

THE NORTHWEST LINGUIST



Volume 23 No.1, Winter 2009

Letter from the WITS President

By Kenneth Barger

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Happy New Year! May 2009 bring you peace, health and prosperity, both within and outside of the world of interpreting and translation.

I wish to begin this issue's letter with a word about NOTIS leadership. As you know, Larissa Kulinich served as NOTIS President for four years, and she has recently retired from that position. She has my profound gratitude for her able leadership and tireless advocacy for translators and interpreters. Her spirit of collaboration with WITS has also allowed the two organizations to grow stronger together. On a personal note, I have always enjoyed our partnership, particularly when we were able to share a stage at some event.

The new NOTIS President is Laura Wideburg. You already know her excellent work as NOTIS Editor of *The Northwest Linguist*, a position she has held for several years. Through my interactions with her in that post, I know her to be an extremely capable and energetic leader. I am committed to working with her to further strengthen the ties between the two organizations.

Moving to WITS leadership, our very own Dr. Steven Muzik has left the WITS Board of Directors upon reaching his term limit of six years. He served in

more positions than I can recall, among them Board Development Chair, Eastern Washington Link, and Vice President. He continues to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court's Interpreter Commission as one of the interpreter representatives. I wish him well and am very pleased to know that he continues to advocate for the profession in several ways.

In other changes, Verla Viera will soon step down as WITS Editor of *The Northwest Linguist*, after two years of exemplary service. She has agreed to stay on for two more issues while she works with Ellen Whiting, who will serve in this position after Verla's departure. Many thanks are due to both for their willingness to lend their skills to the organization.

The Advocacy Committee has a new member in Milena Calderari-Waldron. This came about because Milena became very interested in Senate Bill 5140, which has been presented to the Washington State Legislature by a group called Washington CAN. This measure may prove to be very important to language professionals in Washington, particularly medical interpreters, as it would require insurance carriers to cover some language services. Milena has approached this issue

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

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Jonas Nicotra

The Northwest Linguist is published in February, May, August, and November. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Please send submissions to Editor at wideburg@ix.netcom.com. Submissions become the property of *The Northwest Linguist* and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Society, or its Board.

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NOTIS Membership Fees	
Individual & Institutional	\$35.00 a year
Corporate	\$50.00 a year

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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

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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

Karine Avagimona	
Bersabed Boling	French > English German > English
Jose Chavez	
Sharon Gao	
Irina Glozman	English ◊ Hebrew Russian ◊ English Russian ◊ Hebrew
Natash Hawth	
Karen Horn	
Lettie Hylarides	
Jennifer Lambert	English ◊ Spanish
Nancy Leveson	Spanish ◊ English
Dubravka Martincic	Croatian ◊ English Bosnian ◊ English Serbian > English
Eleonora Timmons	Dutch > Italian Dutch > English Italian ◊ English
Ryan Nguyen	
Allison Ostrer	Spanish ◊ English
Taous M. Sawyer	
Irina Spinosa	

Rejoining Members

Julie Bryan
Viengkam Nix
Ernesto G. Pino
Glenna White

Corporate Members

Circle Language

WITS Notes

New Members

Teresa Suarez Cronin	Spanish
Aldrea Di Gennaro	
Irina Glozman	Russian, Hebrew
Tina Machuco	Spanish
Anna Ocampo	Spanish
Jasna Rustempasic	

Corporate Members

Jovi Lee

Letter from the NOTIS President

By Laura A. Wideburg

It will be hard for me to fill the shoes of our outgoing president, Larissa Kulinich, who has given so much of her time and devotion to NOTIS. She has served as vice president, and then president, for a combined total of six years, a remarkable achievement! One reason that she stayed on was to ensure that NOTIS would have continuity as a new Board took shape.

2009 also sees a major transformation of the Board. Six new Board members have been seated, and we have already met in order to toss around ideas and brain-storm for upcoming NOTIS projects and events. Our priorities this year will focus on outreach and programming. We would like to make sure that our members receive many opportunities for con-



Passing the Gavel

tinuing education and also that more people, companies and organizations are aware of our services and the benefits of professional translation and interpretation. We also would like to make sure that NOTIS' programs extend beyond the greater Seattle area on a more regular basis. A survey of our membership shows that our second greatest concentration of members is in the Portland area, and we would like to make sure that these Portland members will receive more opportunities to receive ATA credits via NOTIS programs.

Kenny Barger, the President of WITS, has been working with me on articles for the newsletter for years now, and we are happy to be able to continue working together as presidents of our respective organizations.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or ideas that you have regarding our organization: wideburg@ix.netcom.com

I look forward to serving you in 2009!



Laura Wideburg and Larissa Kulinich

Mark Your Calendars ATA Certification Exam in Seattle:

Saturday, April 25 from 1 to 4 pm. at the University of Washington's Balmer Hall (room TBA). Candidates must be ATA members and registration for the exam must be done with ATA headquarters at least two weeks prior to the date of the test. Visit www.atanet.org and click on "Certification" for more information or to register.

Importance of Software Localization Training

By Colleen Nylund, Business Training and Development Manager

The translation industry has grown up. It has gone from straight translation of documentation to helping companies localize complex software and multilingual websites. In June 2008, the *Common Sense Advisory* released an annual ranking of the top 25 language service provider (LSP) companies which “average 26 percent growth over the previous year, creating a global industry total of US \$12.1 billion.” Analysts predict this number will climb to US \$24 billion by 2012 with 14.6% growth. (1)

With this kind of growth, it is difficult for global companies to find trained professionals who can localize their websites and software. Multinational companies have noticed the deficiency in skilled workers in the localization industry, making it important to close this knowledge gap with proper training.

AdaQuest and Bellevue Community College (BCC) are cooperating to offer you a range of workshops geared to people of all experience levels. From Introduction to Localization, which targets those new to the industry, to a workshop focusing on Localization Engineering, go to www.gotobcc.com/translation and then click Workshops or go to <http://www.adaquest.com/core/solutions/training.aspx>.

(1) http://www.commonsenseadvisory.com/search/index.php?zoom_query=%22industry+revenue%22&zoom_per_page=10&zoom_cat%5B%5D=-1&zoom_and=0&zoom_sort=0

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with gusto and in partnership with the NOTIS Medical Interpreters SIG. The WITS Board of Directors favors this bill. Stay tuned for news and advocacy opportunities, and feel free to contact Milena or Renée Palermo of the NOTIS Medical Interpreters SIG for ways to help or learn more.

In other legislative news, you will recall that House Bill 2167 became law last year. This is the measure that made possible the partial state reimbursement program for interpreter services in Washington State trial courts. Many of you have already seen the effects of this law. Courts are using properly credentialed interpreters more consistently; many more interpreters and aspiring interpreters are taking tests and seeking credentials; and many interpreters' wallets have gotten a little thicker. However, this continues to be a pilot program only, until such time as sufficient funds are appropriated to offer the program statewide.

In these times of stark budget shortfalls, my understanding is that the Board of Judicial Administration will

not be seeking to secure full funding this year, but rather to maintain current funding levels, with an eye towards expanding the program in a future biennium. Again, stay alert to advocacy opportunities around this issue.

Finally, because it is early in the year, it is incumbent on me to remind you to renew your membership if you have not done so already. You will find a renewal form elsewhere in this issue. I encourage you to consider the joint renewal offer and join both NOTIS and WITS at a discount.

And thank you, gentle reader, for your support of WITS year after year. Let's make 2009 a year to remember, both for the organization and for each of us individually. You may know that my term on the Board will expire at the end of 2009. My commitment to you is that WITS will grow in number, strength, relevance, and service to its members, so that my successor may take the reigns of a truly vital organization. With continued support from the Board of Directors, committee chairs and members, our partners in NOTIS, and you, I know this goal will be achieved.

Court Interpreter Continuing Education

by Katrin Johnson

*Court Interpreter Program Coordinator
WA Administrative Office of the Courts*

An increasing number of states are requiring credentialed court interpreters to abide by ongoing continuing education requirements. According to a recent survey conducted by the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, such states include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah and Washington. Washington was both one of the first states to certify court interpreters and one of the first to require continuing education.

In Washington, certified court interpreters are required to complete sixteen hours of approved continuing education courses each two-year compliance period, and at least two of those hours must stem from an ethics training. Additionally, certified court interpreters must complete at least twenty hours of court interpreting in a two-year compliance period. Because the registered interpreter category is new and represents languages that are used less frequently in the courts, their requirements are slightly lower: ten hours of continuing education in a two-year cycle, two of which must be ethics, and no mandatory court interpreting hours. Certified interpreters may carry over a maximum of six credits from one compliance period to the next, and registered interpreters may carry over a maximum of two.

We are currently in the middle of a two-year compliance period, and all certified and registered interpreters must report their hours to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) no later than December 31, 2009 (although earlier reporting is gladly accepted). The AOC does not track interpreter attendance from course-to-course, nor track the amount of credits earned so far in a compliance period—it is the responsibility of the court interpreters to keep this information, and to submit the required compliance forms when all credits/court hours have been completed. We will, however, investigate with class providers if there is reason to believe that an interpreter is misleading about the credits he/she earned. I was quite surprised recently to learn that an interpreter had actually been untruthful about reporting attendance at a class sponsored by our office!

When interpreters fail to meet their continuing education/court hours requirements, their cases are referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the Interpreter Commission. This committee reviews each case, including efforts made by the interpreters, reasons for their falling behind, and efforts made by the AOC to communicate with the interpreters. The committee has the authority to suspend and decertify interpreters.

As of June, 2008, six months after the end of the last compliance period, twenty-three Washington court certified interpreters had failed to meet their continuing education/court hours requirements. Approximately one-half had reported nothing to the AOC, and the other half had reported at least some activity. Since then, some voluntarily requested to end their certification, some completed their pending requirements, and others continued to stay out of communication. In the end, eleven interpreters were decertified. Most never responded to AOC communications, but it's my guess that many of them are no longer interpreting. Several came into compliance by November 2008, pursuant to a timeline imposed by the Disciplinary Committee. I do not anticipate, however, that such a generous grace period will be made available in the future.

If you are a certified or registered interpreter and foresee that it will be difficult to fulfill your continuing education/court hours requirements by the end of 2009, please contact our office as soon as possible to discuss your situation. We much prefer working with you prior to the close of the compliance period, rather than facing the possibility of suspension or decertification.

Meeting Our Members

By *Katrin Rippel*

Every issue Katrin Rippel interviews a NOTIS or WITS member. She may be calling you next!

Cultural Treasure Box - Meeting Ginger Wang

In a documentary film about the state of Washington the voice says: "... the skies are filled with ravens". Ginger Wang, the Mandarin Chinese voice-over talent suggested replacing the local black birds with eagles because ravens and crows are perceived by Chinese as "bad luck". Ginger's engagement saved the Chinese production of the promotional documentary from becoming a cultural disaster. I would soon find out that with Ginger, I had found a treasure box of cultural awareness.

Ginger was born in Taiwan and immigrated with her parents to the US when she was a teenager. Arriving from a traditional culture with strong hierarchical structures, she enjoys the freedom to express one's individuality

here, although to this day she has had difficulty accepting the lack of respect for elderly people.



Ginger obtained her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Minnesota. The concentration of her study was on behaviors, at-

titudes and Intercultural communications. She also has a medical assistant certification from Sawyer's Business School of Minneapolis.

Ginger accepted a position with State Farm Insurance, where she was indulging in the depth of contract language, a very specific confined language where "and" "or" words express differences as distinct as Asian and American cultures. She realized the importance of small print. "I've been trained to always read the fine print, and have always read it since," she says.

Ginger took her first interpretation class from Susana Stettri Sawrey. One year later, as a trained interpreter with a solid understanding of the interpreters' code of conduct as well as her finessed understanding of the importance of nuances, Ginger confronted the challenges of being a court interpreter for Mandarin Chinese people in an American court room setting where expression is purely done through words. How to deal with Chinese language that express with answering 'no' to yes questions, yet meaning yes, and answering with 'yes' to

no-questions, meaning no (i.e. "You didn't go to that meeting, correct?" "Yes, I did not go."). Or imagine the impact of the third person pronoun in Chinese is identical ("ta") versus English has three (she/he/it).

Ginger is eager to learn, to improve, and to participate in whatever she is doing. She joined WITS around 1996, served in the programs committee and later as the treasurer. "I really value my membership with WITS because I've learned so much, and continue to learn, from all the continuing education classes offered by WITS," she states. She has been thankful for all the support and assistance received from WITS board members, past presidents and the current president, Kenneth Barger, while she was serving as treasurer of the organization.

Ginger believes in ongoing continuing education. This enabled her field of expertise to expand to voice over projects with various companies and governmental agencies, as well as conference interpreting. She recently has received recognition from a language agency as "Interpreter of the Month". She has also received several speech contest awards while a member of Toastmaster.

Furthermore, Ginger is a DSHS certified interpreter for medical and social services. "In medical settings, the role of an interpreter has been controversial," Ginger explains. For example, the possible conflict of Chinese herbal medicine and Western pills is most often not realized by doctors and patients equally, or death is perceived and approached by Chinese people differently from Westerners, and that increased education and communication between both sides are needed.

When Ginger isn't interpreting, she is dancing. Yes, she dances Hawaiian Hula! She attends dance workshops, and even performed once at a WITS event. As this is also an expression of culture, again, our conversation shifts to cultural variations.

I am so fascinated by the treasures that came out — no, not of a box— but an open minded woman and I suggest: "You should provide presentations on cultural awareness to your clients and other groups of people." Ginger responds smilingly: "Maybe... I will think about it".

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
February 20-21, 2009	ACM International Workshop on Intercultural Collaboration	http://langrid.nict.go.jp/iwic2009/	Palo Alto, CA
February 27-28, 2009	TRADOS workshop series	Instructor: Tuomas Kostiainen www.notisnet.org/program/notiscal.asp	Beaverton, OR
February 28, 2009	Written exam for court interpreters	Katrin Johnson of AOC E-mail: katrin.johnson@courts.wa.gov	TBD
March 6, 7, 13, 14 2009	Localization/Internationalization Engineering Workshop	Info@notisnet.org	BCC, North Campus Bellevue, WA
March 9, 2009	Proposal Deadline ATA 50 th Annual Conference	www.atanet.org/conferenceandseminars/proposal.php	n/a
March 14, 2009	American Translators Association (ATA) Professional Development Seminar	www.atanet.org/pd/tools	San Francisco, CA
March 13-15, 2009	Mid-America Chapter of ATA (MICATA) Annual Symposium	www.ata-micata.org	Overland Park, KS
March 17-19, 2009	The Worldware Conference	www.worldwareconference.com	Santa Clara, CA
March 20-21, 2009	California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA) 9 th Annual Education Conference: Setting the Stage for Success: California Adopts the CHIA	www.chiaonline.org	Palo Alto, CA
March 23-25, 2009	Localization Certification Program	www.rce.csuchico.edu/localize	San Francisco, CA
March 23-25, 2009	22 nd CATS Congress	www.uottawa.ca	Ottawa, Canada
March 26-29, 2009	ACLA annual conferences Global Languages, Local Cultures	www.acla.org/acla2009	Cambridge, MA
April 1-3, 2009	International Conference: Translation: philosophical, linguistic and pedagogical perspectives	www.stl.recherche.univ-lille3.fr	Lille, France
April 4, 2009	Computer Tools and Methods for Great Translation Performance	Instructor: Jamie Lucero www.notisnet.org/program/notiscal.asp	Bellevue Community College Bellevue, WA
April 4, 2009	Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI) 2009 CATI Conference	www.catiweb.org	Durham, NC

...Calendar (continues from page 8)

Date	Event	Details	Location
May 6-8, 2009	Critical Link Canada & Provincial Language Services presents International Conference 2009	www.2009conference.criticallink.org/	Vancouver, CA
May 11-13, 2009	Translation World	www.translationworld.com	Toronto, Canada
May 16-17, 2009	ITI International Conference 2009: Sustainability in Translation	www.iti.org.uk	London, England
May 13-17, 2009	Association of Language Companies (ALC) 7 th Annual Conference	www.alcus.org	Austin, TX
May 15-17, 2009	National Assn of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators (NAJIT) 30 th Annual Conference	www.najit.org	Scottsdale, AZ
May 28-29, 2009	National Council on Interpreting in Health Care 3 rd Annual NCIHC Membership Meeting	www.ncihc.org	Las Vegas, NV
May 30, 2009	Wordfast 1	www.notisnet.org/program/notiscal.asp	Bellevue Community College Bellevue, WA
June 26-28, 2009	Interpreta 2009	info@notisnet.org	Sheraton Mendoza Hotel Mendoza, Argentina

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

Membership Renewal for 2009

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Business name: _____

(for Corporate and Institutional members only)

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Joint **NOTIS/WITS: \$70**

Please mail with check in US funds payable to:

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Seattle, WA 98115

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 Full-time Student: \$15 Institutional/Corporate: \$90
 Please mail with check in US funds payable to: ➡

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Seattle WA 98111

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NOTIS
1037 NE 65th St. #107
Seattle, WA 98115

NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
WITS	February 21, 2009, 11a.m.	Kenneth Barger's Residence	(206) 382-5690
NOTIS	March 03, 2009, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	May 06, 2009, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org

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

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