

# NOTIS NEWS

Volume 15, No. 1, Spring 2002

**NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY**

## In An Interesting Time...

by *Ann G. Macfarlane*

*NOTIS President*

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My household had some fun last year when we were presented with a magnetized set of proverbs broken in two pieces, so that one could rearrange them to suit one's own macabre taste. The family adorned the refrigerator with such gems as "behind every man is a bird in the bush" and "people who live in glass houses gather no moss." I've been very fond of proverbs ever since the brilliant "proverbs workshop" NOTIS organized some years ago. But the one that comes most readily to mind these days is the old Chinese proverb, given as a curse—"may your children be born in an interesting time."

We do live in an interesting time, there's no denying it. When our state may cut out all funding for medical interpretation from the next budget, when large-scale language service companies are merging right and left, when the economic downturn is pinching so many colleagues and companies, there are challenges aplenty. But I am optimistic enough, or American enough, to believe that we will weather these challenges as we have in the past. The fundamental strength of our economy will emerge, I believe, just as the fundamental character of our people has shown in these months since the disaster of September 11. And no matter how global we become, our chosen professions of translation and interpretation will remain essential to modern commerce, to art, and to society. Paradoxically, the more intercon-

nected we are, the more people long for their own language and culture to be honored and recognized, as we see from the linguistic plentitude of the European Union.

The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society continues to do its best to meet the challenges of our times, and to be flexible enough to respond to the changes in our surroundings. In February at Ken Wagner's home I chaired the first NOTIS board meeting of 2002. (I am serving as interim NOTIS President until Alex Mosalsky, our Vice-President, takes the helm later this year.) I was impressed, as I always am, with the intelligence, generosity and thoughtfulness of our directors. It was particularly good to welcome Olivier Fabris as a new Director. Laura Cooper, also newly elected, has taken up the job of Treasurer, and Shoko Fujita-Ehrlich and Sara Koopman have stepped down—thank you both for your service on the board! Christina Zubelli continues as our dedicated Office Manager and Membership Coordinator, keeping the various administrative threads woven into a coherent whole.

Among other subjects, the board considered the future of our directory. As you know, the NOTIS InfoBase, fondly known as NIB, has been published on-line since 1994. It was a brilliant technology and has

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

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Secretary vacant

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**NOTIS NOTES**

**Welcome to New Members**

Olga Oyer [Russian], Gayana Bagdasaryan [Russian], Licia Shinzato-Fischer [Portuguese], Midoriko Stock [Japanese], Timothy Gregory [Arabic], Noelle G. Knapp [German & Spanish], Jaimie M. Lucero [French], Naoko Tanabe Magassis [Japanese], Tracy Tasso

**Welcome to New Corporate Member**

Snohomish County Language Source

**Welcome to New Institutional Member**

King County District Court

**SOMI News Flash !**

**DSHS UPDATE :**

**INTERPRETER SERVICES PROGRAM FOR L.E.P. PATIENTS & CLIENTS HAS BEEN SAVED FROM THE WA STATE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AXE!**

As most of you have already heard and/or read, this vital program will remain in the WA State DSHS Budget for the 2003-2005 Biennium. The rate of hourly compensation will drop, and there will be a new procedure for contracting interpreter services, through a "broker" (similar to the brokerage model currently used by DSHS/MAA to contract transportation services). SOMI is currently attempting to communicate with representatives of DSHS/MAA in order to obtain more information on this new "brokerage model". *Hopefully*, we will be invited to meet with them and contribute in the development and implementation phase.

A very big "**Thank You!**" goes to all of you who helped SOMI in our grand and successful campaign to lobby our Legislators and the Governor to "**SAVE INTERPRETER SERVICES!**" SOMI was very present in the struggle to keep the Interpreter Services program alive. We — along with other community and cultural advocacy groups, professional organizations and medical providers — were able to help our Legislators see the real need for interpreter services (and the potentially serious health risks and legal liability faced without those services).

Also, an equally big "**Thank You!**" to all of the SOMI Board and Committee members who gave freely of their valuable time to collect signatures and letters, make signs, copy, prepare and personally deliver six complete packets of 600+ petitions and letters (to budget committee chairpersons, legislators and the Governor), arrange transportation to Olympia on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and who made other "behind-the-scenes" contributions.

## SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY

NOTIS is proud to offer presentations in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington that should prove very valuable to all our members. Please join us for these events!

### Specialized Computer Tools for Translation

#### Portland – Friday, May 17th, 2002, 3-6 pm

6-7 pm Networking Social

**Venue:** Portland State University, Room 290, Smith Memorial Center

Many language service companies are requiring competence in specialized computer tools for many—even most—of the jobs they place with freelancers. Come join us to get “the latest word” on what translators need to know about this fascinating, often frustrating arena. Professor Alan K. Melby will present an overview of eight types of specialized computer tools for translation, including Trados, Catalyst and Wordfast with discussion of where and when each is appropriate to use.

Professor Melby, who serves on the Board of Directors of the American Translators Association, has been the Chair of the ATA Translation and Computers Committee for many years. He brings broad expertise and deep awareness of the practical problems facing translators to his presenta-

tions, and is also a lively speaker. The presentation will include ample time for questions and answers and will be followed by a networking social from 6-7 pm.

#### Seattle - Saturday, May 18th, 2002, all day

**Venue:** BCC North Campus, room 202, 10700 Northrup way, Bellevue

**9-12 noon:** How to Keep Healthy as language professionals who spend a large portion of their day sitting or standing.

Several experts will present information about how to keep yourself healthy and injury free as you work. This presentation is specially geared to the challenges of our particular lifestyles.

**1-4 pm:** Specialized Computer Tools for Translation, as in Portland

There will be special early bird rates for these events for members of NOTIS and sister organizations. Watch the Website and your e-mail for details, and plan to be there!

### BCC Spring Workshops: CAT and Localization

#### Computer Assisted Translation Tools Workshop

This proposal is a response to the demand in the BCC and Seattle translation community for a course that teaches translators how to use CAT (computer assisted translation) tools (Trados© and SDLX©) effectively.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Use CAT tools to create and maintain translation memories, as well as perform necessary batch functions
- Translate and edit texts manually, as the translation memory is maintained
- Use terminology management software to record terminology for use in translation projects
- Recognize and work with tagged file formats
- Compose in HTML
- Understand the field of translation technology with an overview of the products and services that are offered

Please contact René Siegenthaler [rsiegent@bcc.ctc.edu] at Bellevue Community College to sign up for these workshops.

#### Localization Workshop

The Localization Workshop is taught by Ulrike Irmeler (the creator of the UW Certificate in Localization program). This workshop runs for two Saturdays (May 4 and May 11) and will provide a general overview of the localization field. The following topics will be covered:

#### Proposed Course Schedule

**May 4** Introduction to Localization  
The Localization Cycle  
Common Localization Problems  
Localization Roles and Tasks

**May 11** Localization Tools for Common File Formats  
Common Localization Practices  
Review  
Q & A  
Wrap-up & course evaluation

*Continued from page 1*

served us well, but now the software has given up the ghost. Caitilin Walsh is spearheading a research project to determine how best to develop an on-line, searchable directory. We are also looking at the future of the print version of our directory, since it does require a considerable portion of our economic resources and our volunteer time. (Elsewhere in this issue you can read about Anita Krattinger's generous and well-organized hospitality for the work party that mailed this year's print version out.) We will be coming to the membership for your input as we pursue these issues, since we want to make a fully informed and prudent decision. As always, our debt to Caitilin Walsh and Alfred Hellstern in these technological areas of our society's activity is incalculable.

The board also considered designs for a new logo. With the millennium well and truly launched, we believe it is time for a fresh look. Abigail Clay leads the committee that is working on this project. Watch this space! More information to come.

Finally, we are working on program plans for the coming year. Our ATA Accreditation Workshop went very well under the leadership of Jean Leblon—no surprise, but always a pleasure! Deya Jorda Nolan, Michelle Privat Obermeyer and our intrepid Program Committee are working on: our March workshop in collaboration with Bellevue Community College, the ATA Accreditation examination to be given on April 27, and plans for a fascinating and useful event in May. We will hold the traditional biennial NOTIS picnic on August 3, just before the Congress of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs in Vancouver, Canada, from August 9-12. We are hoping to hold a Job Fair to celebrate International Translators and Interpreters Day on September 28, and we have fall events as well, after the ATA Conference in Atlanta. Please plan on joining us for the social events that do so much to bring us together to celebrate our profession and our friendships.

Since I am now the "immediate past president" of the American Translators Association, I am not so involved in the daily business of the ATA, but I can tell you that the new leadership and the new board are doing a fine job of grappling with the challenges facing our national organization also. President Tom West is continuing the focus on the accreditation program, on targeted marketing of member services and the association, and on continuing education. Scott Brennan, the new President-elect, served for four years as President of the National Capital Area Translators and Interpreters Society. He understands chapter and regional issues very well indeed. Jiri Stejskal, the new Treasurer, is an old friend and colleague from the Slavic Languages Division. I first met him and his

### *"In An Interesting Time..."*

family at the disastrous SLD dinner in Colorado Springs, but the fact that the Czech restaurant I had selected produced inedible food and little to drink did not prevent him from answering the call to serve at the national level. Finally, our own Courtney Searls-Ridge is in her second term as secretary, providing guidance and continuity to the executive committee and leading the creative Mentoring Taskforce.

In closing, I would like to pay special tribute to one of our sister organizations. The Society of Medical Interpreters, under the leadership of President Thu-Van Nguyen, has done an incredible job of focusing the battle to retain funding in our state budget for medical interpretation for Medicaid patients. We have done our best to keep NOTIS members also informed and involved in this fight. I write before we know the outcome, but we salute SOMI for its endeavors in this very significant cause.

## **Annual Meeting Review NOTIS Annual Meeting and ATA Recap Kirkland Public Library by Olivier Fabris**

The NOTIS annual meeting took place on a refreshingly sunny Saturday afternoon in the middle of a rather inclement November at the Kirkland Public Library. Thank you to all members who resisted the temptation of a leisurely walk under the balmy skies and instead, answered the call of NOTIS President Jean Leblon to formally gather in a general assembly to reflect on our organization's achievements in the past year and look forward to the endeavors, challenges and successes awaiting NOTIS in 2002.

Those who attended the meeting actively took part in the election of 6 board members (2 new members and 4 incumbent). We also had the opportunity to listen to a series of brief reports from representatives of the different chairs of the organization. After the annual meeting was adjourned, refreshments were offered, followed by short accounts of the ATA conference from a varied group of members who participated in the conference in LA.

After a few preliminary remarks by President Leblon, ballots were handed to the attendees and the election was peacefully held on a non-secret basis since all 6 candidates ran unopposed.

The election was followed by committee reports:

- Treasurer Abby Clay reported on the healthy financial situation of the organization, and noted that NOTIS has now become a 501(c) (6) organization.
- Membership Coordinator Christina Zubelli presented a very complete report on membership statistics
- Publications Chair Michelle Privat Obermeyer gave an account of the two white papers published in 2001 and asked for more paper submissions for review and publication on our Web site.
- Program Co-Chair Michelle Privat Obermeyer thanked the members of this particularly active committee that organized among other things a terminology workshop in the spring, and invited the Seattle Opera's Surtitler as a guest speaker to lecture members in celebration of the International Translators Day in the fall.
- *NOTIS News* Editor Anita Krattinger stressed the usefulness of our wonderful newsletter and called for more articles of interest to be submitted by members.
- Webmistress and Directory Chair Caitilin Walsh reported that the 2002 *NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters* was soon to be published. The hope for 2002 is to move the NOTIS InfoBase to a user-friendly and searchable on-line format.

The election results were then announced (all candidates were indeed elected), and President Leblon adjourned the annual meeting with praises for Board Director and Immediate Past-President of the ATA Ann Macfarlane.

After some tasty refreshments and pleasant socializing with colleagues, attendees had a chance to listen to a series of shorts accounts of the ATA conference by those of us who had the opportunity to take the trip to Los Angeles. The conference was a success and we warmly encourage members who have never attended to take the plunge and participate in next year's. The conference is a wonderful opportunity to learn on new topics or technology, brush up on rusty skills, meet and bond with old and new colleagues, and network with agency representatives - to name just a few of the many activities participants can revel in.

NOTIS members reported on such varied topics as "The Source-Language Editor: A Critical Role in Translation Quality Control"; the Mentoring program; "Marketing Yourself to Translation Agencies" and "Bringing Clients into the Picture" to cut a long list short.

The so-called ATA recap thus ended the gathering and all participants greeted each other with a round of applause.

*NOTIS Director Olivier Fabris is a Translation Project Manager and an English to French translator. He can be reached at [olivier@wal.org](mailto:olivier@wal.org).*

## Health Hints

# Muscle Tension and Stress Reduction

*by Jennifer Owen*

Translation work can translate into fatigue, muscle tension and repetitive stress injuries, often as a result of long hours spent at a computer workstation. The good news is that there are preventative measures that you can take today to reduce muscle tension, injuries, and stress.

The first step is to create a healthy work environment. A few items that will increase your comfort level are wrist supports that are helpful in reducing the negative effects of repetitive motion, a non-glare monitor that helps prevent eyestrain, and adequate lighting that protects your eyes and a chair that helps you maintain proper posture. Strive to keep your back straight with your shoulders relaxed while sitting at your desk. Throughout the day, correct your posture, paying close attention to when you begin to bring your shoulders forward, start to round your back or bring your neck and head forward.

Two other essential components of muscle health and stress reduction are oxygen and water. Drinking adequate amounts of water will help keep your muscles hydrated, preventing a build-up of toxins. A good test to see if you are drinking enough water is to monitor your thirst. Once you experience thirst, you are already dehydrated. The goal is to drink enough water to not feel thirsty. Breathing is also key; in fact, it is the best built-in stress reduction tool we have. Visualize your breath cleansing your body as you inhale and letting go of stress as you exhale. One breathing exercise often used in yoga is called alternate breathing. Start by holding one nostril closed with your index finger while inhaling through the opposite side, hold your breathe for a few seconds and then exhale through the opposite side while holding the other nostril closed. Begin the next series on the same side and continue breathing on alternate sides for a few minutes.

Another simple step to take is to include a five- to ten-minute warm-up session before you begin work and a five-

to ten-minute stretching session at the end of your workday. Warm-up exercises will bring blood to your muscles and increase lymph flow that rids the body of toxins. Concentrate on the areas you use most in your business, including your fingers, hands, wrists, arms, neck, face and shoulders. Stretching at the end of the day will move stale blood and other fluids from the muscles so that they can be replaced with fresh, clean fluids.

Even if your time is very limited you can decrease stress. Try rolling your feet across two tennis balls for a quick foot massage without stepping away from your desk! A foot massage will help to relieve stress and muscle tension in the entire body as the feet contain reflex points that correspond to specific areas of the body. Another quick pick-me-up is to massage your earlobes and the outer edges of your ears. Their reflex points will increase your energy as well.

These steps are easy to apply and can make a difference in your daily life. Taking care of yourself today can help you work injury free for a long time to come.

*Jennifer Owen is a licensed massage practitioner and aromatherapist in Seattle, WA. She can be contacted at 206-354-1953.*

## **Summer Intensive Program at the University of Washington**

# **Software Localization Certificate**

*By Ulrike Irmeler*

The University of Washington offers a year-long certificate program for localization professionals and will present its curriculum in condensed format in a summer-intensive program for the first time.

The UW Software Localization Certificate Program was created because of the lack of training resources for localization professionals. It has proven to be a resource for both individuals seeking to join the field and companies who have sent their employees to receive training and certification.

The program has been developed with the explicit goal of keeping up-to-date by maintaining close ties with the industry. Its advisory board consists of members from local technology companies, such as RealNetworks, Adobe, Microsoft, and Getty Images, as well as localization vendors and tools companies such as Vital USA, Trados, and Lionbridge. The curriculum is continuously updated according to industry

trends, software updates, and new processes and developments.

The year-long program is designed to give students exposure to all important aspects of localization and offers a Localization Program Management (LPM) and a Software Localization Engineering (SLE) track. Two introductory courses for participants of both the LPM as well as the SLE track are held as a set of lectures and seminars. They cover the breadth of basic concepts, such as different areas of the localization industry, professional roles, intercultural communication, and geopolitical issues. Additionally, students are introduced to software- and Web-development product cycles, localization issues and how to communicate them to development and program management.

In their individual tracks, students are then focused on the daily tasks and issues facing both Software Localization Engineers and Localization Program Managers. The Software Engineering Track offers hands-on experience with localization tools and processes. Students also learn solutions for various forms of Web-based localization, using a variety of languages such as HTML, XML, ASP, and others. They gain knowledge to effectively interact with testing and internationalization teams and understand the issues affecting them during the localization cycle.

The Localization Program Management Track also provides students with the opportunity to practice their knowledge in hands-on exercises and group projects based on real-life scenarios. Students use translation memory technology and other tools to prepare files for handoff, create schedules and budgets and work on putting together a localization kit.

All practice files are based on real-life examples using tools whose licenses have been graciously provided by Trados, SDL and PASSOLO. Students generate checklists and templates to help them in their professional work situations. All courses include a variety of expert guest speakers on various topics, and all instructors and speakers are actively working in the localization industry.

Participants and graduates of the year-long program have obtained positions in the localization field at Microsoft, Vital USA, J.D. Edwards and other companies in the region.

In addition to the year-long program, the University of Washington will also offer an accelerated summer program this year. Participants accepted to the summer program have the option of completing a 16-day intensive course that covers a condensed version of both program tracks. Alternately, partici-

pants can enroll for one week on a space-available basis choosing either the LPM or the SLE track. The summer program takes place from June 13-29, 2002, and is sponsored by RealNetworks and Microsoft in the form of a welcome reception and a \$1000 scholarship.

Full brochures for both the year-long program and the accelerated summer Localization Intensive are available from the University of Washington, UW Extension, 5001 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105-4190. Information about the programs can also be found at [http://www.extension.washington.edu/extinfo/certprog/sol/sol\\_main.asp](http://www.extension.washington.edu/extinfo/certprog/sol/sol_main.asp)

*Ulrike Irmeler is a Localization Program Manager. Irmeler initiated the creation and development of this program, and has been actively involved in technology, translation and localization at Microsoft since 1997. She can be reached at [ulri@microsoft.com](mailto:ulri@microsoft.com).*

## NOTIS 2002 Directory Mailing Party

# There is No Ambiguity in Stuffing Envelopes

*By Kasha Litynska*

On Saturday, February 16, 2002, as a fairly new member of The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS), I had the great pleasure of attending the Directory Mailing Party. I have been told that throughout the years this event has become an annual NOTIS tradition. At the beginning of each new calendar year, members of NOTIS meet for a couple of hours to snack, drink, chat, network, but mainly, of course, to help with the task of mailing close to 640 copies of the new NOTIS *Directory of Translators and Interpreters* that is updated every year.

This year for the third consecutive time, the NOTIS mailing party took place at the Bellevue home of the NOTIS News Editor Anita Krattinger. In spite of unusually sunny weather for this time of year in Seattle, over twenty volunteers managed to show up, restraining a strong temptation to spend time outdoors rather than inside somebody's house. Moreover, some of the attendees brought not only themselves to the party, but also their family members to help with the work. Our host offered everyone a warm welcome and showed the freshly arrived guests how to navigate through her house and most importantly how to find food and drinks in the kitchen.

At the mailing party, each *Directory* booklet has to be properly stuffed into correctly labeled, sealed and stamped

envelopes in order to be mailed out to businesses throughout the country and abroad. It is important for the translators and interpreters listed in the NOTIS *Directory* that the copies reach the right addressee and that it does so as quickly as possible. It is in the best interest of all the translators and interpreters associated with NOTIS to make the *Directory* available to potential clients and regular users of translation and interpretation services. For most of the translators and interpreters that usually work as independent contractors, as well as for all newcomers to the profession like me, advertising in the NOTIS *Directory* can be a useful marketing tool in bringing new clients and obtaining new job assignments.

The volunteers enthusiastically started to work as soon as they arrived. Thanks to the great effort of all the volunteers, thoughtful organization, and efficient division of tasks, the mailing was finished within a couple of hours. The work was quite physical but not unpleasant. One of the interpreters put it like this, "I am enjoying this job. There is no ambiguity in stuffing envelopes and the results can be seen right away. I wish interpreting would work exactly this same way."

Indeed the results were seen soon, as all the envelopes were stuffed, labeled, properly stamped, stacked in paper grocery bags, and ready to be dropped in mailboxes by 3 p.m. I spotted some envelopes that will be delivered to such distant states as Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. As I mentioned before, the event was planned to be fun. For that reason, the kitchen was filled with drinks and tasty refreshments. To satisfy everybody's taste, the menu consisted of a wide variety of foods including: an array of cheeses, an assortment of vegetables with spinach and artichoke dips, an Italian Tacconi pasta salad and sweet Couscous Raisin salad. Hot items included my favorite delicious cheese and veggie quiches. There was plenty of time left for everyone to socialize, meet colleagues, friends, and make new contacts.

NOTIS President Ann G. Macfarlane thanked everyone who organized and attended this year's NOTIS 2002 Directory Mailing Party for all the hard work and commitment.

I left this NOTIS event feeling satisfied, well-fed and equipped with a heavy bag of envelopes containing NOTIS Directories to be mailed. I had not even noticed that the sunny Saturday I saw at 1 o'clock had by then turned into another cloudy and rainy Seattle afternoon.

*Kasha Litynska is a Polish <> English translator and can be reached at [kasha@pollingua.com](mailto:kasha@pollingua.com)*

## CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
April 27, 2002	ATA Accreditation Examination	For ATA members by March 30 Register at ATA Headquarters by 12 April	Architecture Hall U. of W. 1-4 pm
May 17 & 18, 2002	Computer Translation Tools & Keeping Healthy as a Language Professional	Presented by Professor Alan K. Melby	Portland and Seattle - Check <a href="http://www.notisnet.org">www.notisnet.org</a> for details
August 3, 2002	NOTIS Biennial Summer Picnic		Check <a href="http://www.notisnet.org">www.notisnet.org</a> for details
August 7 – 10, 2002	XVI. World Congress of the Interna- tional Federation of Translators (FIT)	Translation: New Ideas for a New Century. Go to <a href="http://www.fit2002.org/">www.fit2002.org/</a> for details	Vancouver, Canada
November 6-9, 2002	ATA Conference		Atlanta, Georgia

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