

## UC Irvine Extension 2004-2005 Awards Ceremony Highlights

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UC Irvine Extension honored individuals who received their certificates in the school year 2004-2005 at its June 21, 2005 Certificate Awards Ceremony. Gary W. Matkin, Dean of Continuing Education, welcomed the attendees and saluted the certificate earners for their achievement in pursuing Extension's theme of "Lifelong Learning." He also recognized family and friends of the graduates for their support.

Steven M. Capps, President of the UCI Alumni Association, congratulated this year's graduates and announced that UC Irvine Extension Certificate graduates are eligible to join the association. See [www.alumni.uci.edu](http://www.alumni.uci.edu) for details.

In the 2004-2005 year, over 1100 individuals completed UC Irvine Extension certificate programs, including 53 UCI staff members. One individual completed five certificates this year. In the paralegal program, 92 individuals earned their paralegal certificates.

Pat Bluestein (shown here with Lori Munoz-Reiland – Unit Director) received her paralegal certificate this year. Pat's son (who is in law school in Florida) flew in



to watch his mom receive her certificate. Also in attendance was Sandra Yavitza, an attorney who specializes in real estate development, where Pat did her internship last quarter. Pat is currently a paralegal at Picker, Chow & Freisleben and working in the area of insurance bad faith claims.

The award ceremony is held annually in June. What a great way to recognize the hard work and sacrifices. The Adrian Tapia Trio, a jazz group, entertained the attendees. After the awards ceremony, candidates, friends and family enjoyed refreshments in the plaza.

### SAVE THE DATE! OCA's 19th Annual Educational Conference

September 17, 2005  
(Saturday)  
8:30 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.  
Radisson Newport Beach  
Hotel  
4545 MacArthur Blvd.  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
"Raising the Bar of the  
Paralegal Profession"

Conference is geared for paralegals, paralegal students, attorneys and other legal professionals.

Students may attend at a reduced rate.

Dynamic Speakers,  
Opportunity to Network,  
Legal Vendors  
and Exhibitors!  
For details of this and  
other OCPA events visit  
[www.ocparalegal.org](http://www.ocparalegal.org)



The Adrian Tapia Trio entertained at the certificate awards ceremony on June 21, 2005.

# Janet Rios - Graduate of Two Certificate Programs - and Counting



Janet Rios, who has completed both the *Management of Business Contracts* and *Paralegal* certificate programs (in 2002 and 2004), is about to enroll in yet another Extension course. Janet powered through both certificate programs and is enjoying the end results.

Immediately upon graduation she applied and was hired as the Legal Liaison in Legal Affairs at Continental Currency Services, a currency exchange and wire transfer company – with a tremendous salary increase. Her duties have her involved in everything from compliance work to money laundering. She loves her job. She is somewhat on her own and has had to learn a great deal in a short period of time, but is “very happy.”

One of her most valuable classes in the *Management of Business Contracts* program was Introduction to Project Management. “The time management skills I acquired literally helped me survive the rest of this program and then the Paralegal Program ... it is amazing how a single class could affect my life that much.” She finished both programs while working full time, living in Downey and driving to Irvine in addition to being a newlywed.

Earlier in her career Janet worked for the Federal Government where she learned contracts, and eventually moved to an aerospace manufacturing company. She wanted to make sure her skills were up to date to enter the private sector. She looked at various programs and decided on UC Irvine because it “had the best quality program around—and, UC Irvine grads are well placed and paid better.”

The Paralegal and Management of Business Contracts courses go hand in hand in the field of contract law. “With my work experience and the skills I’ve gained in both programs, I’m considered a level above other paralegals.”

Her company seeks UC Irvine candidates because they know they come from a structured program requiring a lot of dedication to get through it. Next up for Janet is another Project Management course ... and counting.



Dany Ky and Jill Makii, both recipients of paralegal certificates this year, are working at Rutan & Tucker in the litigation support department utilizing their paralegal skills.

## Congratulations to all Graduates!



Jennifer Miranda and Vanessa Ticas are all smiles after receiving their paralegal certificates.

## Career Night - September 7, 2005

Attend the paralegal workshop with friends or co-workers on September 7, from 6 - 8 p.m. Come hear a panel of litigation, corporate and government paralegals talk about the field and how to successfully manage your career. Free Event. Please RSVP to <http://extension.uci.edu/careernight> or call the program office at 949.824.5528.

## Welcome New Instructor Mark Sacks

Mark Sacks, J.D., is teaching Civil Lit III this summer. He has spent several years as a trial attorney for the Orange County District Attorney’s Office, and in 1998 was a recipient of the District Attorney’s “Outstanding Prosecutor” award. In addition, he has represented employers in all aspects of labor and employment law for six years, published numerous articles on employment law subjects, and taught Human Resources and the Law at UC Irvine Extension. Mr. Sacks is a 1991 graduate of Harvard Law School.

## Fran Russell Heads to Atlanta



Fran Russell, longtime UC Irvine Extension Paralegal Certificate Program Advisory Board member, past OCPA President, and Paralegal Supervisor at Albert, Weiland and Golden has left "The O.C." for Atlanta. She has taken a position as a paralegal with the law firm of McKenna, Long & Aldridge. Fran, originally from the east coast, wanted to be closer to her mom, her sister and adult sons. While Fran will miss the weather in California, she looks forward to possibly traveling more as her new firm has offices in Brussels, Philadelphia, Denver and Washington, D.C. as well as Los Angeles and San Diego. We hope her travels will bring her back to Southern California often.

## California Alliance of Paralegal Associations ("CAPA")

CAPA is a statewide non-profit, mutual benefit corporation dedicated to the advancement of the paralegal profession and the proposition that paralegals gain strength through alliance. CAPA represents California paralegals working in attorney-supervised settings and supports, encourages, and promotes an active relationship among its affiliated member associations, attorneys, national, state and local Bar Associations, and others in the legal community.

VISIT CAPA'S WEBSITE

[www.caparalegal.org](http://www.caparalegal.org)

CAPA maintains statewide and national communications for the purpose of keeping all of its members current with information relating to the paralegal profession. CAPA also serves as a forum for the pooling and dissemination of varying opinions and professional experiences. CAPA affiliated members, by discussion and consensus, work together cooperatively and respectfully to achieve goals and to maintain the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct.

## CAPA's 13 Member Associations

|                                                      |                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Central Coast Paralegal Association (CCPA)           | <a href="http://www.ccpaslo.org">www.ccpaslo.org</a>                                           |
| Fresno Paralegal Association (FPA)                   | <a href="http://www.fresnoparalegal.org">www.fresnoparalegal.org</a>                           |
| Inland Counties Association of Paralegals (ICAP)     | <a href="http://www.icaparalegal.org">www.icaparalegal.org</a>                                 |
| Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA)             | <a href="http://www.lapa.org">www.lapa.org</a>                                                 |
| Kern County Paralegal Association (KCPA)             | <a href="http://www.kcpaonline.org">www.kcpaonline.org</a>                                     |
| Orange County Paralegal Association (OCPA)           | <a href="http://www.ocparalegal.org">www.ocparalegal.org</a>                                   |
| Paralegal Association of Santa Clara County (PASCCO) | <a href="http://www.sccparalegal.org">www.sccparalegal.org</a>                                 |
| Redwood Empire Legal Assistants (RELA)               | <a href="http://www.redwoodempirelegalassistants.org">www.redwoodempirelegalassistants.org</a> |
| Sacramento Valley Paralegal Association (SVPA)       | <a href="http://www.svpa.org">www.svpa.org</a>                                                 |
| San Diego Paralegal Association (SDPA)               | <a href="http://www.sdparalegal.org">www.sdparalegal.org</a>                                   |
| Santa Barbara Paralegal Association (SBPA)           | <a href="http://www.sbparalegal.org">www.sbparalegal.org</a>                                   |
| Sequoia Paralegal Association (SPA)                  | <a href="http://www.sequoiaparalegals.org">www.sequoiaparalegals.org</a>                       |
| Ventura County Paralegal Association (VCPA)          | <a href="http://www.vcparalegal.org">www.vcparalegal.org</a>                                   |

## June 24, 2005 - California Paralegal Day

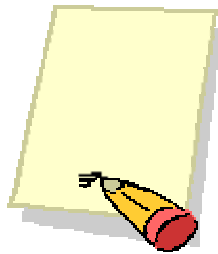
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared June 24, 2005 as California Paralegal Day - the same date as CAPA's 17th Annual Conference. "Strike Educational Gold" was the theme of this year's conference held at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom. Over 100 attendees (practicing paralegals and students) and 20 vendors enjoyed educational sessions in Mediation & Arbitration Proceedings; Litigation; Mold Litigation; Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Claims; Gender Bias; Employment Law; Electronic Document Management; HIPAA and Ethics. Many students who traveled to the conference stated that this was an annual trek for them. The 2006 CAPA conference will be held in San Luis Obispo.



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*Paralegal Post story ideas welcome.  
Please submit your ideas for future  
articles to paralegal @ unx.uci.edu*



### REMINDERS:

Certificate Requirements - Candidates for the certificate must be officially admitted into the program and complete a total of 30 units of instruction with a grade of "C" or above in all courses. Certificate candidates must complete the program within five years of taking their first course.

Free Career Counseling and Workshops Available - Paralegal certificate candidates (both men and women) are eligible for free counseling and workshops through the Women's Opportunity Center. Call 949.824.7128.

Certificate Candidacy - Certificate candidates must apply for admission into the program before completing the third course in which they enroll - applications are available on the web.

Request for Certificate - All requests should be filled out when you are completing your final course. Please allow three to four weeks after grades are in for certificate processing. To request your certificate, complete a Request for Certificate form and return it to the Paralegal Program Office.

All Paralegal Certificate Program forms are available online at [www.extension.uci.edu/courses/certificate/paralegal.asp](http://www.extension.uci.edu/courses/certificate/paralegal.asp)

## Tentative Fall 2005 Schedule Announced

- Paralegal Career Night  
Wed. 9/7/2005
- Legal Admissions Meeting  
Mon. 9/19/2005  
RSVP 949.824.5528
- Intro to the Legal System  
Tues, Wed., Thurs.  
9/20-9/22/2005
- Fundamentals of  
Legal Assistantship  
Wed. 9/28-11/30/2005
- Legal Research  
Mon. 9/26-11/28/2005
- Legal Writing  
Tues. 9/20-11/29/2005  
(Holiday 10/4/2005)
- Civil Litigation II  
Thurs. 9/22-12/8/2005  
(Holiday 10/13/2005  
& Holiday 11/24/2005)
- Contracts  
Wed. 9/28-11/30/2005
- Business Law  
Mon. 9/26-11/28/2005
- Computer Assisted Legal  
Research  
Tues, Wed., Thurs.  
12/13-12/15/2005
- Software Applications for the  
Legal Environment  
Thurs. 9/29-12/15/2005  
Sat. 10/15 9-3:30  
(Holiday 10/13/2005  
& Holiday 11/24/2005))
- Patent, Trademark &  
Copyright Law  
Tues. 9/20-11/29/2005  
(Holiday 10/4/2005)
- Paralegal Internship  
Mon. 9/19; 10/24; 11/21/2005

