Kirk Anderson, Chair of the American Translators Association's Chapters Committee, met with NOTIS members and friends on July 6, 1999, to discuss changes in the ATA's relationship with regional translator and interpreter groups. Anderson, a Florida-based translator of Italian, Spanish and Chinese, and former president of the Florida chapter of the ATA, stressed that his role is to represent the concerns of regional groups to the ATA board, as well as to provide support and information.

First a little background: Starting in November of this year, the ATA will recognize regional groups on two official levels - as chapters or affiliates. Currently, there are three levels of association regional groups can have with the ATA: unaffiliated groups, cooperating groups (NOTIS's current status) and chapters. Understandably, the ATA has decided to eliminate the category of unaffiliated group. Cooperating groups who choose to do so will be transformed into affiliates; chapters will remain chapters.

Since NOTIS is a cooperating group a decision has to be made as to what sort of relationship NOTIS will have with the ATA after November. Anderson came to Seattle to shed some light on the new categories and engage NOTIS members in a discussion about the pros and cons of each category, particularly chapter status.

Anderson opened his presentation by describing what the Chapters Committee does. Besides being a liaison between regional groups and the ATA Board of Directors, the committee (currently solely comprised of Anderson) advises chapters and affiliates about ATA procedures and policies, manages and distributes the Newsletter Exchange List, sponsors the Regional Groups Brainstorming Session at the ATA annual conference, as well as handles other administrative tasks.

Next he detailed the benefits and requirements of affiliates and chapters.

The benefits of being an affiliate are as follows:
- the ATA will advertise affiliates' existence in the ATA Membership Directory free of charge;
- the ATA will advertise affiliates' events free of charge in the Chronicle on a space-available basis, and
- the ATA will work with affiliates on issues of mutual concern.

Affiliates are requested to:
- submit annual reports and yearly financial reports (this is optional);
- keep the ATA abreast of any local issues of interest to the national organization;
- provide support to the ATA if an annual conference is held in their sphere of influence and
- promote ATA regional activities and ATA annual conferences in the affiliate's newsletter.

However, Anderson was strongly in favor of chapter status, which includes the above benefits and responsibilities, as well as the financial incentives of a 10% dues rebate to chapters from the ATA and insurance coverage for venues used by chapters, in addition to liability insurance for directors and officers of chapters.

continued on page 7
NOTIS News 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. Submissions become the property of NOTIS News 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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Membership in NOTIS

Individual & Institutional  $35.00 a year
Corporate  $50.00 a year

For membership information write to NOTIS or call NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 382-5642.
E-mail: info@notisnet.org
Home Page: www.notisnet.org

NOTIS is a Washington State non-profit organization.

NOTIS NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ines Novelli Boylesan [Portuguese], Lorena Farr [Spanish], Laura S. Henry [Chinese, Korean], Hillary Higgins [German], Helen Kresl [Czech], Glen E. Lucas [Chinese], Tobias May [Portuguese, Norwegian].

CONDOLENCES

NOTIS members express their sympathy and condolences to Chila Harrington on the loss of her father.

CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome CIAO: New Oregon Interpreters

A hearty welcome and congratulations to the Court Interpreters Association of Oregon edition of Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 1999 of the CIAO Newsletter. Another bright point for interpreters and translators has appeared on the northwest horizon. In an engaging ten page issue new voices were heard. President Johann Paoletti-Schelp listed the methods by which to inform and educate clients. Biographies of the board helped acquaint members with the leadership. A report on working conditions alerted the membership to some potential problems. Cristina Castro, editor, deserves both credit for her courage and future support in CIAO’s venture to promote the quality of interpretation in Oregon.

Contact information:
President - johann@p-squared.com
Editor - mccastro@teleport.com

PLEASE VISIT

DID YOU KNOW that the NOTIS Web site is updated weekly?
Come see what’s changed!
www.NOTISnet.org

MOVING?

Please let us know your new address and phone numbers so we can keep your membership record and directory information current. Remember, the electronic directory updates quarterly and we want potential clients to be able to find you!
DIRECTORY

PROOF SHEETS

In August, you will receive a proof sheet for your directory listing in the NOTIS 2000 Directory of Translators and Interpreters (if you were a member on record as of June 30, 1999 and we received listing information from you). If you have any changes or corrections to make, please use this sheet to make them. You must return the sheet no later than September 7, 1999 if you wish to make any changes to your listing. If we do not receive a proof sheet from you, we will assume you accept your listing as is and that it is free of errors.

DIRECTORY ADVERTISING REMINDER

The NOTIS 2000 Directory of Translators and Interpreters, which will be published in the autumn of this year, will again be offering the opportunity to advertise in addition to your individual member listing. If you would like to advertise in the directory, or wish more information on advertising, please contact Elsa Brodin at the NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 382-5642. The advertising deadline is September 1, 1999.

NOTIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Abby Clay, Jean Leblon, Carol Leibowitz, Jochen Liesche, Ann Macfarlane, Alex Mosalsky, Katalin Pearman, Michelle Privat Obermeyer, Courtney Searls-Ridge, Kendrick Wagner, Caitlin Walsh, Pieter Zilinsky.

MISCELLANEOUS

TWO LINES: A journal of translation

Fires, the 1999 issue of world literature from TWO LINES is available at $11.00 plus postage ($2 within USA, $2.50 Canada or Mexico, $4 international) by check or money order. Other titles are available. Contact: TWO LINES, P.O. Box 641978, San Francisco, CA 94164-1978. editors@twolines.com or www.twolines.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTIS & WITS Job Fair

A Job Fair and DeJaVu translation software demonstration will be offered September 18, 1-5 p.m. at the Shoreline Center, Seattle. This will be a chance for translators and interpreters to meet individually with company representatives and present their resumes. If your interests lead you to this meeting you will be well rewarded. Everyone is welcome!

Job Fair 1:00 to 3:00 pm, fee of $10 to be paid at the door. Software demonstration 3:30 to 5:00 pm, no fee, arranged and sponsored by the Japan Association of Translators.

Volunteer assistants for this intense event are needed. Please call NOTIS voice mail and leave your name and contact information.

A virtual résumé clinic is being conducted during August in preparation for the Job Fair. Visit the NOTIS web site for more details.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-5 to NE 175th St. Exit 176. Turn WEST on 175th; go two blocks, turn RIGHT on Meridian Ave.; continue to N. 185th, turn RIGHT, then continue to 1st Ave. NE and turn LEFT. Shoreline Center is on the right. Use the southernmost parking lot next to the Senior Center.

Slavic SIG Meeting

The Slavic SIG will hold a meeting at Delicatessen of Europe, 129-106th Ave. NE Bellevue, on the 16th of October 1999 at 12 noon. Speaker: William T. Robinson, Attorney at Law.

Topic: Current state of and prospects for Russian-American business relationships. William Robinson, a prominent Seattle attorney, has many years’ experience in US/Russian trade. He will share his observations on business relationships, with special reference to the role of translators and interpreters. Please join us for a fascinating get-together.

RSVP Contact: Larissa Kulinich. Phone (206) 236-0286. Fax: (206)275-0231 larajlm@earthlink.net or jmavis@ch2m.com

ATA Annual Conference

The 40th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association will be held November 3-6 at the Regal Riverfront Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

Contact: (703) 683-6100; fax: (703) 683-6122, or e-mail: info@atanet.org.

NOTIS Meeting AT A Recap

The NOTIS recap of the 40th ATA Annual Conference will be on Monday, November 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Seattle Public Library, Downtown Main Branch, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle.

Recap of the 40th Annual American Translators Association Conference. Relive the successes and discoveries of your colleagues at the national gathering. Come to hear the summaries, inspect the materials and ask questions.

Come see what’s changed! www.NOTISnet.org
FIRST NOTIS NETWORKING SESSION IN PORTLAND:
ICING ON THE CAKE
LYDIA BOSWELL

On one of my more typical days, I spend my time at a desk with my nose stuck either in a dictionary or in front of a computer. My working relationships usually begin with a phone call or an e-mail message; conversations are focused on the project at hand with little or no “getting to know each other”. I rarely have an opportunity to actually meet and talk with the people who engage my services. This was not the case on June 12, when we celebrated the first NOTIS meeting in Portland. Thanks to the dedication of board members of the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society, and the participation of representatives of translation entities from both the Seattle and Portland/Vancouver areas, many professionals in the translation and interpretation field were able to meet, chat, and create future opportunities.

The NOTIS meeting in Portland was refreshing. The event pulled us out of our somewhat lonely routines and provided a perfect ground for sharing our views and experiences with others who could really relate to the ideas and concerns expressed by some of the participants.

The networking session was definitely the “icing on the cake.” We were able to meet with representatives from Certified Languages Services, Corporate Translation Services, German Language Services, Lingo Systems, Peters Translations, Washington Academy of Languages, and Global Software Solutions. The conference room was filled with conversations in different languages, as people introduced themselves, exchanged business cards and explored possibilities of collaboration with enthusiastic colleagues.

After a very interesting conversation about quality translation with Mercedes Edgerton, co-owner of Lingo Systems, my eye caught Mike Kolibaba, a keen and efficient Project Manager of Peters Translation, in pursuit of new talent. Warm greetings exchanged, I steered him to the direction of new opportunities. Later, he assured me he was happy to be at the session and was able to collect quite a few business cards. A couple of people he wanted to meet got away though. Matt Grebisz from Global Software Solutions, a dynamic Portland software localization company, enjoyed the event and was particularly interested in meeting translators knowledgeable in his company’s area of expertise.

All in all, I think that the NOTIS meeting in Portland was a great success and I am sure many will reap benefits from it. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to future activities in the Portland/Vancouver area.

“CONTRACT NEGOTIATING” WORKSHOP:
A SUCCESS IN PORTLAND
MIKA JARMUSZ

NOTIS’ General Meeting on June 12, 1999 at Portland State University was a well-prepared, well-attended event. Some of us from Oregon were able to come for the first time, plus many NOTIS members came down all the way from the Seattle area for this special inaugural event. The President-elect of ATA, Ann Macfarlane, was also present and extended her welcome to our Portland colleagues. The program, “Contract Negotiations for Translators and Interpreters” was one I had missed before, so it was a treat to be there! It was presented by Courtney Searls-Ridge, a board member of both the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS) and the American Translators Association (ATA).

The majority of the audience, freelance translators like myself, began to appreciate the essentials of the business part of our activities. Courtney walked us through the basic framework of “What is a contract?” A variety of sample contracts and relevant journal articles were handed out for reference. She provided us with a variety of examples and perspectives based on her experience of working with freelance translators.

Questions and concerns, some legal and some ethical, were shared among the audience members. Knowing your “comfort level” and having a good judgment for “trust” are both important elements in working with translation agencies. We may really want to “cross out and initial” certain clauses that put us into disadvantageous positions. We can do so.

Freelance translators used to face contract negotiations all alone. Thanks to Courtney and NOTIS members who put this wonderful meeting together, knowledge was shared and support extended in Portland!
the reader of this volume can learn many things about recent linguistic trends and new translating issues, particularly on the European scene, although as this volume was published a year ago (volume X has just been completed), some of it needs to be updated; the translation scene is evolving rapidly. Touched upon are issues facing translator training programs in universities and the changing aspects of the international translation market, currently on a prodigious upswing.

Articles include: a discussion of new grammatical and cultural considerations for translation; how translator training in Spain is evolving under the pressure of multi-lingualism throughout the European community; censorship and film translation for the Spanish audience; a discussion of standardization vs. harmonization in terminology; issues of language vs. dialect embodied in a close look at the linguistic status of Galician vis-à-vis both Castilian Spanish and Portuguese; the increasing recognition of English's status as the lingua franca in today's world; one literary translator's experience with American and British publishers; and new trends in interpreting for disabled persons in the U.S. There is also a valuable compendium of abstracts of theses written on translation and interpreting topics over the last two decades or so.

Some very interesting points are raised in this volume. For example, the control inherent in film dubbing, as opposed to the multicultural aspect of subtitling, helped ensure that it was the translation strategy originally relied on (for political, cultural and economic reasons) by the Franco regime in Spain. Even now, so many years later, the general preference in Spain is for dubbed films, although dubbing has the disadvantage of being an expensive technique. Then there is the phenomenon of loan words, which, in today's technologically advancing and increasingly internationalized world, are appearing more and more often. The Danish author of the most comprehensive article in this volume notes that the "highly exposed languages of the Nordic countries... are at present reeling under the onslaught of Anglo-American loans and having their syntax and rules for word formation affected". Language enthusiasts may be intrigued to learn if (they did not know it already) that loan words are particularly difficult to pinpoint in Chinese: once a foreign word has been adopted into one spoken dialect, it is transcribed into the pictographic symbols shared by all Chinese, but which are pronounced differently across dialectal regions of China; hence the loan word quickly sheds its original phonetic identity.

The articles contained in this volume are:
"Translation in the Information Age", Eugene A. Nida;
"Implications of Multilingualism in the European Union for Translator Training in Spain," Roberto Mayoral Asensio and Dorothy Kelly (University of Granada, Spain);
"Spanish Film Translation: Ideology, Censorship and the Supremacy of the National Language", Mª del Camino Gutiérrez Lanza (University of Léon, Spain);
"Standardization and Interference in Terminology", Mª Teresa Cabrè Castellví (University Pompeu-Fabra [Barcelona], Spain);
"Translating Ausbausprachen", Oscar Díaz Fousé (University of Vigo, Spain);
"Issues Today, Challenges for Tomorrow: Translation and English as the International Lingua Franca", Cay Dollerup (University of Copenhagen, Denmark);
"Strawberry Flowers in the Realm of Chocolate: The Training of Literary Translators", Peter Bush (Center for Research in Translation, United Kingdom).

"Disability Issues in Translation/Interpretation", by Julie F. Smart and David W. Smart (Utah State University and Brigham Young University, respectively).

"Bibliography of Dissertations about Translation Topics (1973-1996)"; Daryl R. Hagneé (Brigham Young University).

Unfortunately, there is a marked unevenness of presentation across contributions. Two essays, those of Cabrè and Díaz, are written in an overly abstract and stilted academic jargon. They appear to be addressed primarily to linguists of academia, and use a "scholarly" discourse that the majority of professional translators probably would have no patience with nor any use for. Take an unfortunate quote:

"The 'dialectotomic' isoglosses are very often, metaphorically speaking, incompletely healed 'scars' that can be reopened by 'relapse' and transformed, given time, into 'glottotomic cuts'."

Definitions of the jargon have not been provided; this kind of writing is clearly marked "For Initiates Only." And, leaving aside personal orientation and training, when you see a sentence such as:

"Fourthly, we consider equivalence among languages not defending synonymy but on the basis of equivalence, which is respectful with the notion of diversity in a more natural way" you know there is a problem and it is not the reader's.

This volume would have benefited from vigorous editing and careful proofreading. Typographical and syntactic errors abound - all the more surprising when found in a flagship publication for a national translators association.
continued from page 1

“NOTIS and the ATA”

Chapter status would also mean that NOTIS would:
- be entitled to support from the ATA for legislative actions;
- receive logistical support from the ATA for mailings, meetings, etc.;
- have its bylaws reviewed free of charge by ATA lawyers;
- be eligible for seed money for regional conferences;
- get a free table at ATA conferences; and
- have input on ATA Board issues through having a vote at the Regional Groups brainstorming session.

One of the main reasons NOTIS has resisted becoming a chapter in the past is the requirement that chapters’ presidents and vice presidents be voting members of the ATA (i.e., members with “active” status, but not necessarily accredited). However, the ATA recently made it much easier to achieve active status, so this is less of an issue. Other requirements for chapters include those listed for affiliates, as well as the above-mentioned active status for president and vice president, and the fact that bylaws must be submitted for review by an ATA attorney.

Anderson clarified one important point for those present: if NOTIS should decide to become a chapter, NOTIS members will still be free, as they are now, to join the ATA or not, according to their preference. ATA chapters may have members who are also members of ATA, or not, as they choose.

In addition to presenting the “nuts and bolts” of this issue, Anderson talked about some innovative ideas he has about how the ATA could further support regional groups, particularly ATA chapters. He emphasized his commitment, and that of ATA leadership, to strengthen relations with regional groups. They are a vital link in the web of professionalism for translation and interpretation. Anderson also invited interested ATA members to work with him on the Chapters Committee.

The discussion after Anderson’s presentation was quite lively and it was clear that this outreach by the ATA was appreciated. In addition to calls for more appearances by ATA representatives in the Northwest, a straw vote indicated that most of those in attendance were in favor of NOTIS becoming an ATA chapter. Dissenting voices expressed concern about NOTIS unnecessarily losing some of its autonomy and creativity (e.g., on our Web site).

The evening was rounded out by desserts, cold beverages and lots of informal discussion.

Next steps: The NOTIS Board will be reviewing member input and the merits of this issue in order to decide how to proceed. If the Board is in favor of the change to chapter status, it will put this issue to the members’ vote at the December 7 Annual Meeting. (Provision will be made for absentee voting for those who are unable to attend.) Please watch your e-mail and postal mail for further information on this subject.

Final note: Those in attendance also requested clarification on the new ways to gain ATA active status. Anderson handed out copies of the ATA’s “Alternative Routes to Active or Corresponding Membership.” The text of this document can be found on the ATA Web site (http://atanet.org/actrev.htm). For more information, please contact ATA Headquarters at 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314, telephone (703) 683-6100; fax (703) 683-6122; e-mail: ata@atanet.org

Ms. Abigail Clay, Vice President
And the Board of Directors
Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)
PO Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98125-2201

Dear Abby and NOTIS Board Members:

Thank you very much for your warm reception at the NOTIS meeting on July 6. The thoughtful comments and engaging conversation of your membership not only topped off a wonderful stay in your beautiful part of the country, but more importantly opened an important dialog between NOTIS and the ATA which will undoubtedly benefit both parties.

Although a great deal of information was shared at the meeting, I think it’s important that I reiterate my offer to provide the NOTIS membership with any additional information they may require regarding their forthcoming decision on chapter status. As I mentioned to many of those present at the meeting, I feel it’s my duty to provide you with all the resources you need to make an informed decision as possible, and after experiencing the tangible dynamism of your group, I have no doubt, regardless of the decision NOTIS reaches, that you will continue to be one of the most progressive and innovative T&I organizations in the country.

I also hope I made it clear that although chapterhood does represent a tangible alliance with the ATA, NOTIS actually sacrifices little in terms of its autonomy, and based on the comments of NOTIS board members at the meeting, it seems that NOTIS already fulfills the vast majority of the obligations required of chapters.

If there is anything NOTIS needs to facilitate its decision regarding potential ATA chapter status, please don’t hesitate to contact me, and please feel free to extend this offer to the NOTIS membership as a whole. I look forward to responding to any comments or questions addressed to my e-mail address at paellero@aol.com.

Best regards,

Kirk Anderson
Chair, ATA Chapters Committee

July 8, 1999
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“Book Review”

In his essay “Translation in the Machine Age,” Nida does not discuss technology, other than to make very short mention of machine translation with an explicit endorsement of one system, Systran’s. The author claims, rather questionably, that “many texts [i.e. routine texts] do not warrant or require the careful attention of human translators.” His claim for the benefits offered by machine translation are hotly contested among professional translators today. The situation is not helped by the fact that in 1999 the translation scene has already developed from what it was even two years ago, particularly in the domain of technology - witness the growth in the number of translation memory tools currently on the market. Two years later, Nida’s contribution seems strangely afflicted by naiveté and partisanship, both undoubtedly unintentional, but nonetheless pronounced.

Oddly enough, a few of the articles in this volume contributed to an uncomfortable impression that the academic world may be far removed from the world of professional translation today. This volume purports to be a forum addressed to the “changing scene in world languages”, yet it contains a disproportionate number of contributions related to Hispanic themes. Camino’s article supplies the most pronounced example of an underlying Hispanic bias; extracts of government guidelines concerning film censorship in Spain are reproduced in the original Spanish with no translation whatsoever provided - again a strange oversight in a publication associated with the translating profession.

Bush is a translator of Spanish (once more) and Brazilian Portuguese into English. His contribution, “Strawberry Flowers in the Realm of Chocolate,” gives examples of work on titles and takes the reader through a detailed discussion of how his translation of one Spanish literary passage was revised and how he was treated by his publishers, but it seems better suited to an issue of the ATA Chronicle devoted to literary translation.

Three of the articles in this volume are really first-rate and fulfill the promise of its title. Dollerup examines the evolving status of English on the international scene, with reference to a very wide range of language groups. He draws the distinction between the attempt to impose a dominant language and the voluntary adoption of an international lingua franca (and how this phenomenon has evolved from the Middle Ages to our time). In their discussion of translator training at the University of Granada, Asensio and Kelly are able to provoke the wider context of the European Community and the effect the new mobility of students throughout the community is having, for example, on whether translators are trained to work only into their A language, into their B language as well, or, in some cases, from a B into a C language.

Smart and Smart consider translation and interpretation issues that are specific to disability in the U.S., a country that has adopted guidelines to help ensure that individuals with disabilities have maximum “access to the community”. Language and terminology used to describe the disabled plays an important role in how society perceives them. Although the authors do not emphasize the point, some of these issues are applicable to other countries as well - consider the very important problem of how to distinguish the effects of mental disability from a simple lack of language skills on the part of a foreign native speaker.

These last articles make for fascinating reading and suggest what an excellent volume this could have been had better editorial judgment been exercised in compiling it and taking it to completion.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<th>TIME &amp; PLACE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday September 18</td>
<td>NOTIS &amp; WITS General Meeting</td>
<td>Job Fair &amp; Translation Memory Software Demonstration</td>
<td>1 - 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m. Shoreline Community Center Seattle</td>
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<td>Saturday October 16</td>
<td>Slavic SIG Lunch</td>
<td>Meet with Colleagues</td>
<td>12 noon Delicatessen of Europe 129-106th Ave. N E, Bellevue</td>
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<td>Wednesday - Saturday November 3-7</td>
<td>ATA Conference</td>
<td>40th Annual ATA Nationwide Meeting</td>
<td>Regal Riverfront Hotel St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>Monday November 15</td>
<td>NOTIS General Meeting</td>
<td>NOTIS Recap of ATA Conference</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Seattle Public Library - Main Branch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday December 7</td>
<td>NOTIS Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Annual Review &amp; Holiday Party</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Shoreline Community Center</td>
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