

The Growl -- August 2000

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The Monthly Newsletter For The Humphreys College Huskies, Stockton Campus



Scholarship Winner

Bruce M. Bodine, Coordinator of Court Reporting

Recently, one of our court reporting students applied for a scholarship offered by California Friends of Carl Saucedo, in conjunction with the 1999 National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) convention. The application required a short essay on the topic "Why have you chosen court reporting as a profession." During the week of July 10, I received notice that our student had won the scholarship, and I had the pleasure of presenting her with a check for \$300. The following is the winning essay written and submitted by Julie Alvarado:

As I pondered the question, "Why have you chosen court reporting as a profession?" many thoughts came rushing into my mind. When I first researched the court-reporting program, I thought, "This is for me." The program was short (two-to-three years), and I was interested in making money, money, money, and more money. Little did I know that that cute, little, compact machine would change my life forever.

I made it to the 170-180/2-voice level and was frustrated. Things in my life had changed. I wanted to be a court reporter, but I wanted it to be easy. That was not happening, so I threw in the towel and dropped out of school.

I took a well-paying job, but I hated it. After that came the regrets, the endless crying over how I should have never quit school. At this point, I realized that court reporting was now somehow embedded in my very soul. I kept wondering if I could have passed the CSR and where I would be now. It was constantly eating at me, in my dreams, on TV, longtime friends completing school. After three and a half years of that, I was scared, but I took the plunge to go back to school and finish what I started.

The decision was one of the easiest I've ever had to make in my life. I am a much happier person because of it. I have realized it takes a lot of hard work and dedication for me to accomplish this goal, and I am willing to put forth the effort 150%. Another thing that I've realized is that it isn't about the MONEY. It's about being happy with my career choice and being proud of the unique skill that I am acquiring. It's a prestigious job to be court reporter and not all people can do it.

When thinking about my past experience, I don't think I had the confidence to be a competent court reporter. Now, I feel the sky is the limit. I am excited about my future career as a court reporter. My mind set is different, and I think this has helped me. One motivator is to keep thinking of all the people who are unhappy with their jobs, and I will not be one of those people ever again.

If someone were to ask me what court reporting means to me, I would say it's about providing a service like no other. It's about all the people you encounter on your journey through school and after. It's about setting goals and accomplishing them. It's about the person that I've become while taking on this challenge. It's about teaching my children the importance of being a woman and getting an education (I have two boys). It's about courage, faith, dedication, and perseverance (that's just to name a few).

In conclusion, I feel this is a wonderful profession that I am going to be a proud representative of. I just passed into 180s, and there's no stopping me now!!

Thanks, Julie, for your wonderful insight about your career choice. I hope that all Humphreys College students will understand that your "mind set" actually applies to college students in general who are endeavoring to complete a degree or certificate program. The work is always difficult, but the rewards of accomplishment and self worth are truly fantastic. Congratulations from all of us in the court reporting department and Humphreys College.

A Very Loud Growl

Michael Duffett, Tutorial Center Coordinator



I'm growling. I'm growling very loud. (Note that last word can be an adjective or an adverb!)

Those of you in my two English classes this quarter know that I tend to do that quite a lot when I encounter egregious errors in what appears in the margins of your papers as GR, for grammar.

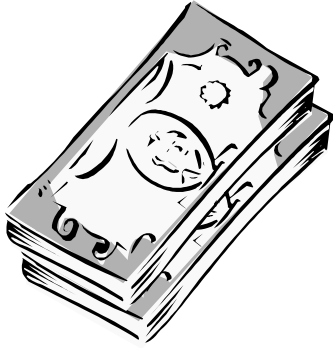
I'm growling because, as many of you know when you answer a question about grammar with "It just sounds right" or "It just sounds wrong" I do not accept this as a criterion (note the singular!) of judgement.

What most people say does not necessarily make it right. By a prescriptive, rather than a descriptive definition of linguistic accuracy, most people can be wrong That is why I counsel you all not to take your grammar guidance from the majority, from television or even from elected officials. Last week, the governor of this great state, in a speech lamenting the state of education (we are second to last!) made a howler. "That is my criteria," he said. Ouch!

So to whom do we look for grammar guidance? Why, to professors of English, of course, is my response. So when, this week, I read a book, "The Detective and Mr. Dickens" by a professor of English at a university in Indiana, and I discovered a host of errors, I growled loudly. Here is a sample:

1. Neither Dickens nor myself had time for cool deliberation.
2. Oh yes, I know him allright.
3. Coup de gras
4. Maitre'd

(A prize of a book to whoever puts these right!)



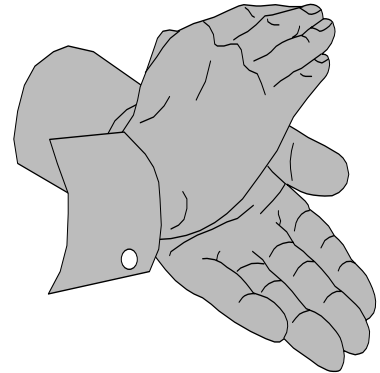
FUNDRAISING PLAN UNDERWAY!

ATTENTION COURT REPORTING STUDENTS -- Plan to attend the first meeting to begin organizing fundraising plans for the 2001 NCRA National Convention to be held in New Orleans. The meeting will be held Thursday, August 17, 1:30-2:30, Room B4. Bring your enthusiasm, creative fundraising ideas, and a commitment to making these efforts a success! See you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER HC STUDENTS!

Kay Reindl, Court Reporting Instructor

The court reporting department is proud to announce that recent graduates Toni Buie, Vickie Martin, and Noelle Ward have successfully passed the May 2000 CSR exam. Congratulations, ladies!



The November exam will be held in Los Angeles. It is anticipated that the November exam will be the last time that the written and machine portions of the exam will be offered at the same time. Future testing procedures will allow qualified candidates to schedule their own written exam at an authorized testing center. The machine portion will continue to be offered live, twice yearly.

Reminder: The Fall Quarter is just around the corner. Make sure you see the academic advisor for help with scheduling your courses. Make an appointment with Karen Garrett in Room A2 on the West Campus.

What is Academic Probation?

Lance Hall, Registrar



Students must maintain a satisfactory standard of scholarship. A student will be placed on academic probation under the following circumstances:

1. The student's grade point average for the quarter just completed is below 2.0
2. or The student's cumulative grade point average for all classes completed is below 2.0.

Receiving an Incomplete grade may cause a student to be placed on academic probation. This is dependent upon the student's other grades, and whether or not the Incomplete, if it turns to an F, will place the student on probation.

A first probation letter is not the end of the world! What is needed is to simply show an increase in the next quarter's grades. Mistakenly, many students will give up when they are on first probation.

A second probation letter is more serious. This means that the next quarter's grades must reflect both a current and cumulative grade point average must of at least 2.0 (a "C" average) or above. If probation continues after this point, dismissal may occur.

Do not despair if you are on probation! Seek the Registrar to see what your options are. With careful counseling and coaching, probation can be overcome.