

The Empire Writes Back

Volume 19, Issue 1, Spring 2019

Congratulations Students of the Month!

Lisa Arciga Coria, Jasmine Sanchez Lombera, Blake Buchanan, Krista Dutcher, and Victoria Lebowitz



DECEMBER—A founding member of MASC, Medical Assistants of Sonoma County, Lisa was elected Secretary/Treasurer and has done as much work as anyone to get the organization up and running. Lisa exceeds expectations at every turn.



JANUARY—Jasmine has passed several certification tests: Bookkeeping, QuickBooks, Payroll, and Income Tax. In addition, she fosters collaborative and cooperative relationships with classmates, and she is the Co-Director of the IMA Evening Chapter.



FEBRUARY—Blake was the first student in his classes to pass all CompTIA and Microsoft exams to become an MCSE. He is a true leader in every sense of the word, a role model and an inspiration to other IT students.

MARCH—Krista is a Student Mentor as well as a tutor, and she excels at both. Always smiling, Krista was a natural choice for both of those roles since she

goes above and beyond what is asked of her. She is a multi-tasker and is always friendly and helpful to her fellow students.



APRIL—A Business major, Vikki has earned her Word, Excel, and Outlook certifications, along with the Certified Tourism Ambassador and AHLA Guest Services Certification. She recently made a job change and is excited to be working in a position where she is able to use her newly acquired administrative skills. ▲



WE GOT THE JOB!

Accounting

Rebecca Barragan Traditional Medicinals Deduction Specialist

Business and Hospitality/Tourism

Melissa Chavez-Villalobos Mauro Archer O'Neill/Watts Guerra LLP Contents Specialist - Bilingual
 Karla Samples Eastham Ongaro and Sons Plumbing Project Coordinator
 Kara McFarlane CK Excavating and Demolition Administrative Assistant
 Sondra Tomsy Community Support Network Residential Counselor I

Information Technology

Devin Juley West County Net Computer Networking Technician
 Dennis Meceda Touch Sonic Technologies Technical Support
 Angelo Tlatilpa Rose International for Kaiser Desktop Technician

Legal

Cierra Cassero One Legal Customer Support Specialist
 Monica Lopez Perez Law Offices of Thomas Kelly Jr. Legal Secretary



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The School of Law In Brief

Student Successes at State Competitions

Our Environmental Negotiations Team of Kasra Parsad and Kaitlyn Wright performed well at the competition held in San Francisco on March 8th, with Coach Rachel Mansfield-Howlett and the Dean in attendance to observe their negotiating skills. They both did extremely well; the team missed the finals by only two points! Kudos to Coaches Mansfield-Howlett and Tina Wallis, and of course to our competitors!

Our Traynor Moot Court Team did an outstanding job at the annual competition on April 6-7. Always a challenging competition, this year's team went in on the heels of last year's win and came incredibly close to bringing the trophy back to Santa Rosa. Coached once again by Professor Connie Burnett, teammates Natalie Albanna, Richard Horrell, and Eric Smith wrote the top Appellant's brief. At the end of the first day, Empire was one of the top two teams to move on to the finals, and Eric Smith was in the top five oralists.

"The Boalt team really stepped up their game in the finals and inched ahead of us," Coach Burnett said. "Our team was great, and the judges deliberated for quite a while. We were told they went back and forth on who the winner should be."



State Bar of California Developments

On March 25th, Dean Brian Purtill was appointed by the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE) as one of three California Accredited Law Schools Deans to serve on the newly created Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS). This committee is an advisory group formed by the CBE to give input on guidelines governing the accreditation and operations of California's registered and accredited schools. Meetings will be held in San Francisco and Los Angeles throughout the coming year, which is expected to address numerous issues facing California law schools.

Law School Informational Seminar ... Tell a Friend!

An informational seminar will be held Tuesday, April 30th from 6:30-8pm at the Empire College campus. Featured alumni speakers will be Rachel McCallister, Esq. and Gerald L. Jones, MLS, JD.

After a career as a full-time "stay-at-home mom," Rachel McCallister (Class of 2009) became a certified paralegal and then worked as a law clerk for the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office while in law school. As an attorney, she assists clients and their families who are involved in the criminal justice system.

A 29-year public servant, Gerald Jones (Class of 2018) is utilizing his law degrees in his role as Senior director of Sonoma State University's Center for Academic Access and Student Enrichment, overseeing programs serving low-income, first-generation college students.

To read more about Rachel and Gerald, visit law.empcol.edu/law-seminar. To reserve your seat, call 707-546-4000 or email LawAdmissions@empirecollege.com. Guests are welcome.

Law Week Discussions Focus on Freedoms

Professor Dan Lanahan and Dean Purtill presented to a group of young people at the Juvenile Justice Center during Law Week. They circled the desks to sit with the students and have a discussion helping to make it relevant to their perspectives. The young people had keen observations on the limitations of both the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. The students developed their own hypothetical fact patterns involving Mark Zuckerberg and Justin Bieber as they discussed libel and slander and the protections afforded the press when the subject is a celebrity, which allowed for some humorous moments in the discussion. Students were engaged, insightful, and invested in the topic.

"It was not lost on all of us that we were discussing freedoms with folks who had lost theirs, and I think the students came away with a strong sense of the need to be alert, to not take these freedoms for granted, and to be judicious in judging the accuracy of the news of the day. I'd call the day a complete success and worth every hour of preparation," said Dean Purtill.





Paralegal Department News

ELSA Is Back!

After several months of inactivity, the Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) is BACK! Legal students are excited to rebuild ELSA and they have submitted a proposal to join the Paralegal and Legal Support Section as a student chapter. The Paralegal and Legal Support Section, formerly Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals and the Sonoma County Legal Secretaries Association, is a professional organization for all paralegals, legal secretaries, and legal office administrators in Sonoma County. We are excited for the opportunities this new section will provide to ELSA members. Look for ELSA's new board members in the coming weeks.

Paralegals Visit Sonoma County Public Law Library

Last module, the Legal Research students went on a field trip and tour of the Sonoma County Law Library. In addition to providing an expansive collection of legal references, the library recently became an official U.S. Department of State Passport Acceptance Facility where patrons can apply for and/or renew passports.

Legal Department Changes

Empire College is pleased to welcome two new instructors to the Legal Department.

Day instructor Nina Cooney, CP, comes to Empire College with many years of experience in the areas of Real Property Law, Estate Planning and Probate. Legal students are lucky to have Nina here sharing her skill and familiarity in these fields.

Night instructor Eric Young, Esq., has been practicing law since 1997. Eric previously taught paralegal classes at Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College and an E-discovery seminar for the Sonoma County Bar Association. Eric will be creating Empire College's new E-discovery class.

Legal students held a party for Monica Lehre to wish her well as she leaves her position as Department Head to pursue a new career in the field of law. Monica has been attending Empire Law School for the past four years, attaining her Juris Doctor degree, and will take the Bar Exam this summer.

We are pleased to announce that Laura Krieg is now Legal Department Head. Laura has been teaching in the paralegal program since 2010. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Management from Sonoma State University. In 2005, Ms. Krieg graduated from Sonoma State University's Paralegal Program and became

a certified paralegal in 2012 by passing the Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) Examination given by the National Association of Legal Assistants. As a paralegal, Ms. Krieg has assisted attorneys in the areas of criminal law, personal injury law, civil litigation, medical lien reduction, and family law.



Meet Lillian Dutcher, Legal Department Mentor

Hello, my name is Lillian, and I am a paralegal student here at Empire College. My interest in the law field began in high school, during one of the debate competitions that would be held every year in some of the English classes. I had previously been curious about various law or paralegal programs, and after I graduated I looked into attending Santa Rosa Junior College. I soon came to realize that my options were limited at the JC, and I knew that it wasn't the place for me. My mom had started going to school at Empire in the medical

program, and always spoke about her positive and encouraging experience since she had started. So out of curiosity, I decided to make an appointment with admissions at Empire College, and the second I walked into my appointment, I knew that this is where I belonged. Since the very first day I began going to Empire, my experience and knowledge that I have gained have been one of the most beneficial and exciting things I have ever done. I am passionate about the law field, and Empire has given me the opportunity to pursue my career and help others around me do the same. ▲

IN BRIEF (continued)

Law Office Changes

We welcomed Debbie Benedetti as the new Law School Office Assistant this month. Debbie didn't have to travel far; she came all the way down the hall from Empire's Education Department. And we said goodbye (sort of) and good luck to our Assistant Dean, Murray Cockerill, who accepted an attorney position with Legal Aid of Sonoma County. Murray will still be around, teaching at least for the rest of this year and possibly into the summer. Best of wishes, Murray! ▲



News from the Business Administration Department

Social Media Marketing Class

The social media class invited Sherie Hurd, Executive Vice President–Marketing and Administration, to share her knowledge on the topic: “How social media is used at Empire College.” The students enjoyed asking questions and viewing the variety of social media apps and how they are used for the different programs and demographics at Empire College.



Business Students Achieve Microsoft Certifications

Congratulations to the following Business students who recently passed Microsoft certifications:

- Victoria Lebowitz – Word, Excel, Outlook
- Bertha Ramirez – Word
- Gabby Rivas Silva – PowerPoint
- Suleima Vega – Word



Meet Kayla Galvan, Business Department Student Mentor

I started my journey here at Empire College back in January of 2017, in pursuit of a Paralegal degree. After spending quite a bit of time in that program, I decided to change my major and pursue a degree in Business. Wow! what a difference that made. Although acquiring a basic understanding about the law was very interesting and useful, I knew the moment that I began taking a few business courses, I had made the right decision.

With the help of the dedicated teachers here at Empire, I have really come out of my shell as a student, and I look forward to all the knowledge that I will continue to gain throughout the rest of my time here. I am confident that I will continue to progress as a student and as a leader, and I hope to help others to do the same along the way. ▲

April is National Financial Literacy Month

The Financial Aid Department aims to highlight the importance of financial literacy and teach our students how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits.

Empire College is committed to sharing information with our students throughout the month and year. During Financial Literacy Month, we will be spotlighting this information with posters, flyers, games, and raffles.

The more you participate, the better your chances of winning!

For all things financial, reach out to our Financial Aid Department with your questions!

Samantha Calderon - guides the first year business students through completing the FAFSA, loan counseling and electronically signing their loans.

Lea Smith - helps our business students complete their second and third year financial aid paperwork.

Mary O'Brien - supports our law students through the financial aid process for their first and second year.

Kass Von der Mehden - helps students with deferments, loan repayment, consolidation, and support after graduation.

Together, we all assist our students with their living expense checks, scholarship information, award letters, financial planning while in school, and we answer any questions you may have about financial aid.

If we don't know the answer, we will research it and find the answer for you.

For questions, please email financialaid@empirecollege.com.



Wow! Money really does grow on trees at Empire College?

Accounting Department News

VITA Clinic Sets New Record

This year, Empire's VITA tax clinic was the busiest it has ever been. A total of 2,061 tax returns were prepared, 28 percent more than the previous record of 1,613! The volunteers at the Empire site did an outstanding job of accurately submitting so many returns.

And while the tax season may officially be over, the accolades for Empire's site and volunteers keep coming. Suzanne Yeomans, Financial Stability Program Officer for United Way of the Wine Country's Earn It! Keep It! Save It! program (aka VITA), shared this update:

Please celebrate your site's production and revel in the good news! I also want to shine a light on the 100's of people you advised, calmed, reviewed and directed, even if they did not file with us in the end for one reason or another.

Accounting Students Achieve Certifications

Congratulations to the following Accounting students who recently passed certifications:

- Jessica Fairfield: Bookkeeping and Excel
- Dominique Gaitan: Bookkeeping
- Tia Reed: Bookkeeping and Excel
- Jasmine Sanchez Lombera: Bookkeeping and QuickBooks
- Jessica Vasquez: Bookkeeping
- Jessica Vogt: Excel and QuickBooks

True or False? Checking your credit score hurts your credit.

Empire faculty and accounting students volunteer as part of the local program Bite of Reality, which provides financial literacy education to local high school students. Hosted by Redwood Credit Union, the program has provided just over 100 financial literacy workshops. Bite of Reality participants role-plays real-world financial scenarios: buying a house, budgeting for child care, paying off credit card debt, and balancing necessities like food and transportation with entertainment and leisure expenses. Volunteers, like Empire accounting students, help the teenagers determine how to manage their fictional budgets. The hope is this education will better prepare the students for financial success as adults, and Empire students have supported this goal with volunteer hours and with fundraising efforts.

After participating in Bite of Reality, the high school students just might be able to answer the question above. Did you know the right answer? As any Empire accounting student could tell you, it is False. According to Equifax, checking your own credit score is known as a soft inquiry, which does not impact your score. It's exactly this kind of foundational money management knowledge that Empire accounting students are sharing with their community. ▲



2,061
free tax returns
prepared at Empire's
VITA tax clinic!

Above: 2019 VITA volunteers Jessica Fairfield, Erica Briceno, Jessica Vasquez, Amy Wilkinson, and Bobby Jean Henderson.

Below: Bite of Reality volunteers. Front row: Ashley Beltran and Jessica Vasquez. Back row: Amy Wilkinson, Jessica Fairfield, Bobby Jean Henderson, Erica Briceno, Deanna Wassant, and Jessica Vogt.



Medical Department News

Reasons Why a Career in Medical Billing and Coding Is Awesome

by Paula Gregerson, Empire College Medical Billing and Coding Instructor

The following are actual, no kidding, valid codes.

Exhibit A: Initial contact with flying horses (W31.81xA)

Exhibit B: Knitting Y93.D1xA in a prison courtyard (Y92.147)

Exhibit C: Assault by poisoning with the venom of a Portuguese Man O' War (T63.613A)

Diagnostic coding is the process of translating information gleaned from a patient's medical record into an alpha-numeric code using the International Classification of Diseases codebook (ICD-10-CM).

The codebook is used for statistical purposes and, in our case, for billing medical insurance. Billing a patient's medical insurance requires a 'what' (e.g. closed reduction of Colles fracture left wrist, procedure code 25605LT) and a 'why' (e.g. Colles fracture left wrist, S52.532A). Diagnostic and procedure codes distill a great deal of information into a short series of numeric or alpha-numeric characters.

Empire College's course, MDN301A, is a 6-week intensive in diagnostic coding. We delve deeply into the ICD-10-CM codebook; from Z-codes (Z63.1, problem with in-laws), to the Table of Drugs and Chemicals (T49.6X1A, accidental poisoning by mouthwash), and we take a look at the External Cause Index (W58.13xA, crushed by crocodile). And yes, we become well-versed in the use of the IDC-10-CM codebook in those six weeks!

Empire College offers a 36-week program that's designed to develop skills used in theory and practice of CPT (procedure codes), ICD-10-CM (diagnostic codes), and HCPCS codes for medical outpatient billing. In addition to coding procedures, students learn billing software programs, claims reimbursement and various medical-related software for data protection and data transmission. Students completing this course are prepared for insurance billing positions in the health care outpatient industry.

We also offer an 18-month AA degree program. Our California Administrative Medical Professional associate degree courses are designed to help you gain the critical skills to properly handle both administrative and medical billing tasks in a variety of healthcare settings. We also incorporate expanded focus on current medical issues, such as laws and ethics, to give you a comprehensive understanding of the medical industry as a whole.

Prospects for billing/coding as a career are listed as favorable with "faster than average" projected growth through 2026. The median salary in Sonoma County is about \$20/hour and ranges from approximately \$42K/year to over \$100K/year according to various sources such as the Economic Development Board, O-Net, and LinkedIn. Employment possibilities run the gamut from working in a medical practice to insurance companies to becoming self-employed as the owner of a billing service.

As for those flying horses, I leave it to you to decide—whimsy or actual sighting of flying horses. Me? I'll go with whimsy every time.



What is a CPC? It's a credential granted by examination from the American Academy of Professional Coders. These two billing and coding students took that five hour intensive exam and passed! Both Phil Fox and Eliza Crow



have bright futures with this highly sought-after certification.

Medical Skills Certifications

Congratulations to our new Certified Medical Assistants and to those who have passed skills certifications in CPR, injections, EKG, phlebotomy, and more!


CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Lisa Arciga Coria
Christy Arga
Jordan Burger
Ashley Cardenas
Julisa Dominguez
Esbeide Gomez Baltazar
Ma Luisa Gomez Sanchez
Sheena Helems
Ryan Howard
Kirandeep Kaur
Theresa Kelley
Kelly Sanchez
Ashley Sanchez Huerta
Alycia Smith

Injection, EKG, phlebotomy, and/or urinalysis skills certifications:

Kimberly Adams
Leah Balasch
Kelly Carrero-Sanchez
Katie Conzelman
Mariah Crespo
Ryan Howard
Atanacia Jimenez Moya
Theresa Kelley
Michelle Lazo
Rebecca Lowry
Alondra Machuca Salmeron
Jenyfer Martinez-Bueno
Ana Morales
Jennifer Palominos Bravo

Nijahia Sanchez
Ashley Schwartz
Alycia Smith



MEDICAL ASSISTANTS OF SONOMA COUNTY
MASC

- * Meets 3rd Wednesday monthly 6:00-7:30 p.m. on campus
- * Educational topics on health
- * Fundraising for community health

Medical Assistants Get Hired from Empire College

Empire medical assisting graduates Brenda Beltran, Areli Medina-Perez, and Daniela Vargas were hired at Santa Rosa Community Health during 2018 after successfully passing a 3-member panel interview. “We don’t require experience,” explains Stephanie Cruz, Senior Operations Manager at the Lombardi Campus. “It is just a ‘thing’ we look for in our job candidates.” When asked to elaborate on the ‘thing,’ Stephanie’s description encompassed aspects of customer service and patient care. That, along with a 5-page competency checkoff that new hires must successfully complete within their first 6 to 8 weeks on the job.



Stephanie is a good example of the career opportunities that exist for medical assistants. She started with Santa Rosa Community Health 10 years ago as a medical assistant and was promoted to supervisor and then manager. After 18 months on the job, the career ladder at Santa Rosa Community Health gives medical assistants the option of working in a variety of areas from health education to OB/GYN. When MA’s become certified, their pay is adjusted accordingly.

All three of the Empire graduates completed externships, although they were not at Santa Rosa Community Health. “Empire’s EKG class helped me a lot since I did my externship at Fountaingrove Cardiology,” says Areli. In addition to her externship in pediatrics, Brenda got additional hands-on skills practice through volunteering. “Shannon was always there to help me out,” she says. “When I was hired here and asked to do an injection, I felt ready. And on my first day on the job, I was shadowing a lead and recognized all of the instruments.”

Daniela, who did her externship at Kaiser Permanente, sums it up saying, “We came in knowing a lot of the basics. We use all of our skills.”

Each of these graduates came to Empire College via a different path, but with the same career goal. Brenda, whose sister also attended Empire, was a caregiver. Through that experience, she determined that she had a gift. “I really appreciated the culture and stories my patients were sharing with me. With my gift of being bilingual, everywhere I went I translated for people.”

Areli had worked as a waitress and knew she wanted a career in the medical field. She says she changed her major many times at Santa Rosa Junior College, and one day she decided it was time to get her foot in the door. She received a scholarship to Empire College and enrolled. Becoming an RN is still her ultimate goal, and she is taking one class at a time toward achieving it.

Daniela, whose background was in retail, has a story similar to Areli’s. She says she was taking a bunch of classes at the JC and was tired of not getting anywhere. “My sister, Jessica Gonzalez, went to Empire College and is a medical assistant as well,” says Daniela.

Before enrolling at Empire College, Dillon Saltzer was a firefighter. However, because he is a single dad who had full custody of a baby, he needed to train for a different career, fast. That is why he went to Sonoma Works and enrolled in one of Empire’s shorter, evening programs that included an externship.

That externship was in Urgent Care at Sutter Health and turned out to be a perfect fit for him, resulting in him being offered his job as a medical assistant in the float pool.

Dillon and his supervisor, Michele Wilson, shared the following feedback about Dillon’s transition from college to the Sutter workplace.

“Last year we went from 8 to 22 medical assistants in the float pool. I utilize our recent hires for recommendations for job candidates. We have had nothing but good experiences with Empire College externs and graduates,” said Michele, who recounted a list of recent Empire hires.

“I am loving where I am working,” says Dillon. “Everything is going well. I am an advocate for being able to apply what I do at work in the rest of my life. I even keep a medic bag in my car! I love helping people, and I feel that healthcare is a great field in which I can keep moving up.”

Dillon stated that he had no difficulty making the transition from school to work. He credits his instructor Nancy Stuart with “solidifying the Empire experience” for him. Dillon felt comfortable with his injection, phlebotomy, and urinalysis skills. He learned how Sutter handles things administratively on the job.

“Sutter gives people opportunities when they show initiative,” Michele said. “Dillon is now a safety ambassador, and he will also be involved in the roll-out of an immersion program for new hires and existing MAs in the next couple of months.”

In keeping with his observation that healthcare is a field in which one can keep moving up, Dillon is currently going to the JC to complete his general education in preparation to pursue his next goal of becoming a physician’s assistant. ▲



Information Technology Department News

IT Students Attend RSA Conference

On March 5, 2019, Empire College's IT Department made its yearly field trip to the Moscone Center in San Francisco for the world's largest IT security conference. Once again, the conference expanded as the need for IT security grows and more companies are looking to fill the security needs of organizations that have suffered data breaches, ransomware, and monetary losses.

When the Empire IT Department first went to this event in the early 2000s, it took up space in only one room of the Moscone Center. Today, every major IT company had a presence, packing both Main and West convention center spaces, as well as the hallway combining the two locations!

Students witnessed and got hands-on demonstrations on the latest advancements in IT security involving cloud-based threat and vulnerability management systems, endpoint security with mobile device management, user awareness training programs, and strong authentication methods.

As this trend of IT security growth continues, a couple of things were very apparent from the conference. First, there is a huge shortage of people with cybersecurity and ethical hacking skills. Many government agencies (FBI, NSA, Department of Homeland Security) and commercial organizations (Sutter Health, training and pentesting organizations, threat management organizations) were heavily recruiting. Second, the majority of companies were pushing automated threat and vulnerability management tools to help manage and alleviate decision making for IT administrators. It's important to keep in mind while these products help the security posture of an organization, having the security skills to proactively test and monitor your system with a formalized threat and vulnerability management and incident response program is vital to protecting assets from new threats.

Empire College has just implemented its new cybersecurity concentration which prepares students to take both CySA+ (cybersecurity analyst) and Pentest+ (penetration tester) certifications from CompTIA. They had a booth at RSA and made a huge impression with security professionals with these new programs. Empire College has been proactively on top of the industry trends (as every security professional should be!) and is the first College to offer these programs in Sonoma County.



Empire Can Help You Achieve High-Level Certifications – Just Ask Blake Buchanan, MCSE!



In the last issue of *The Empire Writes Back*, we reported the following: *When you pass one Microsoft exam you become an MCP (Microsoft Certified Professional). When you pass three Microsoft exams (70-410, 70-411, 70-412) you become an MCSA (Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate: Windows Server 2012).*

For this issue, we have this update:

When you pass the fourth Microsoft exam (70-413), you become an MCSE—Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert, which is what Blake Buchanan achieved on March 12! This is a highly sought-after certification and opens up more job opportunities and brings higher pay.

Blake's keys to success include taking practice tests every night. This process starts the first day of class and continues throughout the module. By the end of six weeks he's ready to take the exam. Time flies as you are going through this program; it's important to take your certifications as soon as possible to advance your career.

Congratulations as well to these students who recently passed certification exams: Ryan Katz, Andrew Larkin, Andy Solorio Flores and Fernando Lugo – A+; Devin Juley and Raymundo Albor Villagomez – Network+; Matthew Lyall – Security+; Logan Peterson – Cloud+ and Project+.

Empire Mourns the Losses of I.T. Graduate and Instructor

The Empire College community was saddened by the death on February 7, 2019 of Seth Lampert, who a few months earlier had graduated from the Specialized Associate Degree–Information Technology program with a concentration in Microsoft. Seth was well-known on campus for his outgoing personality and for volunteering as a patient for medical students practicing their phlebotomy skills. He is truly missed.

On February 24, 2019 we acknowledged the passing of our Information Technology graduate and instructor, Nathan Jackson. Nathan graduated with an AA degree from Santa Rosa Junior College, worked in customer service for six years at Mervyns and left to become a Senior Member Service Representative at Redwood Credit Union. He decided his passion was Information Technology and pursued an AA degree in that area from Empire College. Nathan joined the College as a faculty member in July 2009 and continued his education in pursuit of a BS degree from ITT Technical Institute.

Nathan's customer service background, IT knowledge, and ever-present wit were shared with many students through the years. Many of those students were inspired to pursue a Linux concentration degree after having introductory classes with him.

Nathan's celebration of life on March 16th, hosted by fellow I.T. instructor Phil Aldrich and his wife Kristin, was well attended by the Empire community. He is greatly missed. ▲



JOBS!

(continued from page 1)

Medical

Christy Arga	St. Joseph Health	Medical Assistant
Fran Bengtsson	St. Joseph Health	Medical Assistant
Eliza Crow	Santa Rosa Foot	Medical Coder
Phil Fox	Aurora Hospital	Medical Coder
Ma Gomez	St. Joseph Health	Medical Assistant
Sheena Helems	Siyan Clinical	Medical Assistant
Daryll Huff	Santa Rosa Community Health	Medical Assistant
Kim Kaur	Sonoma Surgical Medical Supply	Medical Administrative
Jo Marron	Harvest Pediatrics	Medical Assistant
Mary Morris	Nelson Staffing/St. Joseph Health	Customer Service Rep/Biller
Cherie Pearson	Santa Rosa Community Health	Medical Assistant
Xenia Reyna	Dr. Eric Schmidt	Admin/Clinical Medical Assistant
Alicia Salomon	St. Joseph Health	Medical Assistant
Megan Schneider	Sutter Health	Medical Assistant
Angelique Sinnott	Santa Rosa Community Health	Medical Assistant
Leslie Valdez	Petaluma Health Center	Medical Assistant
Ana Vazquez	Alliance Medical Center	Medical Assistant
Brooke White	Eye Care Institute	Medical Receptionist
Andrea Zuniga	NCMA-Admin. Office	Dermatology Tech ▲

The Power of Saying *Thank you!*

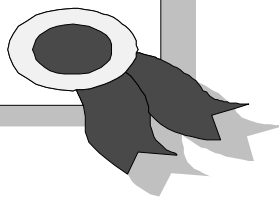
"I chose her because I think she will be the perfect fit for our department. I was very impressed with her, the interview went well, and I chose her over a seasoned MA, so that says a lot for her! I think the deal breaker was the email she sent to say THANK YOU for meeting with her for the interview. She sold herself with that move!"

This email from an employer is an apt reminder of the power of following up after an interview with a simple thank you. Was this the entire reason a recent grad was hired over someone experienced? No. Was it helpful? Definitely, it clinched the interview! How do you know what will "sell" the employer on hiring you? It may be a firm handshake or your natural smile or the polished shoes. It could be the perfect answer to the difficult interview question. Getting the job in this tight job market may mean simply being in the right place at the right time – working your referral network (friends, family, Empire staff) for job leads and making the most of them. It could be taking a few minutes the day before to check out the company's website to prepare intelligent questions. Or making sure you have the correct address so that you're not late. Sometimes simple steps are neglected, leading to rejection. Don't let that happen to you.

Prepare. Plan. Be present. Persist. Good things will happen.

How can you sell YOURSELF? Come by Career Services, and let us help you prepare. ▲

Honor Roll



Students listed have achieved President's or Dean's Honors as of March 20, 2019.

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

Anthony Adams
 Jessica Alice
 Jacqueline Benazouz
 Audrey Blank
 Kayla Blyleven
 Erica Briceno
 Amy Brinkel
 Blake Buchanan
 Yaquelin Buenrostro
 Castellanos
 Ana Campuzano Perez
 Claire Clickner
 Eliza Crow
 James Curtis
 Calista Davis
 Jazmine Dedrick
 Krista Dutcher
 Jessica Fairfield
 Gina Haake
 Luz Herrera
 Ryan Howard
 Sabrena Hughes
 Theresa Kelley
 Brendan Lappert
 Victoria Lebowitz
 Rebecca Lowry
 Matthew Lyall
 Alondra Machuca Salmeron
 Haley Marino
 Kristina McGunagle
 Jasmine Miranda Ferrari
 Andre Ortiz
 Lesbeth Ortiz
 Mark Parrish
 Lucy Purdom
 Tia Reed
 Chaila Richards

Christina Rivera
 Elicelda Rivera
 Norma Robles
 Hamidah Salzmman
 Eleanor Sapien
 Ashley Schwartz
 Carol Schwartz
 Christopher Simons
 Eva Smith
 Adrienne Tapparo
 Christie Townsend
 Juan Valdez
 Ryan Zebroski

Dean's Honors

Rebeca Ayala Arellano
 Christina Ayala
 Nahomy Banuelos
 Veronica Blue
 Vanessa Chavez Alvarado
 Katie Conzelman
 Mariah Crespo
 Alexander DeMarco
 Rosario Diaz Iniguez
 Ethan Dunn
 Lillian Dutcher
 Alyssa Evans
 Rhiannon Fitzpatrick
 Julie Greenhow
 Bobbie Jean Henderson
 Jessica Humphrey
 Kasey Kenny
 Venneranda Kirabo
 Victoria Lacey
 Marivel Lopez
 Fernando Lugo
 Luisa Mariscal Lopez
 Kathryne Maynard
 Dominique Molina Dominguez
 Andrea Neace
 Noemi Ornelas
 Leanne O'Sullivan
 Kevin Pangan
 Sandra Ramos Tapia
 Stephanie Raymond
 Jasmine Sanchez Lombera
 Nijahia Sanchez
 Alyssa Segobiano
 Trisha Stewart
 Jennifer Tamba
 Shekainah Valerio
 Angelica Vigil
 Victoria Vincent
 Jessica Vogt
 Shane Whitman
 Amy Wilkinson
 Melissa Woltering

**TUTORING CENTER
Room 219**

Visit Lillian and Krista
in the Tutoring Center
for help with most
subject areas.

**Monday-Thursday
8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
2:15 to 5:00 p.m.**

Sending you
warm & colorful
wishes for the season.
Happy Spring!

*Business major
Robin Hammock
bringing joy to the
children as she
paints faces at the
Easter Party on
April 16th.*



**Empire
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