



# THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST

Volume 18 No. 4, AUTUMN 2005

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## East of the Mountains: A Report on the Ethics and Legal Terminology Workshop

By: Kathy Guttromson

On August 27, 2005, an ethics and legal terminology workshop was presented jointly by NOTIS and WITS in sunny Wenatchee. Approximately 30 people attended, coming from a wide area from both sides of the Cascades. For most it was about a two-hour drive, but being such a beautiful summer day I don't think anyone minded!

The morning session concentrated on ethics with an informative presentation by the Honorable Judge Thomas Warren, Chelan County District Court. He briefly reviewed the history of the court system, from the days of the Justice of the Peace, whose pay was generated from a percentage of the fines imposed, to what we have today with the superior, district, federal, and specialized court systems. Other points touched on were the criteria that determine which offense goes to which court and the appeals court system, among others. Judge Warren also gave the historical background on how jury trials came about. We were given copies of *A Citizen's Guide to Washington Courts*, which explains the court system in greater detail, and "GR 11.1 Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters." General Rule 11.1 was created through the

efforts of the Washington State Supreme Court's rules committee, which formulates a code of ethics for everybody, including interpreters. Included in the GR 11.1 packet were important topics such as "How to Use Interpreters Properly in the Courtroom," "Questions to Ask/Consider When Qualifying an Interpreter," and "Selected Cases on Legal Interpreting."

Judge Warren also gave us a list of discussion questions regarding potential situations that legal interpreters may find themselves in. For example, one of the questions was: "How much freedom should a judge allow an interpreter for explanations when the interpreter believes the accused does not understand the standard court procedures?" We all learned from the discussion that followed. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient time to go over every question.

For the afternoon session we divided into groups according to language and discussed legal terminology. Steve Muzik (Spanish), Emma Garkavi (Russian), and Paul Tu (Vietnamese) led the groups. Those who interpret other languages met

Continued on page 5 ○○○

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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](http://www.witsnet.org).

WITS accepts advertising to be published in the Newsletter. Advertisements are subject to approval and must be consistent with the goals and purposes of WITS. The acceptance by WITS of a paid advertisement in the Newsletter does not constitute endorsement of the product or services advertised. Acceptable sizes (width by height) are as follows:

7" x 4": \$60.00

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To submit an ad, send camera-ready advertisement together with payment to the WITS PO Box address noted above.

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**NOTIS Notes****New Members**

Julie Bryan	Spanish < English
Milena Calderari-Waldron	Spanish < English
Waldemar Frank	German > English
Roumiana Karapetrova	Bulgarian < English
Olga Alexandra McCarthy	Russian < English
Wendy Tan	English > Mandarin
	English > Cantonese
	Mandarin > Cantonese
	English > Taiwanese
	English > Hakka
Rosalia Taranto	Spanish < English
Wayne Vaincourt	French < English

**Rejoining Members**

Lori Hoff	German > English
	Dutch > English
	Flemish > English
Jürgen Pohl	German < English

**WITS Notes**

Here are the new members and rejoined members of WITS since last time around. WITS apologizes for not having included new members in last issue. Thank you to all new members and rejoined members.

Dimitri Balashov - Russian, Korean

Chintana Barden - Thai, Lao

Milena Calderari-Waldron - Spanish, French, Italian

Victor Guzman - Spanish

Carlos Radillo - Spanish, Portuguese

Sarith Tim - Cambodian

Zulema Borges (rejoined) - Spanish

Toni Iglesias (rejoined) - Spanish

Nova Phung (rejoined) - Vietnamese

## OUTREACH: Reach out and Touch US

By Julie Bryan

NOTIS and WITS are organizations with a common background and shared interests within our society. In other words, we are a community. We like words. We like language; we like the meaning of ideas and how they are built and communicated. We like this so much that we work on squeezing meaning out of written, spoken or signed words as a profession. Our individual professional careers are linked to other individuals who share our career lines. Together we have a reputation and working relationship to our greater community. These two professional societies are US working together for ourselves. We work to improve ourselves, our reputation, and our visibility by uniting us as individuals into something greater than the one lone person. Like words, we can have meaning standing alone, and we can pack a really profound meaning if we gather together.

WITS and NOTIS are organizations whose interest is to connect us into an active, creative, and supportive community that packs a punch. Our leadership knits us together with activities, opportunities, friends, support and education so that we are strong as a professional entity. Because of this our organizations are all about reaching out. WITS and NOTIS reach out to us and for us into the greater world. All of this is accomplished through working groups or committees.

One working group that both organizations have and can work together on is Outreach. There are at least three basic arenas that we can focus on. Each of these arenas requires collaboration, planning, and relationship building with other organizational structures within NOTIS and WITS.

Outreach to other Interpreters and Translators to increase membership in our community and support the continual improvement and professionalization of our skills. This means doing things together to build relationships and to support different groups. It means doing things together to build our professional skills, and inviting in new people to join in on the fun. It means that we look for programs and educational topics of interest to a wide variety of interpreters and translators, including all levels of experience and training.

Outreach to the General Public to increase awareness of what our professional services are, how they are used, and what our ethical standards are. This can be done in many creative ways. It can be through a proactive and directed approach to the media. It can be through working with students to increase their awareness of the importance of all languages and of being multilingual. Reaching out to the general population can even be a way for us to socialize with each other. For example, we could staff a public radio or television fundraiser, or walk together for a cause like breast cancer prevention or earthquake relief. We could send a commission to the governor to educate her office about our needs.

Outreach to Professionals who commonly interact with our services. This can be done on at least three levels. The first and foremost is educational. This is the level at which WITS has typically done outreach work, to encourage attorneys, judges, probation officers, social workers, mental health professionals, and so forth, to use and respect our profession and to see us as integral members of their professional network of resources. The second is to vigorously link people to our services. For example, we could look for ways to make sure our Web pages and membership rolls are prominently available to professionals who use us. Together, we could solicit inclusion in such things as the Washington State Bar Association's directory, and in every county Bar Association directory. We could request that these same organizations include links in their Web pages to our Web pages and visa versa. The third is at an advocacy level. This is where we work as professional entities to address specific issues and entities that are either positively or negatively impacting individuals or groups of our members and affiliated professionals.

There is a plethora of things we can do to increase awareness about our professional organizations, and therefore the individual professional. Each of us as members and as professionals can help make that happen. We can have fun and build a strong community while we do.

## Review: Consortium Seminar in Seattle

By Gabriela de Castro

On October 15 and 16, The Municipal Court of Seattle hosted a seminar sponsored by The Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification. Over 60 interpreters from different states attended this two-day conference and many others were turned away for lack of space. The weekend consisted of five workshops presented by different speakers, with topics ranging from modes of interpreting to DNA testing.

Agustín de la Mora, a federally certified interpreter and experienced instructor, was the first presenter, and he set the tone for the rest of the weekend. A lively and at times very funny speaker, Mr. de la Mora kicked off the conference with a presentation called *21 Days to a Better Sight*. As its name suggests, this workshop gave participants a step-by-step guide to improve their sight translation skills in a 21-day period.

Melinda González-Hibner followed with another great presentation called *Consecutive Interpretation: Overcoming "Performance" Jitters*. Ms. González-Hibner is the Court Interpreter Program Administrator for the Colorado State Courts. The workshop emphasized the importance of truly listening to the speaker and getting the meaning right, both of which are at the heart of a good consecutive interpretation.

In my view the highlight of the conference was Carol Meredith's presentation entitled *Using DNA to Identify*

*Subjects*. I was really looking forward to this presentation as I had had the opportunity to attend another one of Ms. Meredith's seminars in the past and I find her to be not only an engaging speaker, but also one with great command of both language interpretation and scientific material. She did not disappoint. She walked participants through the basics of DNA and the laboratory techniques used during case investigations.

Another exciting workshop was entitled *Team Interpreting*, presented by Keri Brewer and James Comstock. In this class, presenters and participants discussed the reasons why team interpreting is a good idea, and addressed methods for working in teams. I left this workshop uplifted by the possibility that one day we'll be team interpreting during long hearings and trials as the speakers told us they already do in Oregon. If they've found a way to support team interpreting in Oregon, maybe Washington will soon do the same.

The weekend closed with a wonderful reception dinner provided by the Honorable Judge Ron Mamiya on behalf of The Municipal Court of Seattle. Interpreters, program administrators and judges mingled over a spread of Asian dishes. The reception offered a nice closing to a successful conference full of useful and relevant information.

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together on their own. Steve moderated our group providing us with a list of troublesome terms and invited the attendees to bring up any words or phrases they would like to discuss as well. We had a lively discussion and came away with some good translations of several terms. Due to the varied backgrounds represented, I believe we all would agree that this interchange was a very valuable experience.

Those of us from the eastern side of the mountains were delighted to have a workshop in our area and we hope to see more. Wenatchee is centrally located for many interpreters and translators, and the venue was excellent. Having lunch provided there at the Red Lion gave us the opportunity to meet new colleagues and get better acquainted with the old ones. To all of you who had a part in this effort, thank you so much for your hard work in planning this worthwhile event!

## Letter from the NOTIS President

Larissa Kulinich

Following the established tradition, I would like to update you on the latest developments in NOTIS.

As you all know, this year has offered us quite a few interesting and exciting challenges. I am going to highlight the major recent events.

The NOTIS Board officially welcomed the SOMI membership to join NOTIS at its meeting on September 15, 2005. This was done to meet the request of SOMI President Renée Palermo, made on behalf of the SOMI Board. We are open to a closer collaboration with medical interpreters who will form a Medical Special Interest Group within NOTIS. Currently, logistical work of incorporating SOMI membership into NOTIS is being done. Renée Palermo was appointed NOTIS Director to fill in the position of the NOTIS Director Jasna Rastempasic, who resigned before her term of office expired. Sincerely and wholeheartedly, I would like to welcome Renée to the NOTIS Board!

Another piece of news is that six of fourteen NOTIS Directors are stepping down from the Board this year: Jean Leblon, Sarah Garriott, Michelle Privat Overmeyer, Deya Jorda Nolan, Laura Cooper, and George A. Fowler. Most of them have served selflessly for the benefit of the organization for many years. We owe these dedicated competent people much of our success! By way of special recognition, I think it is appropriate to highlight their major contribution to NOTIS individually.

Jean Leblon (who jokingly calls himself “dinosaur”) was one of the founding members of NOTIS back in 1988. He has served as President, Treasurer and Secretary. He has been in charge of overseeing the then ATA accreditation, and now certification exams and workshops, and he has created the Board Development Committee. The list of his accomplishments is endless. More importantly, Jean is a warm and kind person who has been contributing to the overall congeniality of the Board for all these seventeen years!

Sarah Garriott has served on the Board for close to five years in the capacity of the Newsletter Committee Chair, ably assisted by Olivier Fabris. Sarah has contributed her enthusiasm and creativity. She did the lion’s share of coordination and logistical work when the NOTIS Newsletter was joined first by the WITS, and soon after that by the SOMI Newsletter. She has summarized her

experience and put together guidelines for the prospective Newsletter team. This is true commitment!

Michelle Privat Obermeyer (six years of service) and Deya Jorda Nolan (five years of service) have been Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. As we all know, this job requires an enormous amount of time, organizational skills, super attention to details, and lots of coordination. Michelle and Deya rose to the challenge and organized numerous workshops, seminars, International Translator Day celebrations, picnics, and holiday parties. Often they have worked in collaboration with the WITS and SOMI Program Committees and ended up establishing the “Global” Program Committee. Great job!

Laura Cooper has been on the Board for four years. She has been our treasured treasurer. I think the word “treasured” adequately describes her meticulous and professional way of handling NOTIS financial affairs. Her vigilant supervision has helped the Board make many an informed decision, and apply the money wisely. Thank you, Laura!

George Fowler has been on the Board for two years. He immediately presented himself as a dynamic, energetic, no nonsense Director. George came up with an idea of conducting a Membership Satisfaction Survey, and became the pivotal player in the team, which implemented this project. He was also a member of the Membership Outreach Program. His most recent job was laying the groundwork for the ATA Round-Robin Tennis Tournament that took place at the ATA Conference in Seattle. Wow!

Needless to say, we shall be missing these Directors both as competent professionals and dear friends. On behalf of the NOTIS Board I would like to extend my most sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all of them for their meritorious service! I would also like to thank them for their readiness and willingness to stay in touch and pass their knowledge and expertise to their successors.

Dear members, we will need a lot of your help, insights, and ideas to carry on and expand our activities. Please get involved! I also hope that you will try to do your best to promote our organization!

## The (unofficial) Arabic Language Division Meeting Seattle – November 2005

Like the nomads البدو of our ancestral – and today tormented - East, we drifted across this great continent to gather in this oasis on the Northwestern frontier called Seattle سيائل . There is no Arabic Language Division قسم اللغة العربية within the ATA المتريجين الأمريكيين because there simply are too few of us and we come from very diverse backgrounds. But for the duration of the ATA Conference, we slowly came to meet one another, and on Friday night, we met at Zeina's زينه , a Middle Eastern restaurant 3 blocks south of the Westin to hold an impromptu meeting of the unofficial Arabic Language Division of the ATA.

In our traditional customs, we spent the first hour exchanging greetings and, yes, testing each other's ability at stringing along the longest exchange of Arabic greetings, particularly those that try to outbid the previous greeting with ever greater and greater superlatives or multipliers. We compared notes on the various mutations between Egyptian (Mohammad محمد), Yemeni (Diana ديانا), Lebanese (Afifi عفيفه, Joseph يوسف, and Mona منى), Jordanian (Haifa هيفاء), and yes, American (Jackie جاكى and Tim تيم) Arabic. For the latter is spoken by a rare breed of American-born citizens who have ventured alone in the vast desert of learning the polyglossic language called Arabic, and to whom we indeed owe much admiration.

As we waited for the food and the Turkish... عفواً... Arabic coffee to be served, we discussed the travails of our work as both free-lancers and/ or otherwise bonded-lancers in the language business, and our relationships with agencies and government entities. We discussed the difficulties of obtaining security clearances to work on government projects that we hear are in desperate need for translators of this most difficult language. We discussed rates and the dangers of going to Iraq. We discussed the bombings of Amman, Jordan. We talked about this Veterans Day and the death of 241 Marines in October 1983 in the first ever suicide bombing in Beirut, Lebanon. Our language binds most of us genetically and culturally to our tormented East, and as our country of immigrants becomes increasingly entangled with the East of our birth, we are suddenly thrust in the midst of it, weighing the importance of what we can do and the risks that come with it.

And after the food, the official soothsayer and coffee cup reader of the Division, Haifa Jaser-Erison took a reading of our futures, and then we settled on making peace with hookas / water pipes / narguilehs, as the attached photos attest. We reminded ourselves that other ATA meeting attendees were missing this experience by not joining us in our Division meeting. But we don't blame them. It was an impromptu meeting.

And so until next year, when we hope to organize a slightly less controversial Arabic Language Division meeting, we bid goodbye to Seattle and the many friends and colleagues, freelancers and companies, of the ATA.

مع السلامة وإلى اللقاء في السنة القادمة.

Joseph Hitti



# NOTIS Board 2005 Election

## Candidate Statements

### Andrea Brugman

I am honored to be asked to run for a position on the NOTIS Board of Directors. NOTIS has been a great resource throughout my career as a translator and interpreter in Seattle, providing me with contacts and valuable information through workshops.



As a board member, I hope my contributions of time, enthusiasm and perspective will help NOTIS maintain its importance in the translation and interpretation community and promote our profession as a whole.

I received my Masters degree in Linguistics and Literature from the University of Regensburg, Germany, as well as the Translator State Certificate for English and German. After finishing my studies in 1998, I relocated to the United States and have since been working as an in-house and freelance translator and occasional interpreter. I am ATA-certified for English to German translations.

When not working, I enjoy gardening, cooking and exploring the beautiful Northwest with my husband David.

### Jonas Nicotra

It is a great honor to be nominated to run for a position on the NOTIS Board of Directors.

I am originally from São Paulo, Brazil, and I have been a freelance Portuguese - French translator / interpreter since 1995 in the Seattle area. I have a Master in Education and Portuguese Linguistics - Pedagogy. My translation / Interpretation training was done at the University of Poitiers, France, University of Washington, and at the Pan-American Christian Academy in Brazil.

Since I arrived in the Northwest, NOTIS has helped me in many ways - especially in finding clients - and it continues to do so.



## Candidate Statements

Now, I think that it is my turn to repay the favor. If I am given the opportunity to serve on the board, I will continue to promote this great organization to the community as well as to help provide continuing education for NOTIS members. Thus, I hope you give me this opportunity to serve this great organization.

### **Cristina Paget**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the NOTIS Board for inviting me to participate in the upcoming elections, and to the Nominating Committee for their confidence in me. I wholeheartedly support the NOTIS mission and its objectives. It would be a great honor for me to be part of the Board of Directors. I have been involved with SOMI since 1996, and have served on the SOMI Board of Directors in various capacities—most recently as Corresponding Secretary and Membership Committee Chair. I have also served as Recording Secretary and have worked with the Hospitality Committee doing event coordination. Now, as we begin forging a new relationship between NOTIS and SOMI, I would like to direct my efforts towards achieving our common goals and continuing to promote professionalism and excellence among interpreters and translators.



### **Pablo Sepulveda**

Hello friends at NOTIS. I am happy to be considered to be a member of the Board of Directors. I will be happy to support the work of my fellow interpreters and translators. I would like to contribute to the NOTIS organization with my time and ideas. I am creative and I like to come up with new solutions. I believe that we should encourage new ideas and be open to new possibilities.

The world is changing rapidly and we have to keep adjusting our ways of doing business to keep current with the new trends.

I was born and raised in Chile. I have lived in the United States for the past 18 years and I have been an interpreter for the past 10 years. I received my court certification last January. I graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Flute performance. I enjoy interpreting because it is an auditory experience.



### **Laura A. Wideburg**

I would like to offer my services to become a member of the NOTIS Board of Directors. I have been working as a freelance translator for four years, mainly as a literary translator from Swedish and German to English, but lately I have been expanding into medical translation. I have been active in service already, and am presently chairing the Host Committee for the American Literary Translators Association conference for its 2006 annual meeting in Seattle. I was one of the founders of the literary association of the Swedish Translators in North America (STiNA) and serve as its Secretary-Treasurer. I also have had experience serving as a graduate student senator at the University of Washington for three years while attaining my Ph.D., and was chair of the TA/RA Committee to improve the working conditions of graduate students. I contribute a column on books to my church newsletter, and would welcome working on the NOTIS Newsletter as part of my duties. Thank you for the opportunity to work for NOTIS and the translation community.

## IN MEMORIAM



Last October 29, NOTIS, ATA, and all translators and interpreters lost a friend and mentor through the death of Dr. John F. Szablya. We at NOTIS got to know and respect John as the husband of Helen Szablya when she became a member and a director in the very first years of our society. John was often present at our meetings, and a gracious host when the NOTIS board met at their home. His vast culture, his facility in several languages, and the breadth of his knowledge made him a fascinating and engaging conversationalist. Having lived through and escaped from two oppressive enemy occupations, he had found in America a haven of justice, progress, and peace.

John was trained as an engineer in his native Hungary where he also received a Ph.D. in Economics. Throughout his multifaceted professional career, he distinguished himself as a researcher and teacher in his native country, in Canada and in the United States. He held chairs on the faculty of the Technical and Economics University of Budapest, the University of British Columbia, Washington State University, and was visiting professor at the Technical University of Braunschweig in Germany, the University of the West Indies, and Seattle University. He was a member or fellow of many engineering, scientific and research societies, and an active member and great friend of ATA. John was passionate about research and its practical applications; he was dedicated to helping his students and colleagues in their professional development. He was Vice President and Consulting Engineer with Szablya Consultants, Inc., an international trade consulting, engineering and translation corporation.

John is survived by his wife Helen, Consul of the Republic of Hungary, Past President of the Washington Press Association, their seven children, their spouses, and sixteen grandchildren. With our sincere condolences, we assure them that we too will miss John, but that his life will always be a source of inspiration to us.

NOTE: Former students have established The Dr. John and Helen Szablya Power Engineering Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be made to The Washington State University Foundation, P.O. Box 641925, Pullman WA 99164-1925.

## NOTIS WITS SOMI News Naming Contest

Congratulations to our winners! As coincidence would have it, three individuals submitted the same winning entry: *The Northwest Linguist*. All three individuals will receive the grand prize of a \$100.00 gift certificate to Powell Books. They are: George Anderson Fowler, Nina Gettler and Shawn Morse. Many thanks, indeed, for this superb new title for our publication and a hearty thank you to all of our members who voted and participated!

Second Place and a \$50.00 gift certificate to Powell's go to Judy Langley for "*Language in Action*."

Third Place and a \$25.00 gift certificate go to Lisa R. Jaffee for "*Working Words*."

All certificates / prizes will be awarded at the Annual Holiday Potluck on December 3, 2005. We hope to see you there!

### Seminar:

#### *Business Tax Requirements*

Important information every sole proprietor needs to know: your federal income tax responsibilities, including which forms to file; what deductions to take; what taxes to pay; when they are due and more! Come to this informative session on January 28<sup>th</sup> given by Jonas Nicotra, NOTIS member and candidate for the NOTIS Board. Look for more details soon!

### ATA Certification Exam in Seattle: Set the Date!

Saturday, April 29 from 1 to 4 pm. Candidates must be ATA members at least four weeks before the test and meet eligibility requirements, and registration for the exam must be done with ATA headquarters at least two weeks prior to the date of the test. See [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org) and click on "Certification" for more information or to register.

### Coming in the next issue of *The Northwest Linguist*.

1. More reviews and reports on the ATA conference
2. Report on the NOTIS Annual meeting
3. Holiday Potluck Pictures and Reviews

# Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
December 10, 2005	AOC Ethics for Court Interpreters	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. www.notisnet.org	Yakima Valley Community College, Yakima, Washington
January 28, 2006	T&I Tax Workshop with Jonas Nicotra	www.notisnet.org	Seattle, Washington
April 29, 2006	ATA Exam	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. www.notisnet.org www.atanet.org	Seattle, Washington
May 19-21, 2006	27 <sup>th</sup> Annual NAJIT Conference	www.najit.org	Houston, Texas

For more international, national, and local events, please see: [www.notisnet.org](http://www.notisnet.org), [www.witsnet.org](http://www.witsnet.org), [www.sominet.org](http://www.sominet.org), [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

## NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
NOTIS	December 13, 2005 6:30 p.m.	TBD	Info@notisnet.org

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

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