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Greetings from the New NOTIS President

By Alex Mosalsky, NOTIS President

On the first of July I took over as President of NOTIS from Ann Macfarlane, who had been acting as interim President since the beginning of the year. Ann has been generous with her time in helping me prepare to take over this position. I feel truly fortunate to be able to have the benefit of Ann's wisdom and counsel during this transition.

I want to briefly introduce myself to the membership. I've been doing work as a translator and interpreter, from Russian to English, for almost ten years. I got started almost 'on a lark', so to say. One fine day I was working as a boat broker in California, and got a call from a friend who wanted to know if I would be interested in working as an interpreter on a crab fishing boat which had a joint Russian/American crew. Since I'd been working in the marine industry for the past twenty years, knew boats well and Russian pretty well (so I thought), and being an incurable adventurer, I said "heck yes!" The rest, as they say, is history.

At that time, I had no idea what was involved in being a 'professional' translator or interpreter. I'm not even sure at that time that I knew what the difference was between a translator and an interpreter. Now, when I find that the general public uses 'translator' to mean both written and oral, I can empathize.

My own work, at present, is divided pretty evenly between translating and interpreting, with a little more volume being towards the latter.

I have learned a lot about what it takes to be a language professional from my association with NOTIS and the ATA. I can honestly say that the information I received through these organizations has been invaluable for my advancement in this field. Providing the opportunity for others to advance and develop in this field is one of the primary directions that I hope to pursue during my term as president.

You, the members, have the best knowledge of what you need to succeed. I would like to invite you to let me know what services, what help you would like from your professional organization. I have several ideas, but they will only make sense if they meet real needs on the part of our members. Please get in touch, and I look forward to meeting many of you at forthcoming NOTIS functions.

**Northwest Translators
and Interpreters Society**
A chapter of
the American Translators Association

OFFICERS

President Alex Mosalsky
Vice-President Larissa Kulinich
Treasurer Laura Cooper
Secretary Abigail Clay

COMMITTEES

Computers Alfred Hellstern
(206) 382-5642
Directory Caitilin Walsh
Membership Christina Zubelli
(206) 525-5666
Program Ann Macfarlane
Deya Nolan
Michelle Privat Obermeyer
Publications Michelle Privat Obermeyer
ATA Accreditation Jean Leblon
(425) 778-9889

Special Interest Groups

Slavic SIG Larissa Kulinich
(206) 236-0286
Office Manager Christina Zubelli

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Editor Sarah L. Garriott
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For membership information write to NOTIS, P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2001 or call NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 382-5642.
Email: info@notisnet.org
Website: www.notisnet.org

For information on the ATA contact
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: (703) 683-6100 Fax: (703) 683-6122
Email: ata@atanet.org Website: www.atanet.org

NOTIS NOTES

Welcome to New Members

Julio Amador [Spanish]
M. Grace Anderson [Spanish]
April Berumen [Spanish]
Suzanne Blangsted [Danish]
Annette Bridges [Spanish & German]
Julia Chambers [Spanish]
Jean Ducharme [French]
Norma Fender [Spanish]
George Fowler [Chinese, Indonesian,
Malay, and Tagalog]
Sarah L. Garriott [German]
Eszter Gavaller [Hungarian]
Kathryn German [Spanish]
Stacey Jehlik [Japanese]
Ryan David Judge [Spanish]
Michelle LeSourd [Mandarin Chinese]
Bertha Martinez [Spanish]
Christine Michel-Gutierrez [French]
Irina Mikula [Russian]
Shawn Morse [Japanese]
Gunilla Rohdin-Bibby [Swedish]
Tracy Tasso [Arabic]
Kirsten Vilhom [Danish]

Rejoins:

Kwangsuk Chough [Korean & Japanese]

Welcome to New Corporate Member

Enso Company Ltd.
International Language Consultants

Notice the New Logo?

Doesn't it look smashing? The NOTIS board of directors has really given the NOTIS logo a needed face-lift. Our hats are off to them for the hours of work they put into tossing ideas around and adjusting fonts and formats to get it just right.

I think you'll agree that the new logo gives our organization a more easily identifiable association with our neck of the international and national woods. It also promotes a highly professional, clean-cut image to appropriately represent us as members of the Northwest Translators & Interpreters Society. I hope you like it.

By Sarah L. Garriott

New Online, Searchable Directory is Unveiled

By Caitilin Walsh

The NOTIS Board is delighted to announce to our members and friends that the Society now has an on-line, searchable professional directory up and running on our website. A press release announcing the launch of the directory has been widely distributed, and the listing for NOTIS in the *ATA Chronicle* will highlight this service.

Members are invited to go to www.notisnet.org/directory/online.asp at their earliest convenience and check their listing. While we have made every effort to ensure that data is correct, errors do sometimes occur. We appreciate members' help in correcting any that may be found. In addition, we now have additional data fields for which members may provide entries (see sidebar).

The Board offers special thanks to Directory Committee members Caitilin Walsh, Alfred Hellstern, Olivier

Fabris and Michael Broschat (adviser), whose efforts have resulted in this fine achievement.

As many of you know, for some years the Society offered the NOTIS InfoBase, affectionately known as "NIB," on our website. This directory had been created in 1995 by the use of data publishing tools developed by the directory committee. When these tools finally gave up the ghost, it was apparent that a searchable, on-line directory was the logical next step. The Directory Committee has put careful thought and many hours into creating our new product.

Members who have changes or corrections to the directory may submit them to NOTIS via email. This method is being used to ensure that NOTIS has accurate records and can verify all changes before they are publicly posted. A system allowing individuals to change their own records online has some attractions and is being considered for the future, along with other enhancements, in a continuing effort to serve NOTIS members.



Information, Please!

As part of the process of getting the directory online, additions were made to the data in the online directory. As a result, current members have received an email from NOTIS requesting the following information for their directory listing:

- ◆ Cell phone number
- ◆ Web site address
- ◆ If you wish to specify Social Services as one of your specialty areas

We hope to update the new online directory monthly. Information received by the 15th of the month will be posted at the beginning of the following month.

NOTIS Workshop Reports

Quality and Productivity Workshop

By Kathryn Guttromson

On Saturday, March 2nd, a most informative workshop entitled *Quality and Productivity* was presented by Courtney Searls-Ridge at the Bellevue Community College North Campus. The goal of the workshop was to enable us to define quality as it applies to our work, measure and monitor our productivity, use software to increase productivity, and to negotiate the speed vs. quality vs. cost triangle.

Concerning quality, one of our primary focuses should be pleasing the client. This involves being flexible, dependable, pleasant, and able to meet deadlines. Quality also includes accuracy and consistency. Specializing, software, and editing are factors in meeting these requirements. One idea presented to ensure quality and consistency that I found to be particularly helpful was the utilization of style sheets.

The discussion on productivity included points on time management, specialization, and knowing your software thoroughly so as to utilize it to maximum efficiency. The results from a survey of 30 translators were especially informative. Statistics on translation, editing, and proofreading output revealed what translators actually do providing some very valid guidelines for our work as translators. They also gave input on tracking productivity, as well as tips to improve quality and productivity.

Negotiating pay takes into consideration your production level, size of the project, your language pair and area of specialization, and the amount of research and resources the agency or client can provide you, among other factors. The experiences shared by the participants revealed some of what happens in the process and provided helpful tips on how to effectively negotiate.

I found the workshop to be extremely valuable. Along with good information, we were given practical ideas that we could easily employ in our work as translators to improve

quality and productivity. Those points already familiar to us served to encourage us by reaffirming that we are indeed professionals doing our job in a conscientious manner.

Kathryn Guttromson is a Spanish>English translator and can be reached at siervos@northcascades.net.

Specialized Computer Tools for Translation

by Mika Jarmusz

NOTIS workshop in Portland on Friday May 17, 2002

NOTIS workshop on “computer translation tools” by Professor Alan K. Melby was held at Portland State University. Virginia Anderson volunteered the setup of this much awaited event in Portland. Professor Melby gave an overview of the globalization affecting the translation industry, demonstrated features of several software currently available to aid translators, and provided a checklist of what to expect from similar programs. He welcomed questions throughout the presentation from a mixed audience of translators and localization managers (25 attendees, 8 Agency representatives, and 1 Freelance Localization PM), which helped widen our perspective on the topic. The event was a treat for those of us living in and around Portland to learn first hand from Professor Melby who shared his many years of experience and knowledge in translation and its tools. Thank you professor and NOTIS for coming to Oregon!

Mika Jarmusz is an English > Japanese translator.

Health Panel

By Hillary Higgins

On a beautiful Saturday in May, I drove down to Seattle to attend the morning session of NOTIS's most recent set of half-day workshops at Bellevue Community College. This was the Health Panel, which comprised of health experts whose specializations ranged from yoga to naturopathic medicine to a new kind of chiropractic treatment called Network Spinal Analysis.

Other than enjoying the company of fellow professionals, my main purpose was somewhat self-serving – I wanted a free massage. As I'm sure you can appreciate, hours spent at the computer have made my shoulders pretty tense and, as a freelancer whose budget is tight and whose health insurance not very extensive, I don't have the means within my budget to see a massage therapist on a regular basis, so I was pretty gung-ho to try out anything.

The first panel expert was Dr. Dick Shepard, an expert in Network Spinal Analysis. I was very eager to see what this type of treatment was all about and promptly volunteered to be his demonstration subject.

According to the brochure and to Dr. Shepard's description, Network Spinal Analysis is "an approach to wellness that applies gentle, low force touch contacts, applied at Spinal Gateways, to cue the nervous system to develop new strategies for living and healing." This type of treatment, over the long-term, has helped patients to recognize patterns of living detrimental to physical and spiritual health and to change those patterns into ones that promote wellness, meaning the ability to feel well regardless of the challenging or difficult circumstances in our lives.

The second health panel expert was health and naturopathic expert, Tucker S. Meager defining naturopathic medicine and discussing its benefits. Handouts were given to all participants that provided information on how to eliminate illness and create wellness in your life. Of course, some of the most relevant issues mentioned were the importance of drinking lots of water, including the benefits of spring water vs. tap water, regular exercise, nutrition, homeopathic medicines, and more. The principle behind naturopathic medicine, and all alternative health care for that matter, is the idea of the

body's natural ability to heal itself and to empower patients to become aware of health problems and the lifestyle issues that foster them.

The last panel expert was Beverly Holstun, a certified yoga instructor who, in a previous life, had been a stressed out corporate IT executive. After taking several yoga classes, she quit her job and trained to become a yoga instructor. She talked a bit about the different styles of yoga and their various benefits. In the end, she basically taught a short yoga class, concentrating on exercises that can easily be done sitting in a chair or on the floor at one's office. She demonstrated simple stretches to help those of us sitting at the computer all day remember to give unused parts of our body a bit of a workout and to rest the ones that we overuse.

I should not forget to mention here that during the entire health panel, there was a massage therapist in the back providing free 10-minute massages to any participant who wanted one. Jennifer Owen remained pretty busy throughout the morning and needless to say, I certainly took advantage of her services. NOTIS also provided lots of healthy snacks and juices for participants to enjoy between and after the panel.

So, at the end of the morning, filled with healthy snacks and drinks, having enjoyed that free massage I came for, and being introduced to the benefits of Network Spinal Analysis, I left feeling highly energized and ready to take on the world.

Hillary Higgins is an English to German translator.

Dr Tucker Meager can be reached at (425) 398-9797. Dr. Shepard can be reached at)206- 525-4155. Beverly Holstun can be reached at (206)-923-9100 and Jennifer Owen can be reached at)206)-354-1953

NOTIS board meetings:

September 4, 2002

October 17, 2002

December 4, 2002

Open to NOTIS members

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
September 21, 2002	NAJIT NW Regional Conference	www.najit.org	8:00 am - 6:30 pm, Portland State University, Portland, OR
September 30, 2002	International Translator's Day		
October 5, 2002	NOTIS / WITS Combined Luncheon in celebration of International Translators Day	Presentation by: Laura Wolfson, Interpreter, Translator & ATA Chronicle columnist	www.notisnet.org
November 6-9, 2002	ATA Conference	www.atanet.org	Atlanta, Georgia
November 23, 2003	NOTIS recap of ATA Conf. & Annual Meeting		
December 7, 2002	NOTIS / WITS Holiday Party		

❖ The NOTIS job fair that was previously scheduled for Sept. 28th, has been re-scheduled to Spring 2003.

NOTIS
P.O. Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98125-2201

Voice Mail: (206) 382-5642
E-mail: info@notisnet.org
Website: www.notisnet.org

