

THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 23 No.3, Summer 2009

NOT GUILTY - OR INNOCENT?

By Lorane West

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One of the challenges of interpreting and translating is dealing with terms that do not have a cultural equivalent in the target language. Umberto Eco, the famous Italian author and translator, wrote extensively about this problem, and in a series of speeches on translation, was said to have brought up the question of whether rendering an English garden party into Italian, the guests should drink coffee because that term is more familiar to the Italian readers. The answer, of course, is no.

I propose the same answer to the ongoing question of whether to say "innocent" in our target languages rather than the less familiar term "not guilty." While the term "innocent" is more common in everyday speech in many languages, it is not the same as "not guilty." In lay terms, *guilty* means "I did it" and *innocent* means "I didn't do it." This common understanding of innocence could lead some clients to hesitate in pleading *innocent* although legally they have a good basis for pleading *not guilty*.

Innocent, again, means "I didn't do it." *Not guilty*, however, simply means that I believe that this court will not be able to prove the charges against me, including the time and place of the alleged occurrence, along with each and every element of the charged crime. For example, if I am

charged with driving without a license on April 24th, but I in fact was driving without a license on May 24th, I am not guilty as charged, although I am not innocent. I did drive without a license, but not as charged. If I am charged with trespassing at Safeway but I trespassed at QFC, I am not innocent of trespassing but I am not guilty as charged. For a domestic violence charge, if I struck my neighbor, not my sister, I may be guilty of assault, but I am not guilty of domestic violence. The list is endless. The term *innocent* carries a heavy burden of "I didn't do anything wrong!" that goes far beyond the legal requirements of a *not guilty* plea.

Attorneys often advise clients to plead not guilty for a myriad of reasons that have little to do with their ultimate innocence. It may be used to gain more time for negotiation. A person may plead not guilty to a felony charge in the hopes that the prosecutor will offer to reduce it to a misdemeanor in exchange for a guilty plea to the lower charge. The same happens with sentencing, where a defendant may be instructed to hold out for a better sentencing offer. If a potential trial witness seems less than credible, or some of the evidence is in dispute, or a valid claim such as self-defense could be raised, the attorney may feel that it is in the best

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WITS has a Web page which can be visited at www.witsnet.org.

NOTIS Notes

New Members

Laura Behnke	
Peter Christiansen	English < > Russian
Isabella Connors	Dutch < > English German > Dutch German > English
Yuki Nakajima	English > Japanese
David Neathery	English < > Vietnamese
Yayoi Nishida	Japanese < > English
Teresa Ost	
David Partikian	
F. Jackson Piotrow	Russian > English German > English
Yao Tian	Chinese < > English
C. Ivelisse Velázquez-Rosado	Spanish > English
Maria A. Vera	Spanish > English
Henry Yao	Mandarin > English
Ying Yu	English < > Chinese

Rejoining Members

Maria Antonia Iglesias	Spanish < > English
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WITS Notes

New Members

Bersabed Boling	Spanish
Elena Boucheva	Russian
Dulce Carrillo	Spanish
Kim Deokja	Korean
Frederico Devoe	Spanish
Halyna Field	Russian
Kathryn German	Spanish
Miguel Kenney	Spanish
Dagmar Koenig	Czech, Slovak
Ping Lau	Cantonese
Lily Liu	Mandarin
Laura McGilvra	Mandarin, Taiwanese
Elena McGivren	Russian
Ma. Elena Montes de Oca Ricks	Spanish
David Neathery	Vietnamese
Allison Ostrer	Spanish
Amalia Sancha	Spanish
Abdulkareem Shamdeen	Arabic, Kurdish
Marinez Shields	Spanish, Italian
Licia Shinzato-Fischer	Portuguese
Fernanda Spratt	Portuguese
Angela Ugarte	Spanish
Maria A. Vera	Spanish
Henry Yao	Mandarin

Rejoining Members

Maria Antonia Iglesias	Spanish
Jaye Stover	Spanish

Letter from the WITS President

By Kenneth Barger

In this lovely summer of 2009, WITS has been keeping busy. Last issue, I wrote about two upcoming events, both of which were to be held east of the Cascades. I am pleased to report that they both went well and were well received by the attendees.

On May 30, in Cheney, WITS held its 21st Annual Meeting and Consecutive Note-Taking Workshop. The latter was an encore presentation, as our instructor, Andrea Florissi, had taught this class to WITS members at our 20th Annual Meeting in Bellevue. He was a good sport in agreeing to bring this workshop to the east of the state, and he was fabulous as usual.

We had a good turnout of just over 30 working interpreters and aspiring interpreters. I was particularly pleased to see the mix of attendees: there were veterans and beginners, folks from near and far, and a good assortment of working languages. On a personal note, I found that I got much more out of the workshop the second time around.

The Annual Meeting was held during part of the lunch break, with remarks from Directors Marta Reyes and Ferdinand Vélez, Vice President Barbara Robinson, and yours truly.

On June 20, Bilingualpower and WITS held a joint event in Ellensburg, with continuing education workshops on ethics, led by your humble reporter, and medical terminology, taught by Keo Capestany. We had even more attendees than in Cheney. This was my first time instructing on ethics, and as I'm sure the gentle reader can imagine, I was anxious to make sure it came off well.

Judging from the attendees' comments and the evaluation forms they turned in, I'll call it a success. Attendees had interesting questions and provoking scenarios to discuss. It is my hope that this sort of event will help us to achieve standardization of practice so that consumers and providers of interpreter services know better what to expect.

Then Keo took the stage and presented Plato and Cicero at the Clinic, a stimulating workshop on the Latin and Greek roots of medical terms, with many examples and anecdotes to illustrate the breadth and depth of the influence of these languages on modern English. The event was a fine example of collaboration, and I was de-

lighted to work with Keo in putting on this event. I hope we can do it again sometime in the not-too-distant future.

The rest of the year features a robust programs schedule. On August 1, we will hold the NOTIS and WITS joint picnic, with food and fun for all. October 16 and 17 are the dates of WASCLA Summit V, with stronger participation from WITS than in previous years. And on November 14, in SeaTac, we will present a four-hour continuing education workshop, with two hours on ethics and two hours on team interpreting. These are just a few high points, so visit the WITS and NOTIS web sites for more events and updates.

For my part, I've undertaken a new project in an effort to improve my skills as an interpreter. Many WITS and NOTIS members have seen me present on skills-building strategies for testing candidates, and I always start with a diagram of the modes and directions of interpreting, using it as a starting point for creating a study strategy. In short, I recommend that the candidate do a self-evaluation of the three modes and two directions, and determine his weak points and strong points. The diagram is as follows:

	S	C	ST
⇒ E			
⇒ S			

The E and S on the left are for English and Spanish (or insert your other language). The letters across the top are for Simultaneous, Consecutive, and Sight Translation. So the lower-right box, for instance, means "sight translation into Spanish." When I do this exercise today, the upper-left box, simultaneous into English, comes in dead last. So I've instituted a set of rules that require me to practice several things, including at least one hour of simultaneous into English per week. It's humbling, because it is a constant reminder of my weakest mode, but I'm determined to remedy that situation.

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Letter from the NOTIS President

By Laura A. Wideburg

NOTIS is moving right along in planning events which are held in other areas than the greater Seattle area. Due to the hard work of our program committee, we will have a Portland workshop this August 29th! We are committed to bringing more educational events to our members, for which they can receive ATA continuing education credit. September will bring International Translators' Day, an event which was started by the International Federation of Translators (FIT). I look forward to meeting many of you at these events.

I also met a number of you at Jamie Lucero's Wordfast event at the Bellevue Translation and Interpretation Institute. It's wonderful to see colleagues committed to improving their skills in this ever-changing marketplace, and Jamie made the intricacies of Wordfast clear and doable. He is giving this seminar again, and I recommend it highly to anyone who intends to work with this TM program.

The NOTIS Board has had productive meetings and we are looking forward to finding new ways to serve our members. We always welcome your comments and suggestions. Don't hesitate to contact a Board member with ideas or suggestions for improvement. You are also welcome to attend any Board meeting by getting in touch with one of the Board members or the Office Manager in advance.

On a personal note, I am happy to report that I have completed the translation of my third Inger Frimansson psychological thriller from Swedish. Called *Island of the Naked Women* in English, it has been published by Caravel Books in New York. If you need some beach reading, please consider my humble effort!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the picnic! Please come up and say hello!

Continued from page 1 ○○○

interest of the client to plead not guilty in order to make the state go to trial and prove its case. With such a high standard of proof there could be many trial-worthy cases where the accused "did it" but the state cannot prove all elements beyond a reasonable doubt. And the only way to get a trial is to plead not guilty.

From the procedural perspective, pleading not guilty simply means that the client demands that the state move forward and prove each and every element of the charged crime in open court. If the prosecutor does not want to do so, it is then up to the prosecutor to make a new offer, which may involve not only a reduced charge or a sentencing agreement, but even a continuance that could lead to an ultimate dismissal without a conviction. A not guilty plea is an important tool for clients to use in negotiating the US justice system.

In the US court system, when a client is asked whether they wish to plead guilty or not guilty, they are not being asked, "did you do it or not?" As foreign as this

concept may be in other legal systems, we must find ways to interpret this phrase in a way that makes it as clear as possible to the client. As one public defender discussing this with a client in jail recently said, "You don't have to be innocent to plead not guilty!" Think about how you would interpret that statement and you will see whether your terminology is working.

Lorane West is a Washington State Certified Spanish Court Interpreter and author of COLOR: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest.

Same Goal, Different Approaches: A National Overview of Court Certification Requirements

Katrin Johnson

Washington State Court Interpreter Program Coordinator

The field of court interpreting, while well established in states like Washington, is still in the early developmental stages in other areas. To date forty states have joined the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (formerly known as the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification), and thirty have created and implemented state court interpreter certification programs. And while ultimately the service provided by court interpreters is the same from state to state, the requirements for obtaining certification vary.

The written and oral exams used among the Consortium states are the same, with the exception of California and New York. However, the other credentialing requirements illuminate unique approaches to the same goal. My fellow state court interpreter program managers and I all struggle to find the “magic formula” to a certification program. What should be the mandatory requirements to obtain certification? What series of steps identifies those with aptitude, provides basic education, motivates persons with skill and talent, dissuades those without, keeps fees manageable, and applies to interpreters of all languages in light of their varying supply/demand, while still working within the limited confines of state budgets in this economic climate? If you figure out the magic formula, please call me. In the meantime, it is interesting to look at the court certification requirements different states impose.

The basic approach taken by many states is a three-step process: (1) two-day orientation which typically includes introductory lectures on ethics, legal terminology, and the modes of interpreting; (2) passing a written exam; and (3) passing an oral exam. However, many states are expanding on these steps with additional requirements, perhaps in recognition of the fact that certified interpreters are expected to have experience and knowledge which surpass the limited items measured by the examinations.

Court observation is a requirement in Nevada, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Utah, ranging from ten to forty hours. Ethics training, which is typically included in Orientations and is tested on the written exam, merits its own extra training sessions in Minnesota, New York, Cali-

fornia and Washington. Skill-building workshops are mandatory components in Indiana, North Carolina, Maryland, and Utah, which provide more in-depth training than is offered at orientation, and helps candidates prepare for the oral interpreting exam. And Massachusetts has perhaps the most rigorous of requirements, including a Bachelor’s degree or equivalent, mandatory mentoring, and one year of court interpreting before taking either the written or oral exam.

In Washington the current requirements for becoming certified are (1) passing the written exam with a foreign language translation component; (2) attending a one-day orientation; (3) passing the oral interpreting exam; (4) submitting to a criminal background check, and (5) attending a one-day class on interpreter ethics and courtroom protocol, and administering the interpreter oath. (The only variance for Registered interpreters is passing a language proficiency oral examination in place of the oral interpreting examination.) However, this list of requirements will likely change in the future as part of our quest for the “magic formula.”

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As I write these lines, I’ve just completed this week’s requirement by doing an hour of a book on tape in Spanish. It’s getting a little better every time, but I have a long way to go.

I’ve found this to be a stimulating exercise, and I encourage any interpreter to give it a try. It’s interesting, and sometimes daunting, to examine one’s own weak and strong points. And it is deeply satisfying to finally transform a weakness into a strength.

Have a great summer and stay cool. I hope to see you all at the picnic and the other events we’re holding this year.

Mandatory Steps of the State Court Certification Process

(Does not necessarily include steps for registered or similar status, or process of granting reciprocity for other certification exams)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
AR	Approval of Application	Written Exam w/ Transl	Two-Day Orientation	One-Day Workshop	Oral Exam					
CA	Oral Proficiency Screening	Bilingual Written Exam	Oral Interpreting Exam	Apply, fee, badge	Ethics Workshop					
CO	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam	Crim Check						
CT	Resume & cover letter w/ Transl	Written Exam (Engli vocab funding avail.)	Two-Day Orientation (if	Ethics portion of written exam exam	In-house screening oral (no orient. avail.)	6 wks mentoring interpreting	Ten months	Oral Exam		
DE	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam							
FL	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam						Oath/Crim Check	
GA	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam						Criminal Check	License & Fee
HI	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	HI Ethics Exam	Criminal Check	Oral Exam					
IA	Sign Oath	Two-day Orientation	Written Exam, Translation & Add'l Ethics Exam	Criminal Check	Oral Exam					
ID	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam	Crim Check						
IN	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Mandatory Skill-Building Workshop	Oral Exam	Crim Check					
MD	Selections based on review of applications	Criminal Check	One-day Orientation	Written Exam	OPI Exam				Mandatory Skill-Building Workshop	Oral Exam
MA	BA or equivalent	Screening exams & interview	Two-Day Orientation	Mentoring program	Court Observation				One yr interpreting	Written Exam
MI	Written Exam	Oral Exam	Criminal Check							
MN	Ethics Class, Ethics Test & Affidavit	Two-Day Orientation	Demonstration of Language Proficiency						Oral Exam	Crim Check
MO	Two-Day Orientation & Crim Check	Written Exam w/ Transl	Oral Exam							
NE	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam							
NJ	Written Exam Orientation	One-Day	Oral Exam							

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NY	Written English Exam	Oral Exam	Criminal Check	Ethics Training				
NM	Two-day Orientation	Simultaneous portion	Consecutive & sight translation					
NV	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam	40 hrs. ct. observation	Crim Check, Forms, Fee			
NC	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam w/ Transl	Contract w/ AOC	Skills Building Workshop	Four letters of recommendation	Criminal check	Oral Exam	
OR	Written Exam w/ Transl	Two-Day Orientation	Ethics Exam	Oral Exam	20 hrs. ct. observation	Crim Check	Oath & ceremony	
PA	Registration & approval of application	Two-Day Orientation	Written exam w/translation	Oral Exam	Crim Check & Ethics Affidavit			
SC	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	Oral Exam					
TN	Two-Day Orientation	Written Exam	OPI	Criminal Check	Citizenship form and oath	Oral Exam		
TX	Written Exam	Oral Exam						
UT	Application & criminal check	Written Exam w/Transl	Two-day Orientation	Mandatory Skill-Building Workshop	Mandatory Test Prep Workshop	Oral Exam	Ethics Test	10 hrs. ct. observation
WA	Written Exam w/Transl	One-Day Orientation	Oral Exam	Crim Check	One-Day Course on Ethics & Protocol/Oath			
WI	Two-day Orientation & Crim Check	Written Exam w/Transl	Oral Exam	Oath/Crim check	Recommendation by cttee and formal approval by director			

Information compiled by the Consortium for Language Acces in the Courts- Professional Issues Committee, Nov, 2008

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runner who can't improve his speed by running every day but by preparing his body through exercises such as weight lifting. In her own mind, she translated his example to the piano player who doesn't improve her performance by simply playing every day but by working on skills through technique exercises and studying the piece through chord analysis. In the same way, the interpreter can improve decalage and memory by specific exercises that stimulate brain 'muscle'. The workshop was such a success that Vania hopes it will be held regularly.

"There are many ways to enter the profession. Find your unique way but train yourself well!" Vania urges everyone, "Don't build false confidence. Wait with accepting assignments and don't jump in right away — observe and train, learn constantly and read, read, read." Does Vania still play the piano? I forgot to ask, but she had mentioned that she can't listen to music for relaxation because she finds herself analyzing it while listening — we were laughing and I think, yes indeed, once a virtuoso, always a virtuoso!

Across: An Exciting New Computer Assisted Translation Tool

Kathryn German

The Across Language Server, developed in Karlsbad, Germany, provides new solutions for both large companies and agencies, and for individual freelance translators. Widely used in Europe by such clients as Volkswagen, Siemens, and SMA Solar, Across has two different editions, one intended for large companies with multiple users, called the **Across Language Server**, and another designed to stand alone, called the **Across Personal Edition**. The former is a comprehensive solution for corporate translation management that provides the all of the features for translation support, plus additional tools for workflow and project management. The Personal Edition is intended for use by freelance translators.

Unlike many other computer assisted translation tools, freelance translators using Across may decide between two different operating modes: **working independently** and alone (the conventional way of using a translation memory tool based on a database located in the translator's local computer); or **working with an external Language Server**. If the freelance translator receives a translation project from a client that has an Across Language Server, that client may allow the translator to have temporary access to their server through a soft key provided just for that project. The client specifies the particular project memory they wish to share and then the freelancer for the project downloads all the relevant data they need to perform the particular translation task, such as the source text and any terminology entries relevant to that translation. Once the translation project has been completed, the target translation can be uploaded to the customer's Across Language Server. Projects are completed not only more quickly, but the client has more control over the consistency of language and terminology.

Across is an integrated tool that functions in its own environment. Because it does not use the Word environment as its interface as so many other computer assisted translation tools do, all files must be converted into a new file format in order to be imported into the translation environment. This is an extra step, but for the most part, Across has a wider variety of files that can then be handled (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe FrameMaker, XML/HTML and others) and the constant

breakdowns caused by integrating Word with a computer assisted translation tool become a thing of the past.

The new work environment in Across, called "**crossDesk**", is quite different from the environment of the most common computer assisted translation tools currently used by translators, and for that reason, it does take a bit of getting used to. The pleasant discoveries more than make up for that initial unfamiliarity. Soon one discovers how nice it is to have everything needed to perform a quality translation all displayed together without having to toggle between multiple documents and websites or having to constantly flip through multiple dictionaries and glossaries. On the left side of the crossDesk user interface, there is a section called **crossView** that gives you easy access to all your files and projects. On the right of the crossDesk work environment there is a section called **crossTerm** that displays your terminology database. There is also a window called **crossSearch** that displays hits from preselected internet sources such as Eurdicautom/IATE or Wkitionary, etc. This user interface can be customized by the individual translator.

Starting a translation: Before starting to translate a project must be created. As part of this process the source document is imported into the Across system, converted into a different format, and then is analyzed and prepared for translation in crossDesk. A pre-translation may be done, comparing the new source document with the current memory, and then automatically inserting any 100% matches into the translation.

During the translation, every paragraph is assigned an editing state and this status data is stored with the paragraph. The translation can be "untouched", "touched" or "translated". As soon as you start to translate the translation moves from an "untouched" state to a "touched" state. Translations are not stored in the memory until they have been fully edited and proofed and manually changed to the "translated" state. This ensures that errors won't end up in the permanent memory.

Across has its own built-in spell-check function and will flag terms that it recognizes as errors during the

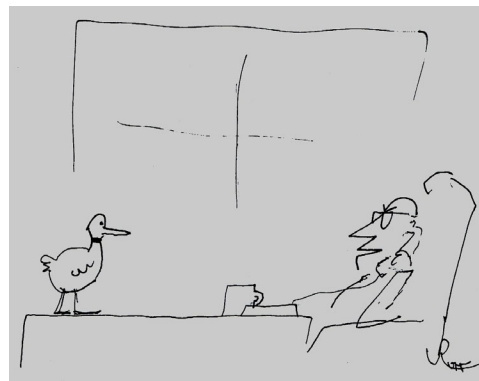
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Cultural Corner

Did you know that one of the greatest concentrations of Basque people in the United States is found in our Northwest States of Idaho and Montana? Until I went to Montana, I did not realize this! The Basques came to this area in order to work as shepherds, and sheep-herding remained a Basque occupation for almost one hundred years and Basque Day is celebrated on August 15th around Montana!

The Basque people have been in Europe since before the arrival of Europeans and are now concentrated in the border area between Spain and France. Their language has fascinated linguists, since it appears to be the only surviving language from the time before Indo-Europeans entered Europe. Interestingly enough, English, which has borrowed a number of words from Spanish and French, has not borrowed a single word from Basque!

Jokebox



"Get me somebody who speaks Mandarin."

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translation process. Right-clicking on the word, allows the translator to select the appropriate term for a list of suggestions. Translators may add words to the built-in dictionary or can import entire dictionaries into the system.

Like other tools, Across also has a concordance search feature, which allows the translator to quickly search the memory for a word or phrase. Additional research may be done on the internet right on the page, in the **crossSearch** section. Some resources have already been entered into crossSearch by default (Google, IATE, Systran, AllWords.com, Ultralingua, etc.). crossSearch is not limited to searching just the internet, but can also be used to search an intranet or local resources.

The **crossTerm** window in **crossDesk** displays a list of all the entries from the crossTerm database that are found in the paragraph currently being translated. They can be inserted into the text with a double-click or by using icons on the toolbar.

Changing Computer Assisted Translation Tools: Transferring your current translation memory to the Across tool is an easy process. The Across Wizard handles both the export of your former system's memory and its import into the new one. Memory segments are imported into **crossTank**, the Across memory, and terminology is imported into **crossTerm**, the terminology management tool.

Across is an exciting new computer assisted translation tool, and one with too many special features to summarize in a short article. If you'd like to review this tool in more depth, the Across website is a wonderful source of information, including guided tours, tutorials, downloadable data, and further contact information if you'd like to review this tool in more depth.

Most exciting of all is the fact that, there are **no license fees for freelance translators**, either for their standalone translation operations or for use of the system in order to connect with an outside client on the Across Language Server. Fees are paid by agencies and businesses that purchase the Across Language Server edition. Online training and interactive tutorials are also offered without charge to freelancers.

For more information, visit the Across website at <http://www.across.net>

Kathryn German is the Secretary of NOTIS, a member of both the ATA and NAJIT, and Secretary for the T & I Institute's Advisory Board. She currently works full-time as the Senior Spanish Translator for Quorum Review, an institutional review board of clinical trials, and also co-teaches the Introduction to Translation & Interpretation course at the T & I Institute with Martha Cohen. Kathryn has completed T & I Institute's Translation Certificate Program coursework, two years of online instruction in Spanish-English translation through International House, Barcelona, and the Cross Cultural Health Program. She also holds a M.A. and B.A. in Spanish Literature and Language, was a Fulbright Fellow to Ecuador, and lived and studied in Spain, Perú, Paraguay, and Guatemala.



WITS & NOTIS Picnic 2009

You're Invited!

Date: Saturday, **August 1st**

Time: 1PM-5pm,

No need to RSVP, just show up!



Where: Magnolia Park, Picnic Shelter 1
1461 Magnolia Blvd W,
Seattle, WA 98199

Park Information: http://www.seattle.gov/PARKS/park_detail.asp?id=317

FROM I-5 NORTH

- Take exit 172 to merge onto N 85th St.
- Turn left at 15th Ave NW
- Slight left at 15th Ave W
- Right at W Garfield St
- Continue on W Galer St
- Continue on Magnolia Blvd W, Magnolia Park will be on your left

FROM I-5 SOUTH

- Take exit 164B for 4th Ave S
- Turn right at 4th Ave S
- Turn right at S Royal Brougham Way
- Turn right at 1st Ave S
- Take the Aurora Ave N/WA-99 ramp onto WA-99 N
- Exit onto Western Ave .Slight left at Elliott Ave W
- Turn right at 14th Ave W
- Slight left toward W Garfield S Slight right at W Garfield St
- Continue on Magnolia Blvd W, Magnolia Park will be on your left

Picnic: Bring a favorite dish to share—something from your country of origin or your second culture. We will provide beverages and utensils. Friends, family, and pets are welcome to this informal event. We will have Frisbees, Hula, jump ropes, etc. Or bring your own to share!



Meeting Our Members

By Katrin Rippel

Every issue of NWL contains an interview with a WITS / NOTIS member conducted by Katrin Rippel. Maybe you'll be next!

Virtuoso in Music and of Words - meeting Vania H. K. Haam

In the previous ten years, not a single Korean interpreter passed the court-certification exam. As is the case for other languages, the candidates often are missing sufficient interpretation skills. But what can you do when there are limited resources for your language? How can you get involved in creating skills for your language community? And what do interpretation, piano playing and running skills have in common? Let's find out by meeting Vania H. Kim Haam, Washington State Certified Court Interpreter for Korean ↔ English.

Vania Haam was born in Korea. She began playing the piano as a child and was an excellent pianist, yet she wanted to pursue a career in law. Entering the American school system in the tenth grade, she doubted that her English would ever be good enough to become a lawyer. Therefore she entered the medical field, but after one year, she returned to her early passion for the piano. She completed her Master of Music in Piano Performance and her Bachelor of Arts from University of Washington, Seattle.

Vania started teaching and giving piano lessons, working afternoons and well into the evenings. Because of her free mornings and her involvements in the Korean community and church, she often found herself called to help in language matters. In one delicate case, where Vania assisted a woman over several weeks in a legal matter, she was recognized for her linguistic excellence, and someone pointed out that she could gain great success as a certified interpreter.

As her teaching schedule deprived her from her young marriage and friends, she started investigating the various certifications and decided to pursue the most difficult one to obtain – the court interpreter certification. By November 1998 she successfully completed the written exam. The following summer, she attended an eight week preparation course for the oral exam that would test her skills in sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous interpretation.

"For practicing, we had tapes recorded with English court room excerpts, yet no Korean counterparts,"

Vania recalls. At that time, there weren't specific resources for simultaneous training in Korean language. Following her intuition, Vania transcribed the tapes into English, and then translated and practiced with the texts in Korean. After knowing the content, she focused on listening to the English voice and the way of its sound in order to recreate the rhythm in Korean. In August 1999, she passed the oral exam with a standing ovation!

Having no professional interpreting experience and no court experience, Vania spent most of the following year observing and shadowing colleagues in court, studying and practicing until she felt comfortable.

"You study a piece on the piano also over a long period of time because it takes only one wrongly played note to fail the piece. I am always striving for perfection, prepare myself well, even over prepare. I am selective with my jobs and I only accept one when I feel sure that I will do a good job." With her approach, Vania is now an interpreter, working on summits, conferences, in federal, state, and municipal courts, and for clients such as Microsoft, Starbucks Coffee Company, Samsung, universities and governmental agencies, just to name a few. She is booked far in advance.

In 2005, along with a few like-minded colleagues, Vania initiated the ATA Korean Language Division that counts now about 300 members, and currently serves as its Administrator. She is involved and active on the board of WITS, and on the Conference Committee of NAJIT.

In June 2009, Vania was asked to work with Agustín Servín de la Mora as the Korean counterpart in the court interpreter skills building workshop by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Vania points out that Agustín is an experienced teacher who makes a clear distinction between linguistic ability and interpretation skills. And the need for better interpretation skills, especially for rare, exotic languages, had become obvious in a lack of court-certified interpreters for various languages in Washington State. Before the workshop, Agustín had asked Vania to translate the English practice scripts into Korean, then to record the Korean counterparts as samples for the students to better practice. Vania was amazed to see that her intuition on how to train herself interpretation skills 10 years ago was an approved one.

Her personal eye opener of the workshop was the fact that interpretation skills don't improve just by interpreting every day: She related to Agustín's example of a

Continues on page 8 ○○○

WORKSHOP DVO IN OREGON

NOTIS is proud to announce a pair of outstanding workshops offered as a single-priced package. This event takes place in the Portland area on **Saturday, August 29, 2009** from noon to 5:15 pm.

Contracts and the Freelance Translator & Interpreter

Presenter: Courtney Searls-Ridge
and

Practical Matters of Literary Translation

Presenter: Laura Wideburg, Ph.D.

Contracts and the Freelance Translator & Interpreter

This workshop addresses the practical aspects of negotiating contracts and agreements with translation agencies/bureaus/companies, other independent contractors, book publishers and other end-clients. Topics include: independent contractor issues, terms of payment, liability, copyright, confidentiality, credits, royalties, and disputes.

If time allows the presenter will conduct small group exercises in which participants analyze sample contracts and role-play negotiations with clients. Contracts used in discussions will include the good, the bad, and the ridiculous, all of which are actual contracts currently used by agencies, bureaus, book publishers, and other end-clients. Participants are strongly encouraged to submit interesting or unusual contracts for discussion to Courtney@GermanLanguageServices.com.

Courtney Searls-Ridge is chief strategist at German Language Services which she founded in 1979. She is co-founder of the Translation and Interpretation Institute at Bellevue College where she teaches Ethics and Business Practices. Her current focus is on curriculum development for high school T&I programs. Courtney is a past president of NOTIS. She served two terms as a director of the ATA board and two terms as secretary of the ATA. She is currently chair of the ATA Mentoring Program.

Courtney has presented similar contract workshops in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Nashville, Los Angeles and Seattle. This presentation has been completely updated to reflect recent changes in the business climate and industry.

Practical Matters of Literary Translation

Have you ever thought of translating a novel, a play or a poem? Translators who wish to start work in literary translation often do not know where to begin or whether literary translation is right for them. This workshop will discuss matters such as getting started in the literary field, genres, copyright holders, contracts, publishers, compensation and ways to work into the field, which is quite different from other kinds of translation work.

Laura A. Wideburg, Ph. D. is the current President of NOTIS and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Swedish Translators in North America (STiNA). She has translated a book of poetry, three psychological thrillers and an upcoming economics book. She is presently working on her fourth thriller.

Event details

Location: Beaverton Round
12725 SW Millikan Way, Suite 300
Beaverton OR 97005
MAX station: Beaverton Central

This event has been scheduled to accommodate the use of public transportation from Seattle and other cities in Western Washington via AMTRAK and MAX (Portland area's light rail system). Come to the "City of Roses" for the day or stay for the weekend to enjoy Portland's coffeehouses, restaurants, book stores and parks.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR AUGUST 29 WORKSHOPS IN OREGON

Send registration form and a check for the correct amount payable to NOTIS to: NOTIS
1037 NE 65th St. #107
Seattle, WA 98115

Name: -----

Address: -----

Email: -----

Phone: -----

Please check one:

☐ \$42 NOTIS / WITS member

☐ \$54 Non-member

Refunds: We regret that no refunds can be given after August 26, 2009.

—PAID ADVERTISEMENT—

Wireless Communications Equipment for Interpreters

The use of wireless equipment for simultaneous interpretation frees the interpreter from having to sit next to the listener. The interpreter can now move to a spot offering the best hearing and visibility, where the interpreter can concentrate on the message without interruptions or distractions.

Although some courts provide this type of equipment for its interpreters, availability is not always guaranteed. And many courts and other venues don't even offer it.

For less than \$100, interpreters can now have their own set of wireless transmitter and receiver, including microphone and earphone. In many instances, the rental of similar equipment for just one day exceeds this purchase cost.

TN Communications offers dependable, long-lasting wireless equipment. Equipment is very light and small and easily fits in a shirt pocket. Transmitters and receivers come with a one-year warranty.



In addition to our VHF single-channel equipment, we offer VHF 3-channel equipment and our newest addition, UHF 16-channel equipment. We also have battery chargers and optional headset microphones and headphones.

Visit www.tncommunications.com for product specifications and availability. Or you may call 1-888-371-9005 or email info@tncommunications.com for more information.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
August 28, 2009	De Chile a Chihuahua: Reformas Procesales Penales en América Latina	Video presentation Email: tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov	Olympia, WA
August 29, 2009	“Contracts and the Freelance Translator & Interpreter,” presented by Courtney Searls-Ridge “Practical Matters of Literary Translation,” presented by Laura Wideburg, Ph.D.	info@notisnet.org	Beaverton Round 12725 SW Millikan Way, Suite 300 Beaverton OR
September 12-13, 2009	 Tennessee Assn. of Professional Interpreters & Translators Annual Conference	www.tapit.org	Nashville, TN
September 14-16, 2009	GALA 2009: The business of language The language of business	www.gala-global.org	J.W. Marriott, Cancún, Mexico
September 19, 2009	“Speaking Out on Ethical Issues,” presented by the Language Exchange	11:00am - 1:00pm http://www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm	Burlington, WA
September 19, 2009	“Legalese, Latin Phrases, Acronyms,” presented by the Language Exchange	1:30pm - 3:30pm http://www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm	Burlington, WA
September 26, 2009	NOTIS International Translation Day Event	www.notisnet.org	University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture Seattle, WA
October 9-11, 2009	California Federation of Interpreters 7 th Annual Continuing Education Conference	www.cfinews.org	San Francisco, CA
October 9-11, 2009	International Medical Interpreters Association Annual Conference	www.imiaweb.org	Boston, MA
October 16-17, 2009	WASCLA SUMMIT V, “Ensuring Language Access in the 21 st Century”	www.wascla.org	Spokane, WA
October 17, 2009	Wordfast Level 1	www.gotobcc.com/translation Jamie Lucero at 425-564-3177	Bellevue Community College Bellevue, WA
October 24, 2009	Alcohol and Crime - a Seminar for Spanish Language Interpreters - Carol N. Meredith, Ph.D.	Info: dianameredith@gmail.com 9:00am to 4:30pm 6 AOC credits	Bellevue Community College North Campus, Room 267, 10700 Northup Way, Bellevue, WA
October 28-31, 2009	 50 th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association	www.atanet.org	Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York, NY

...Calendar (continues from page 15)

Date	Event	Details	Location
November 21, 2009	NOTIS Annual Meeting & ATA Conference Recap	infor@notisnet.org	TBA
December 12, 2009	NOTIS/WITS Holiday Potluck Party	info@notisnet.org	University of Washington Waterfront Activities Center Seattle, WA

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

NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
NOTIS	September 16, 2009, 6:30pm	TBD	infor@notisnet.org
WITS	September 24, 2009, 7:30 pm	By phone	kennethbarger@q.com
NOTIS	October 22, 2009, 6:30 pm	TBD	info@notisnet.org

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

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