

# THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 23 No.4, Fall 2009

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## Letter from the NOTIS President

By Laura A. Wideburg

How fast the year has gone by! Now I am finally feeling like a President, and have one more year to go before my six-year NOTIS Board term expires.

I am happy to say that our Portland Seminars and our Translation Day events were both great successes! The program committee and I would like to continue to increase our offerings of programs to our membership, and if you have any ideas for seminars, feel free to contact me or the Program Directors. Also, I would like to give a special thank you to those members who took the effort to tell me how much they enjoyed my literary translation seminar in Portland. This was my first seminar offering, and I was pleased by your turn-out, your questions and your feedback. The Program committee will be considering a repeat in the Seattle area for those who missed it!

Our Annual meeting and ATA recap will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> (See details elsewhere in this newsletter) so be sure to come and share your ideas. (There are no ballot items for the annual meeting. Members running for the Board have been chosen by acclamation, as provided by our revised By-Laws in cases where there are no competing candidates).

I am also very excited by our cooperation with the World Trade Center Tacoma, which can increase the access of quality translation to our local business community! Look for Katrin Rippel's article elsewhere in this Newsletter and contact her to get involved.

Finally, each year brings transition, and this year I want to thank Cristina Paget, our outgoing Treasurer, for her fantastic work making sure our books balance. I also want to thank Andrea Brugman, a solid and dependable Vice-President, who also is leaving the NOTIS Board. Your years of service to NOTIS have been much appreciated.

And last but not least, so long to my "Partner President", Kenny Barger, who has served WITS long and well. I enjoyed learning to be President by often calling my colleague, and together we have continued to bring increased levels of cooperation and friendship between WITS and NOTIS.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and the Holiday Party! *Vi ses!*

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 A chapter of the  
**American Translators Association**

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WITShasa Web page which can be visited at www.witsnet.org.

## NOTIS Notes

### New Members

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Harumi Branch        |  |
| Anthony Brown        | Spanish < > English  |
| Norma Candia         | English > Spanish  |
| Maria Concordia      |  |
| Teresa Suarez Cronin |  |
| Anne Dumoulin        |  |
| Helen Eby            | English < > Spanish  |
| Allison Howard       |  |
| Teresa Ramon Joffre  | English > Spanish  |
| Cristina Klatovsky   | English < > Spanish<br>German > English  |
| Gabrielle Knight     | Portuguese < > English   |
| Loan Nguyen-Phan     |  |
| Ionela Popescu       | Romanian < > English<br>French < > English<br>Spanish > English<br>Italian > English |
| Jared Prost-Hughart  |  |
| Faiza Sultan         |  |
| Khushdev Tiwana      |  |
| Ine-Marie Van Dam    | French < > English<br>Dutch > English<br>German > English<br>Spanish > English       |

### Rejoining Members

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Christopher Schindler | Japanese > English<br>Portuguese > English<br>Russian > English<br>French > English<br>German > English |
| Sarah Ellen Curtis    | Spanish > English   |
| Norma Fender          | Spanish < > English   |

## WITS Notes

### New Members

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Cristina Bravo de Rueda | Spanish     |
| Anne Crawford           | Spanish     |
| Noland A. Edwards       | Marshallese |
| Takashi Hashimoto       | Japanese    |
| Galina Korotkova        | Russian     |
| Larisa Kulinich         | Russian     |

### Rejoining Members

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Dimitri Balashov  | Russian |
| Maria Uribe-Dopps | Spanish |

## Jokebox

### Language Divide

A Swiss man, looking for directions, pulls up at a bus stop where two Americans are waiting.

“Entschuldigung, koennen Sie Deutsch sprechen?” he asks.

The two Americans just stare at him.

“Excusez-moi, parlez vous Francais?” he tries.

The two continue to stare.

“Parlare Italiano?”

No response.

“Hablan ustedes español?”

Still nothing.

The Swiss guy drives off, extremely disgusted.

The first American turns to the second and says, “Y’know, maybe we should learn a foreign language.”

“Why?” says the other. “That guy knew four languages, and it didn’t do him any good.”

## Letter from the WITS President

By *Kenneth Barger*

I have just returned from the WASCLA Summit V. This two-day conference was held on the Washington State University Riverpoint Campus in Spokane. It was well attended by colleagues from all around the state, as well as professionals from many other related fields.

The quality of the panels and presentations seems to be steadily improving with each summit. Each panel was relevant and stimulating. There were presentations on colloquial expressions, ethics, language access in mental health, and much more. WASCLA is upping the ante, and it is gratifying to see this evolution. See Lorane West's article elsewhere in this issue to read more about this event.

WASCLA is currently in the process of formalizing its existence, and meantime, with the current economic situation, many sources of funding have ceased to exist. WITS was called on to support this summit in a bigger way this year than in past years, with financial sponsorship as well as some administrative assistance. I am glad that we were able to contribute in this way to what I consider to have been a very successful event.

This year, WITS and WASCLA have done more programs east of the mountains than in the past. This is terrific and should continue; however, we must not neglect our constituents in the west either. Many members will be pleased to know that next year, the WASCLA Summit will be held in Seattle.

Turning to the future, WITS will be sponsoring several more events before the end of the year. We have educational workshops on November 14 and November 22, in Shoreline and SeaTac, respectively. And as per the custom, we will hold the Holiday Party with NOTIS on December 12. Don't miss it!

Finally, as the year draws to a close, it is time to think about renewing your membership. You will find a renewal form elsewhere in this issue. Please take a moment to renew now, and consider taking advantage of the discounted price for renewing both your WITS and NOTIS membership at the same time. And thank you for supporting your professional organizations.

## Interpretation Ethics Debate – A Response

By *Ellen Whiting*

On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, a workshop on court interpreter ethics was conducted at the Language Exchange in Burlington, led by Joseph Tein. The subject was a fourteen-page essay written by a certified court interpreter and professor of interpreting, Erik Camayd-Freixas, regarding his experiences while interpreting for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement in May of 2008. The professor had quite clearly violated the code of ethics for court interpreters by speaking out on the case and losing his impartiality and neutrality, although this had no impact on the outcome of case, since he did it after the case was over. A lively discussion ensued at the workshop, with the general consensus being that he had indeed violated the code of ethics, but that this did not harm the profession of court interpreters; it was a personal decision on his part, since he had come to the point where he could no longer be impartial.

The following is a condensed version of my own response to Professor Camayd-Freixas' essay. The complete version, spanning five pages, containing 2,500 words and a considerable amount of sarcasm, is available upon request by email from: [ellenmwhiting@comcast.net](mailto:ellenmwhiting@comcast.net)

I wholeheartedly disagree with Erik Camayd-Freixas' assessment of the entire situation. He claims to be neutral and impartial, but he is not; he has a political bias and a vendetta against the Bush administration that comes through clearly in his writing. He claims that the defendants were innocent of any wrongdoing, and that they were forced to plead guilty without understanding what they had done wrong; but the facts do not support this claim. He tries to make the case that the problem is that the Department of Homeland Security is under the Executive Branch of the government, rather than the Judi-

*Continues on page 8* ○○○

## The Magic of WASCLA

By Lorane Alisa West

The 2009 WASCLA conference was by all accounts the best ever, with a broad spectrum of representatives from government, education, legal and medical professions, in addition to language specialists for both speaking and deaf communities. Speakers included experts on domestic violence, civil rights and mental health, and ranged from local to national. There were several excellent panel discussions facilitated by our own interpreters. Seminars and conferences take place every day. What was so special about WASCLA? Let me share my personal experience.

On a personal note, I was able to ride over and room with a wonderful interpreter who now knows me better than she should (I hope she can keep her mouth shut — luckily interpreters are trained to do this!) We had so much fun that when I mentioned to others over lunch that we had been talking and giggling long into the night, another participant asked drily if we were in Room 223 because they could hear people laughing and crowing through the wall into the small hours of the night. That was us.

More importantly, of course, the collegial atmosphere was palpable. Yet we were not all colleagues in the traditional sense of the word. Think about how many interpreter trainings you have attended where everyone is — well — an interpreter. Yet at WASCLA I was in a room with interpreters, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, school administrators, government officials, national consultants, mental health experts, union representatives, agency owners, and many other experts and stakeholders. What an amazing group! I do not remember, for example, ever having had the opportunity to speak with and hear from so many ASL interpreters. There are so many overlaps and yet some very vital differences, and these ASL attendees and panelists offered information to deepen our understanding. Interpreters representing languages of limited diffusion brought up the lack of available certification and other issues of concern. Colleagues in Spokane gave some surprising data about which languages were prevalent in their school system, and reminded us of the ever-changing community needs anywhere refugees settle. Civil rights attorneys, lobbyists, union reps, agency owners and others sat side by side and shared information throughout WASCLA. I cannot think of another gathering place for all these stakeholders, nor of a better environment for open, respectful interchange.

During one panel, some very serious ethical dilemmas were thrown out to the audience for us to say how we would respond. I heard one interpreter jokingly whisper, “Oops! All our bosses are in the room!” Okay, so that was me. In spite of some natural hesitation, interpreters did bravely open up and give their opinions on how they would respond and we were able to get incredible and wide-ranging feedback from interpreter coordinators, ethics gurus and judges, as well as from other interpreters. We all went back time and time again to our code and talked about which sections apply and how to best interpret the code for given hypothetical situations.

But again, WITS members Downer Debbie and Negative Ned may mutter, who cares? We do this at our interpreter seminars *ad nauseum*. So how was it different to have all these stakeholders in one room? Well, here is one example. Subpoenas scare people, and interpreters are people. At interpreter-only trainings, there is a long-standing joke that our testimony will consist of “I don’t remember.” Our code clearly says that we will not act as a witness, and interpreters often express that it is hard to understand how these subpoenas fit into our code, and amongst ourselves we have been heard to whine about how the cops should just testify for themselves and leave us out of it. Along these lines, some idiot actually took the mic during WASCLA to ask if in the given hypothetical where the interpreter was subpoenaed to testify after a police investigation, “Was the police officer dead?” to make the point that interpreters wish to be left alone to do their impartial work and never never ever testify. Okay, that was me again. I hadn’t slept much. Luckily for all, a prosecutor grabbed the mic and explained what should have been obvious to me years ago: the monolingual police cannot possibly have personal knowledge as to what the suspect said, only as to what the interpreter said. It is perfectly reasonable to voir dire the interpreter to establish linguistic competence, thus linking the chain of testimony from suspect to police report. In a large room of many different opinions, we were able to have an open discussion of this delicate issue and reach a broad consensus that interpreters should be available to be voir dired but that does not mean it is appropriate to ask us to give opinions on matters such as body language, credibility, etc., areas in which we are clearly not trained experts. To tell you the truth, a part of me (by weight about 158

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## Go Global, Be Local: A new alliance between NOTIS and the World Trade Center Tacoma (WTCTA)

By *Katrin Rippel*

NOTIS has over 250 professional members providing translation and interpretation services in more than 38 languages. The WTC Tacoma “grows trade” and their members are individuals, specifically entrepreneurs of small and large companies who would like to expand their businesses worldwide. Wouldn’t be the next logical step that both organizations work together and help connecting local businesses with local translators and interpreters for international success?

Yes, indeed. In early summer, Laura Wideburg, president of NOTIS, and myself, Outreach Committee Co-Chair, went to the WTCTA and met with Nathalie Bougenies, Membership and Outreach Director, and Mariam Anderson, Events Coordinator, of the World Trade Center Tacoma.



**Nathalie Bougenies**

The World Trade Center Association is a non-profit organization that brings together businesses and government agencies involved in international trade, providing extensive trade services and thus functioning as an economic stimulus in a particular region.

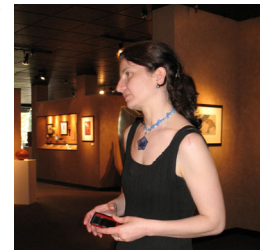
Over the last years, I had attended various events of the WTC Tacoma and found while talking to members a lack of knowledge of the importance of professionally translated material when doing or intending to do business in other countries. I even had heard comments of English being the world language anyway! With my becoming part of the Board and Outreach Committee of NOTIS, the idea of building a connection between NOTIS and WTCTA members and educating the local community about professional translation/interpretation was born.

After an inspirational discussion between the four of us, lots of brainstorming, and the approval of both boards, we sealed our alliance with an informal Reciprocal Agreement.

With that, the WTC Tacoma will highlight our organization on their website, their broadcast emails and their membership package. The NOTIS Outreach Committee

created a flyer for that purpose and also delivered ATA’s excellent brochure “Translation — getting it right”, and some of our newsletters “The Northwest Linguist”. In addition, we prepared a short introductory presentation on NOTIS for WTCTA new member orientation events or for WTCTA networking events.

With that in place, NOTIS members might also receive an email once a while announcing WTC Tacoma events that might be interesting to attend for getting informed on international business updates, and for networking. Furthermore, in the redesign of the NOTIS website, we plan to include possibilities for local businesses to post their need for translation and interpretation professionals.



**Mariam Anderson**

The WTCTA provides us a platform for offering more presentations, such as “Solutions for Translation/ Interpretation Buyers” or “Entering the Chinese Market” or “Translate your Website” or “Contract Translation”.

If you like to give a presentation, let us know about it, and we can help you make your educational “publicity” happen! With enough interest and participation from you, we may also consider creating regular events, consisting of educational sessions (your presentations) and/or panels, and networking between local translators/interpreters and local businesses. This alliance can be your chance to compile your wisdom, and get up and make yourself known for your experiences, and reach potential new customers - or maybe find like-minded and create strategic partnerships with other NOTIS members. You never know where it might go!

The NOTIS Outreach Committee hopes that this will help to raise awareness to the importance of professional translation, interpretation and cultural education, and make our organization a one-stop resource for finding local language professionals, as well as supporting the success of local companies. For your ideas or interest in participation, please send an email to Katrin Rippel at [outreach@notisnet.org](mailto:outreach@notisnet.org)

## “Start Behaving like a Business”

By Louise Morehead

Now, there's a thought! Within this entitling concept, are many notions that will bring us forward as translators and fulfillers of other linguistic needs, and help us seat our talents as a reliable source of livelihood.

Judy Jenner of Twin Translations, based in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Vienna, Austria, recently joined us Northwestern linguists to celebrate International Translation Day by bringing us her highly informative and enlightening presentation of *The Entrepreneurial Linguist* on September 26, 2009. Against the back-drop of the beautiful University of Washington Horticultural Center, Ms. Jenner, or Judy — as today's Northwesterners would call her — led us through a full day of information sharing relevant to the language professional. She has combined her expertise and experience as a translator with her MBA, and built a body of knowledge and ideas that all we linguists can put to good use.

Judy's “Lessons from Business School” guided her enthusiastic audience from basic business practice such as keeping good records, decreasing expenses, and finding sound tax advice, to making our mark and standing out among the many professionals a prospective client may encounter.

The Entrepreneurial Concept of language professionalism is no small matter. Judy includes this in her five fundamental lessons to be learned and carried into and

through the exercise of our related fields, along with: behaving like a business; not feeling intimidated when negotiating with clients; pricing our highly specialized skill accordingly; and being generous with colleagues and others in our profession by sharing knowledge and support.

Networking and relationship building were among the many processes of the day, and the balance between the presentation and audience participation seemed satisfying, as shown by the many supportive and illustrative anecdotes and case examples shared by the listeners as part of the presentation. Jamie M. Lucero and Andrea Brugman of our Program Committee must be heartily thanked.

And special thanks go to Judy Jenner, who has made a rule of applying her sound advice through her willingness to share her successful strategies with us. Thank you, Judy.

As the month of October progresses, I can only await eagerly the next educational or social event our NOTIS Programs Committee has in store for us. Now, let's do business!

*Louise Morehead*  
NOTIS Board Member  
206 713 4369



Judy Jenner



Kathryn German, Jamie Lucero, Andrea Brugman,  
Judy Jenner, Ferdi Nadir and Louise Morehead

...WASCLA (Continued from page 5) ○○○

pounds of me) really wants to pretend I understood this fully all along, but let's face it. This was a real eye opener for me and for some others. Another example of how important it is for interpreters to reach beyond the bounds of our own profession and share information on how to meet the needs of the stakeholders, while always, always maintaining our professional standards. These kinds of issues cannot be aired, discussed and resolved unless we are in the same room together, in an open and collegial environment where we are able to trust each other and get down to business. In a word, at WASCLA.

One last example. In an informal conversation with a lobbyist on the issue of L&I coverage for interpreters, he said offhand that he supposed L&I coverage to be of low priority for interpreters. Well! It was news to him that medical interpreters are actually at high risk of workplace injury from communicable diseases as well as a certain degree of exposure to radiation and other substances, leaving aside the emotional toll of some of the work. When I shared my story about unwittingly spending several hours in a labor room with a coughing, active TB patient, no one wearing a mask, and the hospital and (now defunct) agency's refusal to offer me so much as the skin test, as I didn't really "work" for anybody, it really brought home to him issues related to interpreter needs that he just didn't know about. And the look of surprise and concern on his face brought home to me that many interested parties and stakeholders simply don't spend enough time together to be fully aware of one another's needs and points of view. We simply all have so much to

learn from the experiences of others. This is why WASCLA matters above and beyond the typical continuing education credit option.

At WASCLA, there was a shared understanding that we are all in this together; that all stakeholders have an interest in maintaining and improving language access; and that we are capable of sharing information and learning from each other in order to further that goal. A gathering of experts of such scope and magnitude is amazing. So is discovering our areas of ignorance and expanding our knowledge bases into areas where we didn't even know we were lacking. Throughout the conference, time and time again, speakers took the mic to say, "I did not know anything about this particular issue and now I want to know more!" Their questions and fresh points of view enriched the experience for all of us. And this, my friends, is the magic of WASCLA. I hope you will all plan to attend next year's conference and participate in this amazing networking and learning opportunity. And when you do, be kind to everyone from lobbyist to union rep, keep me away from the mic, and don't get a hotel room near me and Milena if you wish to sleep. Because none of our neighbors will get to sleep before we do. One more reminder that whether we choose to cry ourselves to sleep, rock with hysterical laughter, or roll up our sleeves and get to work, we are all in this together. Welcome to WASCLA!

*Lorane West is a Washington State Court Certified Spanish interpreter and the author of COLOR: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest. She can be reached at [patinowest@comcast.net](mailto:patinowest@comcast.net)*

...Ethics Debate (Continued from page 4) ○○○

cial Branch, and therefore the illegal immigrants were denied due process. He proclaims the defendants innocent, although he clearly does not have all the facts, and his motivation in declaring them innocent is simply to condemn the United States and its efforts to protect its citizens. He criticizes DHS for not doing enough to combat terrorism, yet at the same time he believes that we should not enforce our immigration laws, because the poor Guatemalan peasants who were the targets of this raid were just here trying to earn an honest living and support their families back home. He is dangerously naïve in his beliefs that our laws are unjust and that we are wrong to try to enforce them.

...Faiza Sultan (Continued from page 4) ○○○

Theater, the Arabic language and teaching have accompanied Faiza her whole life. Her present roles as mother of four children, wife to her husband from her second marriage and business woman of a growing company give her barely time for much else, yet she nurtures a new 'old' dream: Starting a nonprofit organization, creating educational plays and going back to Iraq to travel by bus from villages to towns to perform important messages for new, healthy lives.



## Meeting Our Members

By Katrin Rippel

*Katrin Rippel interviews a WITS / NOTIS Member for every issue of the Northwest Linguist. Maybe you will be next?*

### Soul language in the face of war - meeting Faiza Sultan



Faiza Sultan

A simple stage was set before improvised rows of chairs. Women, covered in traditional scarves and of all ages with their children running between them were following the play on the stage — a most unusual happening in the little Iraqi village. Romeo just died before Juliet's eyes because his mother hadn't given him the polio vaccine when he was a child. The bus of the American health organization with Faiza Sultan and the other actors was long gone, but the message stayed unforgettable with the village folk.

Faiza Sultan grew up in Northern Iraq in Arbil, the capitol of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region. With Kurdish-Arabic inheritance she started learning Arabic language very early, and is a true bilingual. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from University of Mosul, College of Education in Mosul, Iraq. With her excellent English skills, Faiza started working as an Interpreter for an American humanitarian agency, teaching health education. It was her passion for role plays and acting that gave her the brilliant idea of using known plays and folk stories and adapting them for teaching essentials of health issues. Faiza developed and directed those dramatic demonstrations that the group then presented in Iraqi villages with lasting success in health care education.

Faiza Sultan, who only remembered two years not dominated by war, sanctions and struggle, had to leave her home country when Saddam Hussein ordered the death of anyone helping foreigners and their organizations in 1996. The American organization evacuated Faiza and the other interpreters, and for several months she stayed in a Guam refugee camp not knowing what the future would bring. Upon her final arrival in the US she was hired right away as an Interpreter to help refugees, and is since then continuously involved in translation and interpretation for immigration, courts, Non-Governmental Organizations and at the Department of Social Health

Services (DSHS). Faiza settled down in Seattle where she obtained DSHS Medical Certifications for Kurdish and Arabic languages.

She married a Kurdish refugee and her first son was born. Faiza enjoyed the peace around her. She was in telephone contact with her family, was able to send them money regularly and hoped that one day she could travel back to see her family.

Faiza started to teach Kurdish and Arabic languages on various institutions in the Seattle area such as the Islamic School, the Washington Academy of Languages and Bellevue Community College. For Faiza, Arabic was the language of her soul and its sound was music to her ears. When she wrote short stories or poems, she wrote not in Kurdish but in Arabic. Faiza loves teaching this language: "If someone is open for it, they can learn quite a bit of it in 10 months."

The smiling faces which mirrored her own ceased with 9/11. "I am not a terrorist," she said to a Seattle Times journalist who was writing a series of articles about Faiza and her family. "It's as if the war is chasing me." With the U.S. invasion in Iraq in 2003, most direct communication with her family was interrupted until Saddam's fall. She was glued to a satellite television as she tried to get glimpses of her family, and put pieces of what was truly happening there together via watching the diverse (and often controversial) news in Arabic and English languages.

"Iraqi dialects were getting in demand as well as cultural education", said Faiza, "This cultural knowledge became essential for saving lives." Faiza started conducting cultural workshops for US Army Soldiers at Fort Lewis, WA. Over the following years, Faiza built up strong experiences in Arabic and Kurdish Curriculum Development. She created and organized online lessons in various Iraqi dialects and Modern Standard Arabic as well as test scripts for the GLOSS (Global Language Online Support System) Project and the Defense Language Institute on an ongoing basis, together with the University of Maryland and Avant Assessment.

In 2005, Faiza founded Translation4all, LLC, a translation and interpretation company for Arabic and Kurdish. She manages a large team of linguists and organizes transcription, translation and localization projects of all sizes, especially in Arabic and Kurdish, and primarily for military and government agencies. Since 2008 she has been serving as one director of the NOTIS Board and in its Outreach Committee.

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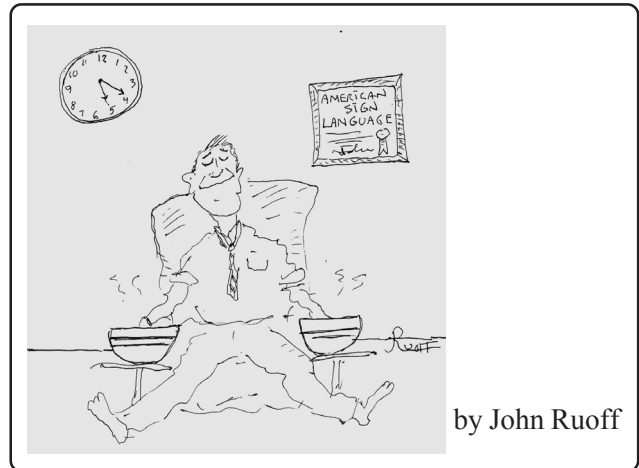
## NOTIS ELECTION FOR THE BOARD 2010

### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

*Nicole Pennebaker*

I'm a Northwest native who has recently relocated back to Seattle after spending 10 years living in the Southwest. After completing my M.A. in French from the University of Colorado at Boulder, my husband and I moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where I taught French at the Alliance Française, the University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College. I began working as a freelance translator in 2007 and made it my full time occupation when we arrived back in Seattle in 2008. It has been thrilling to discover all of the opportunities available to translators and interpreters in the Northwest, many of these thanks to the hard work of NOTIS. I have been able to attend conferences on topics ranging from localization to contracts and literary translation, and became ATA-certified in my language pair. I've learned an enormous amount from these events as well as from the colleagues I've met. Earlier this year I attended a NOTIS board meeting and was impressed by the warm reception I received and the wide range of

initiatives and activities the board is undertaking. Although I'm relatively new to the profession, if elected I can offer the board my enthusiasm and willingness to work hard on behalf of this organization and its members. I would be honored to serve NOTIS as a board member and help carry on its work of promoting our profession and serving as a resource for translators and interpreters.



by John Ruoff

—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.

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## Cultural Corner

By Laura A. Wideburg

I was reading a book to my daughter called *If America were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States*. One interesting aspect discussed was the languages spoken in the United States, which I would like to paraphrase here:

If America were a village of 100 people, 82 people speak English as a first language, 10 people speak Spanish, 1 speaks Chinese, 1 speaks French and one speaks German. All other languages are smaller than one person per language, but languages spoken include languages from all parts of the globe, such as Tagalog, Vietnamese, Italian, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, Khmer, Navajo, Hmong, and the Scandinavian languages.

What a wealth of languages we find right here within our own country! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could

celebrate this benefit, and not just on International Translator's Day every September. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every High School could offer language courses in the top four languages spoken here at home! Wouldn't it be wonderful if a greater diversity of languages could be taught at all levels of education in this country!

Instead, I fear that the teaching and dissemination of languages is seen as a perk that is one of the first to go whenever budgets must be cut. The number of professors in the Humanities has declined in the United States by 25%. I do not even want to contemplate the teaching of languages at the other levels. Chinese is one exception, due to the Chinese government's interest in supporting its promotion in other countries and therefore the increase in funding that has moved into American schools).

We all benefit when we realize that human beings speak more or less 6000 different languages, and learning just one expands our understanding of each other, not only abroad but also here at home.

### Membership Renewal for 2010

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

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(for Corporate and Institutional members only)

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Seattle, WA 98115

**WITS** only     Individual: \$45     Supporting: \$50

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Seattle, WA 98115



# NOTIS/WITS Traditional Holiday Party!

**Date: Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009**

**Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

*University of Washington  
Waterfront Activities Center  
Montlake Blvd NE and Pacific Ave NE,  
Seattle, WA 98195*

***Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the company of colleagues and friends, live music, and international dishes.***

***Beverages provided. Bring a non-perishable item for the food bank.***

***RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009 to (206) 382-5690***

## Events Calendar

| Date                 | Event  | Details  | Location  |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| November 9-13, 2009  | Nevada Interpreters & Translators Association (NITA)<br>Connecting Worlds<br>Training for Health Care Interpreters   | Phone: (775) 772-9319<br>Email: t.young@nitaonline.org | St Mary's<br>Regional Hospital<br>Reno, NV                      |
| November 14, 2009    | Introduction to Localization   | Presenter: Colleen Nylund<br>9 am - 2:30 pm            | Bellevue College, North<br>Campus, Bellevue, WA                 |
| November 11-14, 2009 | American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)<br>2009 ALTA Conference   | www.utdallas.edu/alta                                  | Pasadena, CA  |
| November 14, 2009    | Team Interpreting and Ethics Workshop  | www.witsnet.org/programs<br>/INDEXcalendar.htm         | SeaTac, WA  |
| November 20-22, 2009 | American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Annual Convention and World Languages Expo<br>Speaking Up for Languages, the Power of Many Voices                        | www.actfl.org  | San Diego, CA   |
| November 21, 2009    | Northern California Translators Assoc (NCTA)<br>- SDL Trados Studio 2009 Workshop for Beginners<br>-SDL Trados Studio 2009 Workshop for Upgraders                                      | www.ncta.org   | San Francisco, CA   |
| November 21, 2009    | NOTIS Annual Meeting & ATA Conference Recap  | 1pm - 4 pm<br>info@notisnet.org                        | Bellevue College, North<br>Campus, Bellevue, WA                 |
| November 22, 2009    | Ethics Workshop plus Cicero and Plato at the Clinic  | www.witsnet.org/programs<br>/INDEXcalendar.htm         | Shoreline, WA   |
| November 28-29, 2009 | Organización Mexicana de Traductores (OMT)<br>13 <sup>th</sup> Int'l Translation & Interpretation Interpretation Congress San Jerónimo<br>Translation: The Borderline Between Cultures | www.omt.org.mx/  | Guadalajara,<br>Mexico  |
| December 5, 2009     | Wordfast Level II  | 10 am to 5 pm<br>Presenter: Jamie Lucero               | Bellevue College, North<br>Campus. Bellevue, WA<br>Bellevue, WA |
| December 12, 2009    | NOTIS/WITS Holiday Potluck Party   | info@notisnet.org                                      | University of WA<br>Waterfront Activities Center<br>Seattle, WA |
| December 27-30, 2009 | Modern Language Association (MLA)<br>125 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention   | www.mla.org/   | Philadelphia, PA  |

### ...Calendar (continued from page 13)

| Date   | Event   | Details  | Location   |
|--|---|--|------------|
| February 3-6, 2010   | National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Annual Conference | <a href="http://www.nabe.org/">www.nabe.org/</a>   | Denver, CO |
| July-December 2010<br><br>Registration Deadline is Dec 7, 2009 | TIP-Lab 21st Spanish Translation /Revision Workshop                   | <a href="http://www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm">www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm</a> | online     |

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

### NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

| Organization | Date & Time                | Location   | Contact  |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------|--|
| WITS         | December 3, 2009, 7:30 pm  | Telephonic | <a href="mailto:kennethbarger@q.com">kennethbarger@q.com</a> |
| NOTIS        | December 15, 2009, 6:30 pm | TBD        | <a href="mailto:info@notisnet.org">info@notisnet.org</a>     |

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

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