to purchase their professional equipment and software at least 6 months prior to using it officially for test-taking or reporting. This should be sufficient time to get used to the feel of the writer and/or working with the software and eliminating any potential problems on test day, during internship, or even your first reporting assignment!!

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 – Date of our next Leveling-Up and Graduation Party, honoring Julie Verrico, Jessica Aiazzino, and Valerie Giacomo.

Thursday, October 30, 2008 – Halloween Party AND 200/225 Prep Day for RPR Testing, to be given at both campus sites on Saturday, November 1st.

And now the scoop on the Piscataway Campus, compliments of the School Director, JoAnn Haberkorn:

On June 15, 2008, 175 Student Shoshana Morrison Katz gave birth to a healthy baby boy, 7 pounds and 4 ounces.

July 9, 2008 - Stenograph Software Demonstration by Grace Molson. Students had an opportunity to preview the new "Brief It" and "CaseView Net" features to the CaseCAT v.9 translation software.

July 15, 2008 - 5th Annual Indoor Picnic was held. This has always been a highlight for the students and staff. Families are also welcome to join in the festivities.

September 24, 2008 – Leveling-up party scheduled - always an emotional and motivating experience for new and "senior" students.

October 30, 2008 - Annual Door Decorating Contest to be held. This school-wide event is always fun and exciting, featuring "steno" creativity.

November 2008 - Realtime Boot Camp Competition - Date to be determined. In the past the Boot Camps have been individually competitive and demonstrate the "Realtime" skills of our students.

December 2008 - Annual Food and Gift Drive. Student Appreciation Party on 12/18/08. Congratulations to the following students who have successfully passed the WKT:
Diana Bascom, Denise Aramam, Elena Egan, Regan Patino and Donna Skribner.

Congratulations to the following 2008 graduates and completers:

Jen Buccafusco — Diploma — Employed
Christine Lamberti — Certificate — Employed
Michael Lombardozi — Certificate
Christine Marrero — Diploma

Congratulations to the following students who are currently employed as court reporters while completing their education:

Regan Patino
Katie Gyumolcs
Jackie Adami

And Now.....

Meet StenoTech's featured student, Julie Verrico, Graduate – Fairfield Campus.



Meet StenoTech's featured student, Julie Verrico. Congratulations, Julie, on your recent July 2008 graduation from our Fairfield campus! Julie has just moved to Kentucky and has already secured her first job there as a court reporter. If you can be a court reporter, you can do it anywhere!

Julie and I recently had an opportunity to discuss her experience at StenoTech and how her life has changed since then.

- M) Now that you have completed school and are anticipating your first job as a reporter, would you do it all over again?
- J) Yes, absolutely. It was definitely challenging and there were times I wanted to give up. However, I had excellent support from my teachers and my fellow classmates as well. Everyone was supportive of one another and we encouraged each other along the way.
- M) How did you first get introduced to court reporting?
- J) My mom actually went to the Fairfield campus of StenoTech for court reporting and I grew up listening to her raving about it. She always said the flexibility was fabulous along with the fact that you have no one to answer to except yourself. I think that is what initially enticed me.
- M) What was the most challenging part of school for you?
- J) The most challenging part was staying focused and not giving up when I wanted to. It is easy to get discouraged when you prepare yourself for a test, only to fail it by one point. Now I see the rewards and am glad I had the gumption to stick it out.
- M) What did you do to keep yourself motivated and focused?
- J) That was actually easy. While in school I got a job working part-time at a court reporting agency. I saw successful court reporters on a daily basis, saw the money they were making, and knew that it could be done. If they could do it, so could I!
- M) Was it hard to find your first job?
- J) Hard? I was hired immediately after finishing school. I was on Spring Break and interned for a company in Kentucky where I was planning to relocate. On my first day they offered me a job with their agency. I am just now settling in to my new life in Kentucky and look forward to my new career!
- M) How do you see your life in 5 years from now?
- J) Retired! Just kidding. I love the idea of freelancing and being my own boss. I think that is the area of court reporting I will probably stay with. It is nice, however, to know that I do have so many other options should I change my mind one day.

We look forward to Julie's visit when she joins us at our next level-up party. Our guests of honor will include Julie and also Jessica Aiazzino, who graduated on Tuesday, August 11th and took her first deposition on Wednesday, August 12. Quoting from a recent email from Jessica to school owner, Jean Melone:

“I mentioned to Trish yesterday that I passed my last test and my first job was the next day, and she said, ‘What a great career we chose. Graduate today, work tomorrow.’”

Jessica suggested that that would be a good slogan for StenoTech ... and one that’s potentially true for all StenoTech graduates. 100% of all Fairfield and Piscataway graduates are employed in their chosen profession as court reporters, court reporting scopists, and medical transcriptionists.

A footnote to all prospective students:

Please mark your calendar for our application deadline. Don’t procrastinate! Remember, “If you think you can, you can. If you think you can’t, you’re right.” Let StenoTech Career Institute get you on your way to the career of a lifetime!

Respectfully submitted by MaryEllen Arce
Admissions Coordinator