

THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 19 No. 1, WINTER 2006

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Letter from the Outgoing SOMI President

By Renée Palermo

I am pleased to announce the outcome of the SOMI General Meeting held on December 3rd, 2005 at the University of Washington Waterfront Activities Center. The SOMI board and membership voted unanimously in favor of dissolving the society and transitioning our membership to NOTIS where we will continue to work promoting professionalism and excellence among medical interpreters. We will also be continuing our forums—the first under the new NOTIS Special Interest Group focusing on medical interpretation has already been scheduled for February.

As part of the transition, SOMI agreed to pay the membership fee for all existing active SOMI members who choose to join NOTIS for 2006. The transition applications were sent out shortly after the New Year and are being returned and processed by NOTIS.

The outgoing SOMI board sees this as a mutually beneficial opportunity. We truly believe that through collaboration and sharing resources we will be able to better achieve our goals.

The final SOMI General Meeting was held right before the “Traditional” Holiday Party.

This year the party took place on Saturday, December 3rd, 2005 at the UW

Waterfront Activities Center. It was a bright day and the room was brimming with holiday cheer brought on by red tablecloths, a crackling fire, bountiful ethnic dishes, and a selection of desserts that was irresistible. More intriguing than the surroundings was the turn-out. As you know, the holiday party is put on jointly by WITS, NOTIS and SOMI. That creates a diverse crowd of translators and interpreters working in both medical and legal areas, among others, giving colleagues a chance to mingle with those whom they would not normally run into during their regular work.

Ann Macfarlane kindly agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies, and gave a gracious warm welcome to all. Then she introduced the presidents of each organization. Newly appointed WITS President Kenneth Barger (Kenny) spoke first. Kenny told us what it is that he loves about being an interpreter. Some of his favorite things include going to the mailbox and finding eight checks right when you need them, never having to ask permission to go on vacation and the diversity of topics that interpreters encounter: i.e., working with alleged murderers one day, then a religious organization or perhaps a businessperson from abroad. Above all,

Continued on page 9 ○○○

Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society

A chapter of the
American Translators Association

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Vice-President Marylise Benyakar
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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

Aslan Aslanian	Armenian < English
	Farsi < English
	Dari < English
	Pashtu < English
Patricia S. Barron	Spanish < English
Carole Binjacar	English > French
	Italian > French
Touba Both	Farsi < English
Muriel Brasseur	English > Dutch
	English > French
Nicholas Chaffee	Japanese > English
Miriam C. Delgado	Spanish < English
Norma Fender	Spanish < English
Xiaofeng Foster	Mandarin < English
	Cantonese < English
Kyoko Hayashi	Japanese < English
Keiko Iijima	Japanese < English
Diane J. Kramer	Spanish < English
	Russian < English
Magdalena Labori	Spanish < English
Dora Larsen	Spanish < English
Padraic Markle	Spanish < English
Yukiko Nakada	Japanese < English
Cristina Paget	Spanish < English
F. Jackson Piotrow	German > English
	Russian > English
Vladimir Potapyev	Russian < English
Karen Yesowich Schmucker	Russian > English
Janice Sleight	Spanish > English
Jhon Valencia	Spanish < English
Katerina Warns	Russian < English

Rejoining Members

Danna Blattman	German > English
Norma Fender	Spanish < English
Elisabeth Scheuer-Sturgeon	English > German

Corporate Members

Translate IT, LLC
YN Translation Service, LLC

WITS Notes

New Members

Jeff Adams	Spanish
Ranbir Dhillon	Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu
(Barbara) Hua Robinson	Mandarin

Find us online:

NOTIS:

Homepage: <http://www.notisnet.org>

Directory: <http://www.notisnet.org/directory/online.asp>

WITS:

Homepage: <http://witsnet.org>

Directory: <http://witsnet.org/directory/online.asp>

Letter from the WITS President

By Kenneth Barger

The New Year is here, complete with joys and challenges for all us wordy types.

First, it is my pleasure to announce two new members of the WITS Board of Directors. Ferdinand Vélez and Jesse Acosta are both Spanish interpreters, making their homes in Northport and Aberdeen, respectively. We are pleased to welcome them both to the Board, and we look forward to working with them. I am happy that we will have representation in more areas of the state.

Ginger Wang and this columnist were also reelected to the Board. Ginger's hard work as Treasurer and on the Programs Committee has been invaluable to us. WITS is delighted to have her continue to participate as a Board member. As for me, I will continue to do my best, and I thank WITS members for their votes.

Thanks are due to outgoing Board members Claudia A'Zar, Amy Andrews, and Paul Tu. Their talents and diligence have made WITS stronger, and we are indebted to them and proud to count them among our membership.

Furthermore, 2005 was a busy year. Our sister society NOTIS hosted the ATA Annual Conference here at the Westin Hotel in Seattle from November 9 to 12. NOTIS and WITS shared a table, at which we offered help to visitors, promoted our societies, and generally had a fine time. A high point for me was the tour of the Seattle Federal Courthouse, organized by Steven Mines, head of the Interpreters Division of the ATA, with help from your humble narrator. We had a good turnout, remarks from Judge Ricardo Martinez, and lunch at the courthouse cafeteria afterwards.

Our own Courtney Searls-Ridge presented on several topics, including the workshop she did with Lisa Sturgeon, *Changing a School District by Teaching Interpreting*, in which she introduced attendees to some of her student interpreters. Regular readers of the newsletter may recall her article on this project in the Winter 2005 issue. This was only one of dozens of presentations available at the conference, but I must mention it because I have worked with the student interpreters, and those kids are great.

During the conference, I had the honor of meeting Mr. Peter Less, an interpreter of German for the

Nuremberg trials, and a presenter. It was also a pleasant surprise to run into folks I've interpreted with here and there around the country. Look for more coverage of the ATA Annual Conference in the *ATA Chronicle* and elsewhere in this issue.

In other local activities, WITS, NOTIS and SOMI held the annual Holiday Party on December 3. This was preceded by a meeting of the SOMI membership, in which an important decision was made to merge with NOTIS. Next came mingling and snacks, followed by remarks by the presidents of all three societies. The centerpiece of the celebration was an awards ceremony for key SOMI members, led by Renée Palermo.

There have been changes in *The Northwest Linguist* as well. Sarah Garriott, who served as the NOTIS Editor for over four years, has stepped down and passed on editorial duties to Laura A. Wideburg. I wish to extend a cordial welcome to Laura, and express my gratitude to her for taking on these duties, and to Sarah for her fine work as editor, including her thoroughness in passing the torch to her successor.

After all this activity and general holiday madness, there has been a lull as our societies recharge batteries and take stock. But I can hear the clicks and whirrs of the machinery warming up again. We look forward to a year of great programs, more outreach, and, especially, even greater cooperation between our societies. In the meantime, keep those professional standards high, keep broadening your knowledge, never sell yourself short, and keep up the good work!

Letter from the NOTIS President

By Larissa Kulinich

Dear NOTIS members,

First, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity and wish you a most fulfilling and successful New Year! This time of the year is appropriate to take stock of both personal and professional accomplishments and make plans for the future. NOTIS did the summing up of the year's activities at the Annual Meeting on November 19, 2005.

Our organization has become bigger and stronger due to the hard work, enthusiasm, efficiency of the Board, as well the commitment and contribution of our valued volunteers. Another factor is closer collaboration with our sister organizations- WITS and SOMI. My heartfelt and sincere thanks go to all of you members who make a real difference!

We have had quite a few unprecedented events and exciting challenges. I will highlight the most significant of them. Among our obvious successes was the hosting of the ATA Conference in Seattle. The Hosting Committee, headed by Director Caitilin Walsh, had been working tirelessly for over a year to make it a really big event. This effort was highly appreciated.

Another significant event was the fact that the NOTIS Board welcomed the SOMI members to join our organization at the request of SOMI's President, Renée Palermo.

On behalf of the NOTIS Board I would like once again to welcome and encourage former SOMI members to join NOTIS. They will form a Medical Special Interest Group within NOTIS. I can't help mentioning the warm and cordial farewell ceremony that took place at the traditional annual holiday party where the SOMI founding directors were recognized. Renée Palermo did a wonderful job as the Master of Ceremonies for this event.

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting know that we amended the Bylaws. I will mention just the two amendments. Now we can award the title of an Honorary Member to individuals and institutions for their outstanding contribution to NOTIS. The other amendment removed the five-state membership barrier. For more information relating to these and other amendments, please visit the NOTIS website at: www.NOTISnet.org

Any Board of any organization is only as good as its directors. NOTIS has been very fortunate in this regard. And again, last year presented us with another unprecedented situation — six Directors out of fourteen stepped down from the Board. They are very special people and extraordinary professionals who have been serving NOTIS selflessly for many years, and managing critical areas of NOTIS' activity. Each of them deserves a lot of appreciation and consideration: Jean Leblon, one of the Founding Directors of NOTIS; Laura Cooper, the treasurer; George Fowler, who initiated the Membership Satisfaction Survey, and led the group to accomplish it; Sarah Garriott, the NOTIS Newsletter editor; Michelle Privat

Obermeyer and Deya Jorda Nolan, Co-chairs of the Program Committee. All these precious Board members were recognized and given small gifts at the last Board meeting of the year on December 13, 2005.

At the same meeting the title of Honorary Member was awarded to two NOTIS members who have been literally making and shaping NOTIS for many years: Jean Leblon and Ann Macfarlane. Jean has been with NOTIS for about 17 years. Besides being one of the Founding Directors, he served in the capacity of President, Treasurer, and Secretary — giving NOTIS his wisdom and expertise. Ann is also a Past President. She has been nurturing our organization by generously sharing her knowledge and invaluable experience. Dear Jean and Ann, we owe so much to you! I would also like to thank Christina Zubelli, NOTIS Office Manager and Membership Coordinator. Christina is amazingly efficient and keeps many things on track.

A legitimate question arises — who is going to take over? The good news is that five new enthusiastic and talented Directors were elected at the Annual Board meeting: Cristina Paget (former SOMI Corresponding Secretary and Membership Committee Chair) NOTIS treasurer; Pablo Sepulveda, Outreach Committee Chair; Laura A. Wideburg, Newsletter editor; and Andrea Brugman and Jonas Nicotra, Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. A few months earlier, Renée Palermo was appointed a Board member to fill the position of one of the directors who stepped down from the Board before the expiration of the term. Renée and Cristina will be managing the Medical Special Interest Group. I can assure you that NOTIS is in good hands.

And finally, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that now NOTIS officially has an Outreach Committee. At the first Board meeting of 2006 special attention was paid to outlining and planning its activity. Julie Bryan, WITS Outreach/Advocacy Committee Chair, and a recent NOTIS member, together with Pablo Sepulveda, made a well thought-out presentation about the future plans of the Committee. Reaching out to new members, potential employers, and to the general public will become one of the priorities in our work this coming year.

I can never overemphasize the importance of your active participation and involvement in pursuing our goals and reaching our objectives. Please contact the Board and share your ideas, suggestions and thoughts.

Scandinavia Meets Asia in the Pacific Northwest

ALTA 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bellevue, Washington

October 18-21

By *Laura A. Wideburg*

The 2006 ALTA conference, October 18-21, will be a wonderful mix of translation events held near the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range in Bellevue, (near Seattle) Washington. The Pacific Northwest is an area filled with natural beauty cradled between the Pacific Ocean and some of the greatest mountain ranges in North America. This area was home of the Duwamish, Suquamish, Nisqually, Snoqualmie and Muckleshoot peoples, all of whom spoke Lushootseed (Puget Sound Salish). After Seattle was first settled by five families from Illinois in 1851, immigrants from Scandinavia and Asia came to the Puget Sound region in great numbers during the period between 1880 and 1930. This history makes this place a natural meeting ground for these two distinct cultural groups. Our theme reflects the early non-Native settlement of the Puget Sound region, but just as the area is now filled with people from all over the globe, our conference will reflect all the languages that make ALTA conferences exciting and engaging.

We are calling for panelists, publishers and bilingual readers to present at the conference. We especially encourage translators with an Asian or Scandinavian connection or theme, but all are welcome and encouraged to

apply. Please send your proposal for a panel to the Host Committee Chair, Laura A. Wideburg, by April 3rd, and your bilingual reading to Alexis Levitin by August 31st.

Book sales will be handled by the University Bookstore, a co-operative book store founded over 100 years ago by the students at the University of Washington. Head Buyer Jay Weaver requests that you send Title, Author, Translator, ISBN, Publisher, Distributor and number of copies to this address: jayw@u.washington.edu. The deadline for book orders is August 31st, 2006.

Our hotel is the Bellevue Doubletree, which will become a Hilton this June. Reservations for the special ALTA conference rate of \$119/night can be made by calling 1-800-222-TREE (8733) or through the Hilton number 1-800-817-5154.

Many members of the Host Committee are also members of NOTIS, and we can answer any questions that you may have about the conference. The entire Host Committee consists of Jessica Cohen, Ann Macfarlane, Don Mee Choi, Tasha Buttler, George Fowler and Carolyne Wright.

ATA Conference DVD Lending Policy Announcement

By *Kenneth Wagner*

View the 46th ATA Conference DVD-ROM for free!

NOTIS is lending the DVD-ROM of the sessions at this year's ATA conference in Seattle 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 more than 175 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.

Make your reservation to view the DVD today!
Contact:

Ken Wagner
Japanese-English Medical Translations
340 NE 192nd St.
Shoreline, WA 98155
Tel: 206-368-9271
JapaneseMedical@comcast.net

Outreach Committee Requests your Participation

By Pablo Sepulveda

For a few weeks now, I've had the pleasure of being chair of the outreach committee at NOTIS. Through numerous conversations, e-mails and Board discussions, I am learning what is important to us as professional translators and interpreters. Reaching out and listening to our membership and our community is my job.

I would like to begin the year by filling you in on exciting new developments at NOTIS. Thanks to your continuing input and innovative ideas, the service that NOTIS provides to its members and the community at large keeps evolving — creating new opportunities for professionals and clients alike. As some of you may know, with the joining of efforts between NOTIS and WITS, the outreach committee chairs of both organizations have joined forces to work as a team. Julia Bryan and I will be working together to help our sister organizations to work synergistically, avoid duplication of work and better serve our membership and the community.

As a growing and developing organization, we periodically review our action plans and structures. To have a successful committee we need members to participate and contribute their time and ideas. I encourage you to seriously consider joining the outreach committee.

To make sure we keep growing and delivering, we will be making significant efforts in reaching out this year. Through a fully integrated campaign including print ads and publicity, internet marketing, directory listings, mailings, media exposure and personal phone calls, NOTIS plans to spotlight the depth and breadth of services available in our organization. We will encourage our community and members to use our Membership Directory Website. This means that clients searching for the services of a translator or an interpreter will be naturally driven to NOTIS.

This year we will be focusing our outreach efforts in four distinct categories:

Outreach to Members: We invite you to share your ideas with us and to participate in the outreach committee. This is a place where you can help make a difference in improving services for translators and interpreters.

Outreach to Potential Members: We encourage you to invite professionals who could be members to join. We all know them. They might just be waiting for a personal invitation. Tell them about our Website and the benefits of membership. This small effort will help bring new professionals who will enjoy the benefits of membership. We all benefit from a growing organization.

Outreach to those who can hire us: To inform clients, professionals and persons in allied fields about NOTIS as well as translation and interpretation services.

Outreach to the community: To seek to influence public awareness as it applies to the professions of translation and interpretation.

Outreach is a complicated undertaking. We are now working on a long-range plan and specific short-term development work, and we will have more details to share in the months ahead. Your input and participation is greatly appreciated.

I hope this gives you a sense of what we will focus on as we head into the New Year. As our profession continues to grow and evolve, we look forward to continuing to serve your needs and shape our future together. If you would like to share your ideas or join us in our outreach campaign please e-mail me at: pablosep@msn.com. I look forward to talking with you and I hope you will join with us in developing outreach.

ATA CERTIFICATION EXAM IN SEATTLE

Saturday, April 29th, from 1 to 4 pm will be the date for the ATA Certification Exams. Candidates must be ATA members at least four weeks before the exam and meet all eligibility requirements.

Registration must be done at least two weeks prior to the date of the test. See: www.atanet.org for more information or to register.

1962 to 1988 to 2005: ATA Returns to Seattle

By Caitilin Walsh

When the American Translators Association (ATA) held its annual conference in Seattle in 1988, the ensuing synergy resulted in the founding of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS), which has since become a chapter of ATA. It seemed logical then, that NOTIS and her sister organizations be prepared to both help ATA with the 2005 Seattle conference, as well as use the opportunity to increase our own visibility.

A committee was established nearly two years ago, and a group of many talents signed up. Over the course of two years, we stuck Washington State license plate stickers on hundreds of badges, helped find tennis courts, dug for tourist information, talked to Brazilian bands, businesses and potential pro bono recipients, fielded emails, and brainstormed a keynote speaker. Oh, and someone had to do all that restaurant research! The information we compiled was funneled to ATA headquarters and posted on our campy Web site, adorned with Seattle post-cards from the 1960's.

We did "dry runs" in Seattle for the professional Development Seminar in August 2004 and at the annual conference in Toronto. The key, it seemed, was our table: attractive and staffed. Would we be able to find volunteers for this? Yes! We usually had two people at the table at any given hour. We printed up oodles of brochures and nifty NOTIS pens, and set out freebie maps from the Visitor's Bureau.

By all measures the conference was a success. We welcomed over 1300 attendees, and judging from the number of coffee cups left on our table, there was a steady stream of visitors to our table. We sent people to our favorite coffee shop (Top Pot for donuts and wi-fi), our favorite eateries, the best ticket in town (Louis Comfort Tiffany at SAM), our favorite freebie (a toss-up between the Ballard Locks and the public library), as well as helping colleagues find the right room for the session they were looking for and signing up for their division event. The numbers aren't all tallied, but it appears we gave away about 1000 pens, 750 maps, and gained at least seven new members. We're writing up an after-action report that we hope will help our colleagues in future host cities, and we may just post it on a web page with a Space Needle postcard, just for old time's sake.

Bush's Push for Foreign Language Learning

From Ann Macfarlane:

An Extract from The Language Resource, newsletter of The National Capital Language Resource Center.

President Bush has announced that he will include \$114 million in the 2007 budget for a Foreign Language Initiative, which will target K-12 education as well as higher education and government language training. This amount includes money that is already in the 2006 budget, plus new funding.

The Department of Education Fact Sheet indicates that \$57 million will be included in their budget for this initiative, a \$35 million increase over the amount included in the 2006 Department of Education budget. These numbers appear to refer only to spending on K-12 foreign language education.

The actual details of the proposed programs are still vague. The Department of State has published a Fact Sheet (see below) and the Department of Education has published a press release (see below). President Bush, Secretary Rice, and Secretary Spellings have all published remarks on the initiative (see below). However, we will have to await the publication of the proposed 2007 budget to get a more detailed idea of how the administration plans to pursue this initiative.

The President's proposed budget for 2007 will be published in early February. Then the senate and congress will develop their own proposed legislation. Since there is increased attention to foreign language education this year, you can make a difference by making your views and experience known to your representatives.

We will keep you updated about developments in The Language Resource. For President Bush's Remarks go to: <http://www.state.gov/r/summit/58734.htm>

For the State Department Briefing and Fact Sheet go to: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/58733.htm>

For Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings's Remarks go to: <http://www.ed.gov/news/speeches/2006/01/01062006.html>

For the Department of Education Press Release go to: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2006/01/01052006.html>

The Tech World Revealed to the Novice at ATA 2005

By Laura A. Wideburg

Since I am a literary translator who is moving toward more technical work, I decided that I needed to explore the world of translation tools and their applications. I wanted to compare what was out there to what I needed as a translator of Swedish, especially as the price tags on translation tools are prohibitive from the point of view of a neophyte to the other translation fields. For literary translation, I usually had a published text in hand and a number of paper dictionaries, and occasionally had made use of the General Consul of Sweden in New York's online dictionary. But where is a newcomer to start in the bewildering new world of high tech translation?

This year's ATA conference had a two-session forum, Translation Support Tools Forum, where translation tool vendors could show their products and discuss the advantages of their programs. Alan K. Melby moderated the forum and held the vendors to a standard of discussion that the vendors had to follow, such as not bashing the competition, which was appreciated by the audience. There were eight different vendors participating in the panel: SDL/Trados, Atril, Multicorpora, Terminotix, BeeText, Language Technology Centre and WordFinder Software. The first section was devoted to the vendors and the second section was devoted to audience questions that came to mind while listening to the presentations.

Although most of the vendors stayed focused, some hyperbole did manage to appear, as one vendor suggested their platform supported *all* the world's languages. As I share a life with one of the authors of the Unicode Standard, I knew that that assertion could not be made in all seriousness. Another vendor had it more on the money, and boasted support for all Unicode-encoded languages, which, in theory, could be possible. The big question that most of the translators had on their minds, however, was the merger of SDL and Trados, and what this would mean for professional, especially freelance, translators. Many audience members already had committed to learning one or the other of the systems, or even both, and wanted to know where they stood once the new product came on the market. Other audience members expressed concern about a de-facto monopoly and thought that the reduced competition would affect the price and quality of the new software.

The representative from SDL/Trados was reassuring, noting that the two translation tools would be eventually merged, offering the best of both. He had the strange position of urging translators to buy either of the present programs, with a promise of better to come.

The most useful information came in the form of a hand-out that Alan K. Melby had prepared for the attendees: "Translation Support Tool Summary Matrix". This fact sheet listed the strengths and weaknesses of all the types of tools represented at the forum, which standards they followed, their formats and interfaces as well as how they segmented the translations, and their web addresses for follow-up questions. Melby also listed questions for the vendors to consider in developing further products and suggested that if translators wanted to see these kinds of features, they needed to speak up and request them.

For some of us, the tech side of translating is still a new side to the business, but I left with many of my questions answered and hope that I could conquer TM systems and make them my own.

(With kind permission from the ATA Nordic Division newsletter.)

◊◊◊ *Continued from page 1*

he says what he likes most are his colleagues.

Larissa Kulinich, NOTIS President, spoke next. She spoke about her hopes for the future. Lastly, SOMI President Renée Palermo welcomed everyone and gave a brief update regarding the outcome of the SOMI General Meeting that had taken place just preceding the holiday party. With a big smile, she announced that SOMI would be dissolving and that the membership would be transitioned to NOTIS. She expressed her gratitude to those who had helped make the union possible and stressed the positive aspects that it would bring to both organizations.

After lunch, Renée Palermo rounded-up the attendees and began the awards ceremony. Recognized were SOMI's Founders, Past Presidents, exiting Board members, active volunteers and other special persons. They were given gifts and certificates as signs of SOMI's appreciation for their dedication and hard work in the field of medical interpretation and SOMI.

Joint Holiday Potluck



Left to right: Renee Palermo, Larissa Kulinich, Ann MacFarlane, Ken Barger



ATA Conference



Left to right: Shirley Chen, Rene Siegenthaler, Amanda Fujimoto, Michelle Lesourd



Left to right: Marilyse Benyakar, Larissa Kulinich, Julie Bryan



Left to right: Lisa R. Jaffee, Thu-Van Nguyen, Renee Palermo, Cristina Paget



Left to right: Cristina Paget, Araceli G. Medel, Ken Barger, Cathy Nguyen, Phuong Hong, Lisa R. Jaffe



Left to right: Jessica Cohen, Unidentified Volunteer

NOTIS Annual Meeting



Left to right: Spiros Savvides, Jessica Cohen, George Fowler, Pablo Sepulveda

Meeting our Members

Potatiskorv on the Table Continued...

Meeting Laura A. Wideburg

By Katrin Rippel

"We are Americans now, so I want you to speak only English," Laura Wideburg's great-grandfather told his children. Yet, with the annual *smorgasbord* for Christmas - *potatiskorv* (potato sausage), brown beans, head cheese, salmon, Swedish meatballs, and cookies, cookies, cookies — three generations later Swedish tradition was alive, and some Swedish words still were used so naturally every day. Laura's family knew they were American, but they also felt Swedish.

I found this introduction to Laura's Swedish background on her website, which included an article published by Swedish Press, and decided to learn more by calling her up and filling in the rest of the story, from *potatiskorv* on the table to professional Swedish translator.

When she was 17, Laura wanted to be an exchange student. "Since we're Swedish, if you go to Sweden, I'll pay. Otherwise, you pay," said her father. In Sweden, she fell in love with the music of the Swedish language and decided to major in Swedish at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying with Rochelle Wright.

She spent the academic year 1982-83 studying at the University of Stockholm. According to her article, she went looking for that special Christmas food. "But where is the *potatiskorv*?" Laura asked after searching grocery stores without success for that essential of the Christmas table. "The what?" None of her Swedish friends even knew what *potatiskorv* was. Swedish culture had moved away from many of the traditional dishes that implied poverty, embracing new cuisines with abandon.

Katrin Rippel has started a regular column for this newsletter, in which she will interview a NOTIS or WITS member. Who knows, she may call you next! For her first column, she decided to introduce NOTIS' new newsletter editor.

In spite of the *potatiskorv* disappointment, Laura's Swedish improved tremendously. She became, for the Swedish people, "one of us."

Laura's whole life started forming around her passion. After completing her doctoral degree in historical linguistics and medieval German literature (and taking a few years off to start a family), she became a translator from Swedish to English after she discovered poetry that she felt called to form into English. She has been writing for Swedish and American publications and promoting Swedish literature and its translation at various conferences, including this past ATA meeting in Seattle. In 2004, she formed the organization STiNA (Swedish Translators in North America) in order to connect Swedish-American translation professionals as well as to facilitate communication with Swedish publishers who appear happier to deal with a professional organization rather than individual translators.

When I asked about her work in genealogical translation, I found out the conclusion to the *potatiskorv* story. Her father, a retired biochemist, was putting his research skills into finding family history. He had tracked down some names, which may have been possible relatives. So in 1991, with a family chart made by her father and her near-native Swedish language, Laura met her relatives in Sweden. Her Swedish family welcomed her with open arms. "How are the Wideburgs in the US doing?" They all had felt the loss of the missing branch belonging to the uncle who left so long ago to live on another continent. Laura's passion for the Swedish language went truly far beyond words. She had brought her Swedish and American families together again.

NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
WITS	March 30, 2006, 7:30 p.m.	Telephonic	info@WITSnet.org
NOTIS	May 11, 2006, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@NOTISnet.org
WITS (Annual Meeting)	June 10, 2006, 2:00 p.m.	TBD	info@WITSnet.org
NOTIS	June 17, 2006, 3:00 p.m.	The Dunn Gardens	info@NOTISnet.org

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

Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
March 2-5, 2006	Beyond Translation: Globalizing the Self/Other	www.fit-ift.org	Philadelphia, PA
March 6-10, 2006	World Congress on the Power of Language	www.fit-ift.org	Bangkok, Thailand
March 11, 2006	Forensic DNA (Spanish-specific)	With Carol Meredith, PHD, 8:30-4:30	BCC North Campus W267, Bellevue, WA
March 18, 2006	Transcription and Translation (TT) Workshop	www.notisnet.org	Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA
March 28-30, 2006	Managing Global Websites and eCommerce	www.localizationinstitute.com	San Francisco, CA: Fort Mason
April 20-23, 2006	ATA Translation Company Division 7th Annual Conference: The Changing Tides of Translation	www.ata-divisions.org/TCD	Hyatt Regency on the Hudson, Jersey City, NJ
April 23-26, 2006	2006 Localization Management Roundtable	www.localizationinstitute.com	Santa Cruz, CA: Chaminade
April 29, 2006	ATA Certification Exam	www.atanet.org	University of Washington, Seattle
May 19-21, 2006	NAJIT 27th Annual Conference	www.najit.org	Houston, TX
May 30-June 1, 2006	Localization World Conference	www.localizationworld.com	Barcelona, Spain

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

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