

THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



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The Transfer of the Translation & Interpretation Institute to Bellevue Community College

By Kathryn German

It was a bittersweet moment for the founders of the Translation & Interpretation Institute, Courtney Searls-Ridge and Susana Stettri Sawrey, as control of the program passed from their adept direction to Bellevue Community College. In 1992, the two visionaries glimpsed and understood the future and what it would mean for translators and interpreters. They realized that with 163 languages spoken within the state of Washington alone, together with the constant increase in immigration and the spread of globalization, the need for language professionals to serve that populace would quickly surpass the number of trained language professionals available. With the initial support of the Washington Academy of Languages they created a practical, self-supporting program at a time when very little training was available for translators and interpreters anywhere in the United States. The program remains without peers in the Pacific Northwest for its scope and the number of languages offered. It is also one of very few programs in the United States offering training in both translation and interpretation.

The Translation & Interpretation Institute, nurtured by Courtney Searls-Ridge and Susana Stettri Sawrey, grew into a 22 credit program culminating in a

certificate in either interpretation or translation, or both. All courses are taught by professionals working in the field. By the time students have completed the program, they have been exposed to the full spectrum of knowledge needed in order to either initiate a career in the field, or to perfect and polish their current working skills. In the core courses, students obtain knowledge of ethics and business practices as they apply to translators and interpreters. They learn how to carry out effective research, how to organize, and manage terminology, how to set up a freelance business, and how to evaluate and use the latest technology in terms of equipment for interpretation, computer software, and computer assisted translation tools, and software localization. The above classes are taught in English and are available to students of all target languages. The Translation & Interpretation Institute is also instrumental in offering evening and weekend continuing education workshops for translators and interpreters in the community. To date certificates have been granted in French, German, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish, and other languages may be offered depending on demand.

After years of personal effort in perfecting the program curriculum, recruit-

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 A chapter of the
American Translators Association

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Our voicemail telephone number is (206) 382-5690.

WITS has a Web page which can be visited at www.witsnet.org.

NOTIS Notes

New Members

Mindy Baade	
Daniel Badillo	
Antonio Beltran	
Andrea Bongiorno	Arabic > Italian English > Italian French > Italian
Kahrin Cadwell	
Saul Castillo	
Niuvis Ferro-Gonzalez	Spanish < English
Enrique Garcia-Ayaviri	Spanish < English
Hilary Hughes	
Kaori Kurebayashi	English < Japanese
Jonathan Mesler	
Linda Noble	Russian > English
Yun Sherred	
Marinez Shields	English < Spanish Italian > English
Sarith Tim	
Saran Touré Bangoura	English > Mandingo English > Spanish Susu > English French < English
Ferdinand Vélez	Spanish < English French > English French > Spanish
Carmen Vernier	
Ginger Wang	English < Mandarin
Elwin Wirkala	Spanish > English English < Portuguese Spanish > Portuguese
Gökalp Yapici	Turkish < English
Carine Zimmer	English > French

WITS Notes

New Members

Catherine Jones, Spanish
Selma Nadir, Turkish
Ferdi Nadir, Turkish and French
Marinez Shields/Spanish
James Kuhn/Spanish
Tim Sarith/Khmer
Nicole Lee/Korean

Know a good joke?

The Northwest Linguist committee would like to announce a contest to find the best translator and interpreter jokes. The three funniest joke entries will bring their senders a \$5 coffee card as well as publication in this newsletter.

Northwest Linguist Editor's Translation *Good Night, My Darling* in Bookstores

Laura A. Wideburg, who has been working as a literary translator for the past six years, has finally seen her first full book-length translation arrive on bookstore shelves. *Good Night, My Darling* by Inger Frimansson was published on April 1st, 2007 by Pleasure Boat Studios. Inger Frimansson is a well-known crime author in Sweden and has over twenty books to her name, but this is her first work available in English.

Inger Frimansson and fellow crime and mystery novelists Håkan Nesser, Helene Tursten and Kjell Ericsson are on tour in North America, stopping in New York, Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco and finishing up in Seattle, where they gave a reading at the Swedish Cultural Center.

Letter from the WITS President

By Kenneth Barger

This is turning out to be an exciting year for court interpreters. It has been a pleasure to begin in earnest to work with the new, bigger WITS Board. Kamal Abou-Zaki and Hernan Navas-Rivas have both agreed to join the Programs Committee. Veronica Barber will lend her talents to Membership and Antonio Beltran will assist with the newsletter and with Programs. It is encouraging to see the energy and enthusiasm of these newly elected Directors. Verla Viera will be WITS co-editor for the Northwest Linguist.

The WITS Advocacy Committee has also grown in numbers and strength. Advocacy Chair Claudia A'Zar and Advocacy member Diana Meredith have been joined by Emma Garkavi, Linda Noble, and Ann Macfarlane. This expansion is due in large part to the enthusiasm generated by recent action in the Washington State Legislature, as reported in recent action alerts by e-mail. Ann reports on this pending legislation elsewhere in this issue; stay tuned for more reports as the situation develops.

Another fun article in this issue is the latest "Meeting our Members," featuring Pablo Chang-Castillo. I had the pleasure of collaborating with columnist Katrin Rippel on this article. Besides being a true success story and tops in the field of conference interpreting, Pablo is a joy to speak with. We were delighted to learn more about him during our interview, and we hope you enjoy reading about him.

New Credentials Available

There have been some developments regarding credentials for court interpreters. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has begun to offer test sittings for the newly created Registered Interpreter category on which WITS Vice President Steven Muzik reported in previous issues of *The Northwest Linguist*. This credential will be available to interpreters who work in many languages other than those for which certification is available. It is my opinion that this is a firm step forward for our profession, and I encourage interpreters of French, Swahili, Japanese, and other eligible languages to seek this credential. For more information, visit the AOC web site at www.courts.wa.gov.

On a related note, Robert Miera of the AOC recently informed me that three more languages will be available for certification! The languages are Mandarin, Arabic,

and Somali. Details such as test dates are not available at this time, so keep an eye on the abovementioned web site for updates. As the gentle reader knows, I am a big fan of these credentials, so I have already personally encouraged several interpreters of these languages to investigate and pursue this option.

I also have a letter of test-taking tips that I wrote up some time ago for a friend of mine. It's nothing formal or scientific; more of a human approach to attacking these admittedly daunting exams. If you are considering signing up for one of these exams and think that such a letter would be helpful, please write to me and I'll send it along.

Eastern Washington

In an effort to reach out to our colleagues in Eastern Washington, Outreach Chair Julie Bryan and I drove out to Spokane on Friday, February 9, for an event held on February 10 by ASAP Translations. ASAP is a Spokane-area agency run by WITS member Yolanda Velasco-Haley. We enjoyed Yolanda's generous hospitality and got prepared for Saturday's activities.

Approximately 30 language professionals and interested folks attended the all-day event. There were presentations by Molly Ertel and Yolanda Velasco on ethics and protocol; Jan Crayk on cultural awareness; yours truly on test-taking techniques. It was a success on many levels. People enjoyed and seemed to glean much from the presentations, and Julie and I were able to make connections with many colleagues in the east.

Julie and I plan to visit our Spokane area colleagues again in the near future to brainstorm strategies to help WITS serve that part of the state better. We intend for this to be part of a long-term effort that will improve our presence in many areas of Washington.

And so our grand adventure continues! Stay strong out there, and be sure to take some time to enjoy the improving weather. ❖

Kenneth Barger

WITSPresident

kennethbarger@cs.com

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Lobbying the Washington State Legislature on behalf of Interpreters

By Ann G. Macfarlane,
member, WITS Advocacy Committee

The week of February 19 showed light traffic in Seattle due to winter breaks in the schools and heavy traffic in Olympia as citizens went to their capital to lobby the legislature. It was a privilege to be a part of the WITS lobbying team heading south that week. WITS has given our profession a new profile in Olympia. Members of our professional associations can be proud of the showing made by their colleagues.

As WITS and NOTIS members know from email alerts received, the Washington State Legislature has been involved with interpreter issues at a very visible level this year. Representative Patricia Lantz, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, has long been concerned about interpreter issues in our courts. As an attorney with experience in immigration matters, she wanted to help assure access to justice for all. On January 10, Emma Garkavi and I were invited to testify before the House Judiciary Committee at a “work session” on this and other issues.

Subsequently Rep. Lantz authored HB 2176, requiring all counties to create a Language Access Plan and authorizing the State of Washington to pay half the costs for interpreter services when a certified or registered interpreter is used and paid in accord with standards established by the Administrative Office of the Courts. At the same time, a fiscal request entitled “Justice in Jeopardy” has gone forward that would budget a substantial amount for interpreter services over the next biennium (two-year budgetary period).

On February 21, Linda Noble and WITS President Kenneth Barger testified before the House Judiciary Committee, as did representatives speaking for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) community and an attorney who objected to language in the draft bill that would have inadvertently weakened the standard for interpreters in court. I can verify from my experience in January that it is intimidating to sit before the rising ranks of legislators and speak into the microphone, but Linda and Kenny did an outstanding job. In particular, Linda’s example of a specific instance where her professional training was essential, an instance which was to the benefit of a person who was fully competent in English, made a

powerful impact. Excerpts from the testimony accompany this article.

Washington State makes recordings of the public hearings available both live and after the event, so those of us who went to Olympia the next day to speak before the Senate Judiciary Committee had the advantage of hearing what had been said before. The committee was due to consider Senate Bill 2005, a “companion” or identical bill to HB 2176. Sam Mattix, Emma Garkavi and I carpooled down to meet with Kenny again.

We felt well-prepared to speak, but in the event, there were eight people in favor and none against. In the interest of saving time, the chair called on three individuals to represent all of us. Judge Michael Spearman was eloquent on behalf of the importance of court interpreting to a judge in King County Superior Court, Jeff Hall was ready for questions on behalf of the Administrative Office of the Courts, and Kenny provided comments for the entire WITS delegation. He “went with the flow” and again provided telling commentary that made our points effectively and succinctly. We had a strong sense that the committee was in favor of the bill and planned to recommend its passage to the full Senate, which tempered any disappointment that not all of us could testify.

That afternoon we made the acquaintance of Senator Rosa Franklin, who has been serving as President Pro Tempore of the Senate and was impressed that among us we spoke Lao, Thai, Russian and Spanish. That evening we learned that the House Judiciary Committee had approved HB 2176 that very day, with the amendment recommended by attorney Jim Roe—surely a record for influential testimony! At a reception at the Governor’s Mansion that evening I introduced my colleagues to former Secretary of State Ralph Munro. It was a particular pleasure to say, “This is Emma Garkavi, whom you met last when she was interpreting for Prime Minister Stepashin of Russia!”

On Friday of that week, Kenny met with Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, who had emphasized interpreter issues in his “State of the Judiciary” address to the Legislature in January. In early March, Emma and I, along with WITS Vice President Steve Muzik, participated in the quarterly meeting of the Washington State Court Interpreter Commission on which we serve.

At this writing, the bill has passed the House and a budget request of \$3.6 million is under consideration. We do not know the final outcome. We are certain, how

Continued on p 12 ○○○

The Northwest Translators & Interpreters Society presents:

A Weekend of Trados Workshops

June 30 - July 1, 2007

1. An Introduction to Trados - A Hands-On Workshop (Saturday, June 30, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm)
2. Intermediate and Advanced Features of Trados (Saturday, June 30, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm)
3. MultiTerm and Trados Term Recognition (Sunday, July 1, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm)
4. TagEditor for Trados Users (Sunday, July 1, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Venue: Bellevue Community College, North Campus, 10700 Northup Way, Bellevue, WA 98007-6484

Saturday, June 30, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm:

An Introduction to Trados - A Hands-On Workshop

This hands-on workshop is an introduction to SDL Trados translation memory software. It is meant for those who have been thinking about purchasing Trados, or have already used it in a few projects but feel that they are not aware of or don't know how to use the very basic features.

OBJECTIVES

- Learn what Trados does and doesn't do.
- Learn the translation process using Trados.
- Learn how to use the basic functions of Trados Workbench.
- Discuss the translator-Trados-client relationship, including Trados rates.
- Prepare first-timers for the other three workshops.

...in other words: To get you up and translating with Trados, and to feel good about it!

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- Since this is a HANDS-ON workshop, you need a laptop computer to get the full benefit of the course. However, you will likely find this workshop useful even if you come without a computer. Note that NOTIS will NOT provide computers.
- You also need to have Trados (preferably version 7 or 8) and MS Word already installed before the workshop. The Trados 30-day trial version is sufficient for the workshop, and can be downloaded free from <http://new.translationzone.com/en/downloads/> ("SDL Trados 2007 Full Trial License").

Note that space in the introductory workshop is limited to 20 participants with computers and 20 without computers. Sign up early to secure your spot. Please indicate in your registration form whether you will bring a computer.

Saturday, June 30, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm:

Intermediate and advanced features of Trados

This presentation will introduce a variety of more advanced Trados Workbench features that will make your translation work more efficient. This is meant for everyone who knows the basics of Trados or has attended the Introduction to Trados workshop. Since this is NOT a hands-on workshop, no computers are needed.

OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to set up a translation memory (e.g., use of Attribute Fields, Substitutions, Penalties, Segmentation Rules).
- Learn how to use translation memories efficiently (e.g., use of Project and Filter Settings, Translation Memory Options, Term Recognition).
- Learn how to manage translation memories (e.g., searching and editing translation units, importing and exporting translation memories).

...in other words: To learn all those Trados Workbench settings you have been too afraid to touch and to see how they can help you in your translation work.

**Sunday, July 1, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm:
MultiTerm and Trados Term Recognition**

This presentation will teach how to use Trados Term Recognition feature and MultiTerm terminology management software. Many translators shy away from using the Terminology Recognition feature of Trados, mainly because MultiTerm's interface is not the most user-friendly. However, this workshop will show you the "friendly" side of MultiTerm and teach you the basics that will enable you to use it easily to make your translation work more efficient. This is meant for everyone who knows the basics of Trados. Since this is NOT a hands-on workshop, no computers are needed.

OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to use the Terminology Recognition feature of Trados with MultiTerm.
- Learn how to create MultiTerm glossaries from scratch.
- Learn how to import glossaries from Word and Excel format into MultiTerm.
- Learn how to exchange MultiTerm glossaries with others.
- Learn how to add new terms directly from Word while translating.
- Learn how to use MultiTerm as a stand-alone program.

WORKSHOP FEES:

	NOTIS / WITS member		Non-member*	
	Early bird - by June 5 (postmarked)	Regular - after June 5	Early bird - by June 5 (postmarked)	Regular - after June 5
1 workshop	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
2 workshops	\$95.00	\$115.00	\$135.00	\$155.00
3 workshops	\$135.00	\$155.00	\$195.00	\$215.00
4 workshops	\$170.00	\$190.00	\$250.00	\$270.00

* Join NOTIS now and receive the applicable member rates.

If you have any questions, please contact NOTIS at (206) 838-0910 or info@notisnet.org.

NOTIS does not endorse any specific software or software producer.

**Sunday, July 1, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm:
TagEditor for Trados Users**

This presentation will teach how to use Trados TagEditor for translating tagged text files (such as Excel, PowerPoint, HTML). This is meant for everyone who knows the basics of Trados. Since this is NOT a hands-on workshop, no computers are needed.

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the differences between MS Word and TagEditor translation environments.
- Learn how to use TagEditor to translate Word, PowerPoint, Excel, HTML, FrameMaker, InDesign, and other tagged text file formats.

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
NO ONSITE REGISTRATION!**

To register for any or all of these workshops send the form below and a check for the correct amount to:

NOTIS

603 Stewart Street, Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98101

Or register online at: <http://www.notisnet.org>

ATA Continuing Education Credit: ATA-certified members can earn up to 10 Continuing Education Points for the workshop series.

INSTRUCTOR:

Tuomas Kostainen has years of experience in using Trados as a freelance English to Finnish translator and Trados trainer. For more information, see www.finntranslations.com

NOTIS TRADOS Workshop Registration Form

Please send this form and a check for the correct amount to:

NOTIS

603 Stewart Street, Suite 610

Seattle, WA 98101

phone: (206) 838-0910

info@notisnet.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (include area code)

E-mail: _____

WORKSHOP FEES:

	NOTIS / WITS member		Non-member*	
	Early bird - by June 5 (postmarked)	Regular - after June 5	Early bird - by June 5 (postmarked)	Regular - after June 5
1 workshop	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00
2 workshops	\$95.00	\$115.00	\$135.00	\$155.00
3 workshops	\$135.00	\$155.00	\$195.00	\$215.00
4 workshops	\$170.00	\$190.00	\$250.00	\$270.00

Indicate which workshops you are taking:

- 1. Introduction to Trados
- (Are you planning to bring a laptop? yes no)
- 2. Intermediate and Advanced Features of Trados
- 3. MultiTerm
- 4. TagEditor

Cancellation policy: Refunds are issued only if notice of cancellation is received by June 22, 2007.

DVD Announcement (47th ATA Conference, New Orleans)

Earn continuing education credits by viewing the DVD-ROM of the ATA conference!

NOTIS is lending the DVD-ROM of the sessions at this year's ATA conference in New Orleans to its members. Members can borrow the DVD for a one-week period. The DVD contains many of the pre-conference seminars and almost all of the educational sessions. The format combines an audio track with viewable presentation slides. ATA-certified translators can obtain up to 10 continuing education credits by viewing the DVD.

To ensure that the DVD is returned in a timely manner a deposit equal to the purchase price is required. The DVD costs \$149.00, and a fully refundable deposit of \$150.00 is required to borrow the DVD.

Borrowers can obtain the DVD by mail or directly from Ken Wagner, the contact person.

Credit can also be earned by viewing sessions from last year's conference in Seattle. The same conditions apply to borrow last year's DVD.

Make your reservation to view the DVD today! Contact:

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Shoreline, WA 98155
Tel: 206-368-9271
JapaneseMedical@comcast.net

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Excerpts from testimony by Jim Roe, Kenneth Barger and Linda Noble State of Washington House Judiciary Committee hearing on HB 2176

Olympia, Washington
February 21, 2007 10:00 AM

Jim Roe

For the record, my name is Jim Roe, Madam Chairman, and I represent the Washington State Criminal Defense Bar. I have a couple of questions. I think that inadvertently and maybe mistakenly—certainly it is not the intent of the judges or the court administrator's office to lessen the bill—but in fact in section 1A it provides for a new interpreter position: “the most competent, who is reasonably available.” That would be a return to the good old days when “the most competent, who is reasonably available” would be the person's brother or a jail guard or a policeman, or somebody in the courtroom or somebody down the hall. And that is, I think not the intent. I think that it would avoid any mischief to cross out those 25 words or at least indicate that the courts are to take the most competent certified or qualified or registered interpreter, not just the one who is reasonably available. I just think that it's an error in the language.

Kenneth Barger

Madam Chair, members of the committee, good morning. My name is Kenneth Barger. I'm a Spanish court interpreter certified by the states of Washington and Oregon and by the federal courts. I am also a lifelong resident of Washington and president of the Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society, WITS. The board of directors of WITS has instructed me to let you know that we're in favor of House Bill 2176 for a couple of reasons.

I'm conscious of the time limit that we have, so I just want to mention two specific parts. The language assistance plan: I think this is a good idea. It does very little good to have the best certified or registered interpreters available if the limited English proficient population doesn't have access to that service and doesn't know how to get translated materials and a good interpreter. I particularly like the fact that the courts are instructed to consult with judges, clerks, administrators, interpreters and community members. I think that this will make for a good plan.

Also in the last paragraphs of sections 2 and 3 of the bill: The partial state reimbursement, I believe, will create an incentive, an economic incentive—because, of course, money talks—for the courts to make sure that they use a certified interpreter. Incidentally, I should mention there are no registered interpreters in the State of Washington, but the first exam sittings for this new program are in May. So, when we have registered interpreters in the other 50 languages in which that will be available, this will give an incentive to use the proper interpreter, the most qualified interpreter, which unfortunately is not always the case today.

I've been doing this for a little over seven years and literally hundreds of times I've seen an inexperienced and not qualified interpreter give a partial or unintelligible rendition. Out of deference to authority the limited English proficiency party says, “Yes, I understand my rights, Your Honor,” *Sí comprendo, señoría*, when in fact they do not, which inevitably leads to an injustice of one sort or another.

I had a chance to see the floor session yesterday and some very compelling and moving remarks were made about Japanese-American internment during World War II, which made me think about a lot of different things. We have a long history of diversity in the State of Washington. It has always been with us and it's more so today and will be more so tomorrow. I would really like for those young kids who are growing up bilingual right now in the State of Washington to have a viable career path in language services, if that's what they choose to do. Right now, with the inconsistent level of pay in different courts and just the general unpredictability of this line of work, it's a tough way to make a living. Some do well and others don't do so well.

I will close with that and say that WITS stands ready to assist the Administrative Office of the Courts and the legislature and any individual courts in any way we can to improve the provision of language services in the courts in the state. Thank you for your kind attention. *Gracias por su amable atención*. Now I'd like to introduce Linda Noble, also a member of WITS.

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Meeting our Members

Interpreting and Globetrotting: Pablo C. Chang-Castillo

By Katrin Rippel and Kenneth Barger

The professor took 21-year-old student Pablo Chang-Castillo to an international conference in Paris. It was the first time Pablo saw all the soundproof booths with interpreters who seamlessly interpreted global issues in many languages. He was awestruck and knew right then that he wanted to be one of these interpreters in the booths, interpreting for international organizations, facilitating the resolution of issues such as poverty, human rights, AIDS, and natural disasters. Since that day, Pablo has marched toward the realization of that goal.

Pablo was born in Bluefields, Nicaragua, yet his family soon moved to Honduras and Costa Rica, and then left Central America, settling in Milwaukee and later in the Yakima Valley in Central Washington.

He hadn't wanted to go to France during high school, but his father insisted. It was during his junior year in Paris where he discovered his love of languages - a natural English-Spanish bilingual, he hadn't thought of language ability as something unusual before then - and where the event occurred that set the course of his life as a conference interpreter.

Pablo went on to receive his B.A. in French Literature and German Literature from *Gonzaga University*. He found out that Holly Mikkelson taught interpretation at the *Monterey Institute of International Studies* (MIIS), and soon enrolled in an academic and training program at this same institute, known for training top-level translators and interpreters for international diplomacy, trade, science, and business.

Pablo now holds a M.A. in Translation and a M.A. in Conference Interpretation from MIIS, a M.A. in Bilingual Legal Interpretation from the *University of Charleston*, and is a federally certified court interpreter and a state certified court interpreter in Washington and California. As a CIUTI (a program of the *Conférence Internationale d'Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interprètes*) scholar, Pablo studied at the *Institut Supérieur d'Interprétation et de Traduction* (ISIT) in Paris, specializing in Conference Interpretation and Translation.

His years of effort have borne fruit in a highly successful career as a freelance interpreter and translator, working in his two mother tongues of English and Spanish, as well as French, which he has mastered to a near-native fluency. Besides working for international organi-

zations and the United Nations family around the globe, Pablo has also interpreted for many government agencies, as well as corporations such as Microsoft, Pfizer, and Amazon.



It was in 2002 that he worked at his first international conference with two members of the *International Association of Conference Interpreters* (AIIC). He described the experience: "These interpreters had an incredible level of professionalism and quality." Their standards became his guideline and in 2005, Pablo was admitted to AIIC and is currently the West Coast Representative of this organization.

Then in 2006, in various countries such as Italy, France, Costa Rica, Canada, and New Zealand, Pablo was able to witness the international community meet and discuss global issues. Pablo was sitting in his booth interpreting diligently, viewing the scene in that he had experienced once before in a state of awe, suddenly aware that he had realized his dream.

Besides serving internationally as a conference interpreter, Pablo's goals and dedication are to continue to improve standards and conditions of the profession and to be a guide and mentor to aspiring and beginning conference interpreters. He offers highly interactive, intensive training to individuals and small groups (find out more at www.interpretersandtranslators.com and www.chang-castilloseminars.com). Pablo has also taught Advanced Court Interpretation at MIIS, and has taught at the *Translation and Interpretation Institute* in Bellevue, WA; and at *San Francisco State University*.

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I could IM you this on the QT, but I'll write this article instead, FYI

By Verla Viera

About a dozen years ago, in my former career as a librarian, I sent something like the following message to one of our reference department assistants: "It doesn't appear to be in OCLC, so could you get this ILL from PQD ASAP for Professor Fulano?"*

Librarians, like members of all fields, have acronyms and abbreviations that permeate their professional jargon. For some reason, I've always gotten a kick out them. So it's been with a certain amount of silly glee that I've begun collecting the omnipresent letters from the legal arena since I recently received my court certification and began working in that environment.

I believe there to be a never-ending supply of these, as the ones I've collected have been in a fairly small range of types of cases. I offer here those that I've encountered in my first two months of court work. Some, like DUI, are commonly known in the general population. For my own entertainment, I am going to continue jotting down new ones that I encounter, and will publish them periodically in the *Northwest Linguist* when the list is long enough. I hope they can be of help to new interpreters. For seasoned court interpreters, pat yourselves on the back as you realize how many of these you have absorbed without even realizing it!

ADIS—alcohol and drug information school

BAC—blood or breath alcohol concentration or content, or the breathalyzer itself

BI—behavioral intervention, which refers to EHM/EHD

CSH—community service hours

DCH—defendant's criminal history

DOC—Department of Corrections

DOL—Department of Licensing

DUI—driving under the influence

DWLS—driving with/while license suspended

EHD—electronic home detention

EHM—electronic home monitoring

FTA—failure to appear

J&S—judgment and sentencing

NCO—no contact order

NCF—no charges filed

NVOL VID—no valid operator's license, valid ID

NSP—no significant problem (drug/alcohol evaluation result)

OPD—Office of the Public Defender

PC—probable cause (can be used as a verb)

PR—release on personal recognizance (also noun or verb)

PSI—pre-sentence investigation

PTH or PTR—pre-trial hearing

SOAP—stay out of areas of prostitution

SOC—stipulated order of continuance

UA—urinalysis

UIBC—unlawful issuance of bank checks

VUCSA—violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act

*OCLC has stood for several things over its history, but now is a standalone acronym. It is a huge database of millions of library materials from around the world, identifying which libraries hold a certain title.

ILL=interlibrary loan

PQD=ProQuest Direct, a pre-WWW article delivery service via fax

◊◊◊ *Continued from p 5*

ever, that court interpreter issues are "on the radar screen" in a way that they were not before. WITS particularly appreciates the fact that the NOTIS Board endorsed our efforts and that NAJIT was able to send four letters in support to the chairs of the relevant committees in a matter of a couple of days. President Barger was able to cite the strong support of all three professional organizations in his testimony, and we are encouraged that individual members have contacted their legislators as well. Navigating the path of a bill through the various committees and onto the floor of the House or Senate is complicated for everybody involved, but we have a clearer sense now of how to promote a bill's passage and we are in it for the long haul. I encourage all readers of *The Northwest Linguist* not to be intimidated by politics, but to be willing to make the voice of the profession heard in our legislature. It is worth the effort. ❖

◊◊◊ *Continued from p 10*

Linda Noble

Good morning. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for giving me the opportunity to speak this morning. I came down from Seattle and I'm very honored to be here today. I'm a certified court interpreter in Russian. I obtained my certification in 1996, and that was the first year that this certification was introduced in this state due to the growing number of refugees from the former Soviet Union.

I'm here today to urge you to support House Bill No. 2176. I feel that this bill is a crucial step to ensuring consistently professional interpretation in all languages at all levels of our judicial system throughout the entire state. It mandates the use of qualified interpreters in court, and I also urge you to approve the funding that will make that possible and realistic.

During my career as a professional court interpreter, I have provided simultaneous interpretation for persons accused of crimes ranging from simple misdemeanors to the most egregious felonies. Under due process all of these people have the right to know everything that is happening in the court, whether it is their personal integrity, their driving privilege, or liberty itself that is at stake. I've also had the very weighty responsibility of interpreting witness testimony, where every word spoken is of the utmost importance and an error or omission can change the outcome of the trial and change a person's life forever. These are duties which should neither be taken lightly nor administered lightly. It is not for the casual knower of a second language nor relatives nor court clerk who lack the education and professional training in this field to be asked or expected to interpret under these very serious circumstances.

I want to give you a short example of how this played out recently in a trial in which I was interpreting in King County Superior Court. The defendant in this case was actually somebody who grew up here, spoke perfect English, and did not require an interpreter. But there were several witnesses in this case who required my services. At one point the witness was testifying and, on direct examination, she launched into a very lengthy narrative. As soon as I started to interpret her response, there was an objection raised by defense counsel because she was touching potentially on testimony that was inadmissible. Then there was lengthy argument between counsel, and discussion between the judge and the attor-

neys, until finally the judge called a sidebar and the court reporter, both attorneys and myself were called back into chambers where there was further discussion, at which point finally, the judge said, "Okay, what was the answer?" At this point, as you can imagine, about 10 minutes had gone by, and I was expected to recall verbatim this very lengthy response that this witness had given. Fortunately I have a lot of experience, and I'm well trained in proficient notetaking. I have developed very good retention skills, and I was able to recall her entire response for the record so that the judge could make a ruling on its admissibility. I point this out because the person whose liberty was at jeopardy was not a limited English-speaking person, and yet the test of my professionalism and accuracy was just as vital to his fate as to that of any non-English speaking person in this state.

So I want to tell you that the court interpreters—educated, professionally trained and experienced—are absolutely vital to ensuring due process in our courts. Again, I urge you to support House Bill 2176 and move Washington State to the forefront in providing its residents with equal access to justice. Thank you very much. ❖

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What tips can you offer a person interested in becoming a conference interpreter?

"When you come from the field of court interpretation, be aware that language flow and work settings demand a complete shift from your current expertise to very different approaches. Enroll in an academic training program—in order to interpret for the UN or many international organizations you need a degree in conference interpretation or many years of experience as a conference interpreter; read constantly to keep developing your vocabulary. There is a lot you can do by yourself; for instance, go to the UN website, where there are speeches and recordings you can use to practice. Consider exporting your language to a country where your mother tongue is not native".

Although Pablo lives in San Francisco, he still feels strong ties to Washington State and the language professionals of WITS and NOTIS. He says, "Many of the people in WITS and NOTIS gave me help and support when I was just getting started. I have a special relationship with Washington State and will always be grateful to my friends and family there." ❖

◉◉◉ *Continued from p 1*

ing high-quality instructors, and serving as instructors themselves, on December 30, 2006, Courtney Searls-



Ridge and Susana Stettri Sawrey opted to pursue the administrative steps necessary to transfer the program to Bellevue Community College (BCC), where the current program has been housed. Jean Floten, President of BCC expressed her thanks to the founders in a letter, stating that their “forward-looking vision resulted in an innovative program that has provided students of many backgrounds and languages the opportunity to learn translation and interpretation at BCC for more than a decade,” and describing their contributions as “enduring” and “vibrant.”

On January 26, 2007, their decision was honored with a ceremony at the college and dinner, attended by representatives of the program, the college, and the local translation/interpretation community: Courtney and Susana, the two program founders; Bruce Riveland, Dean of Continuing Education at BCC; Laura Saunders, Vice-President of Administrative Services of BCC, Paula Boyum, Vice President-Workforce Development of BCC; René Siegenthaler, Director of World Languages & Travel



as well as of the Translation & Interpretation Institute at BCC; Suzanne Kanetomi, his assistant; Vania Haam on behalf of Kenneth Barger, the president of Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society; Larissa Kulinich, President of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society; and members of the Advisory Committee for the T & I Institute: Ann Macfarlane, Jean Leblon, Lois Feuerle, Kathryn German, Alicia Martinez, and Jamie Lucero.

Master of Ceremonies, Ann Macfarlane explained the significance of the transfer, Larissa Kulinich presented Susana and Courtney with a certificate of honorary lifetime membership in NOTIS from the NOTIS Board of Directors, and Jean Leblon expressed appreciation for the time and energy invested by program founders to create such a successful translation and interpretation training program. All three thanked Susana and Courtney for their contributions to a program that prepares translators and interpreters to be true professionals. It was a very important step on the path towards intercultural understanding and communication. Both Susana and Courtney will continue to serve as members of the Translation & Interpretation Institute’s Advisory Committee as it continually monitors and adjusts the program to meet the needs of current students in a rapidly changing society. Because of the vision and dedication of these two program founders, and the wonderful support of Bellevue Community College, the Translation & Interpretation Institute will continue to provide well trained professionals to meet the needs of an increasingly multilingual, multi-cultural population.



Kathryn German is a member of ATA, NOTIS and NAJIT and currently works full-time in Seattle as a Translator for Quorum Review, an institutional review board of clinical trials. She has completed the Translation Certificate Program coursework at the T & I Institute at Bellevue Community College, the Cross Cultural Health Program, has a M.A. and B.A in Spanish Literature and Language, was a Fulbright Fellow to Ecuador, and completed additional studies in Spain, Perú, Paraguay, and Guatemala. ❖

Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
May 12, 2007	Written AOC exam for Certified and Registered court interpreter candidates	http://www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm	Bellevue Community College and Yakima Valley College, WA, USA
May 14 - 17, 2007	VI Ibero-American Conference: The Process of Translation - A Never-ending Story	http://www.unibero.edu.br/ciati/	São Paulo, Brazil
May 18, 2007	ATA Certification Exam	Pre-registration is required. Information: call ATA +1(703) 683-6100 or register online at http://www.atanet.org/certification/upcoming.php	Portland, OR, USA
May 18, 2007	SSTI "Skills Tuneup" Workshop	www.najit.org	Portland, OR, USA
May 18 - 20, 2007	Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators	http://www.najit.org/	Portland, OR, USA
May 26 - 28, 2007	Translator Formation: Pedagogy, Evaluation, and TechnologiesXXth congress of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies	http://www.uottawa.ca/associations/act-cats-/Eng/congress/congress.htm	University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada
May 31 - 3, 2007	ATA Medical Division First Mid-Year Conference	e-mail: ata@atanet.org , Web: http://www.ata-divisions.org/MD	Cleveland, OH USA
June 2, 2007	Advanced Medical Interpreting	http://at-campus.net/bcc2/ems/category/category.aspx?S=440 or call René Siegenthaler at (425) 564-3171	Bellevue Community College, WA, USA
June 9, 2007	Wordfast Level II (Version 5.5)	http://at-campus.net/bcc2/ems/category/category.aspx?S=440 or call René Siegenthaler at (425) 564-3171	Bellevue Community College, WA, USA
June 12 - 14, 2007	2007 Localization Certification Program	e-mail: localizationprog@csuchico.edu , web: http://rce.csuchico.edu/localize	Chico, CA, USA
June 15 - 16, 2007	Advance Training in Localization Project Management	e-mail: localizationprog@csuchico.edu , web: http://rce.csuchico.edu/localize	Chico, CA, USA
June 19 - 21, 2007	Localization World Berlin	e-mail: info@localizationworld.com , web: http://www.localizationworld.com	Berlin, Germany
3 - 8 August, 2007	Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) National Conference	http://www.rid.org/conv.html	San Francisco, CA, USA

For more international, national, and local events, please see: www.notisnet.org, www.witsnet.org, www.atanet.org

NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
NOTIS	June 16, 2007 6:30 p.m.	TBD	Info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	August 7, 2007 6:30 p.m.	TBD	Info@notisnet.org

All Board Meetings are open to the membership of their respective organizations.



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