

# THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 22 No. 1, Winter 2008

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## NOTIS ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

By Verla Viera

Dr. Larissa Kulinich opened the 2007 annual NOTIS members meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> with the traditional call to those present to introduce themselves. Those attending learned through the introductions that proficiency in 12 different languages was represented among those present. Experience ranged from one member who cited her 44 years as a translator to a new member who has been in the U.S. only ten months. Both new members and long-time members were there for the event. We learned that our membership is up slightly this year, to 327 from 310, and that we now have members in 17 different states.

President Kulinich highlighted the past year's activities of the society, such as the TRADOS workshop held at Bellevue Community College and the International Translation Day event. The MedSIG's three forums, aimed at increasing skills of medical interpreters, have been hugely successful.

The president also mentioned two future goals of the society that will be a focus of board strategic planning: more outreach to schools and other organizations, and increasing the visibility of the society and the profession.

Also in our plans for the coming year is an anniversary celebration! Both NOTIS and WITS were formed in 1988, so look for news of special events celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the two.

Directors Ken Wagner and Renée Palermo served as supervisors for the election of new and returning board members. Returning for an additional term are Andrea Brugman, Christina Paget, Jonas Nicotra and Laura Wideburg. Joining the board for the first time are Ferdinand Nadir and Enrique García-Ayaviri.

Following the election, Dr. Laura Wideburg served as emcee for the ATA recap portion of the meeting. Members learned that three NOTIS members—Wideburg, Marissa Wright, and Caitilin Walsh all presented sessions at the conference. Wideburg also reported that Swedish will soon be an ATA-certified language, and that she will be among the graders once the certification exam is implemented.

Walsh has recently joined the ATA board, and she reported on developments around the certification process. She noted that ATA is currently considering

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### Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society

A chapter of the  
American Translators Association

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Vice-President	Andrea Brugman
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Our voicemail telephone number is (206) 382-5690.

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

## NOTIS Notes

### New Members

Griselda Barraza	Spanish
Charnjit Dhillon	Gujarati
	Hindi
	Punjabi
Hoang Dieu-Hien	
Steven Eberlein	Spanish
Mary Ellen Ertel	Spanish
Victor Guzman	Spanish
Vania Haam	Korean
Fumi Janssen	Japanese
Yun Sook Kim	Korean
Nicole Lee	Korean
Mariana Ludosan	Romanian
	French
Louise Morehead	
Lisa Rottach	Spanish
Nasrin Shirmohammadi	
Paul Tu	Vietnamese
Thérèse Mirande	

### New Institutional Members

Pierce College Fort Steilacoom

### New Corporate Members

Conversa Spanish Translations

## WITS Notes

### New Members

Regina Fabbri-Cosby	Portuguese
	Spanish
Charnjit Dhillon	Gujarati
	Hindi
	Punjabi
Yun Sook Kim	Korean
Julie Simon	ASL
Wendy Tan	Mandarin
	Cantonese
Christina Woelz	Spanish
	French
	German

### Rejoining Members

Maiyim Baron	Japanese
Celia Prieto-Butterfield	Spanish
Kun H. Park	Korean
Joseph V. Pham	Vietnamese
Griselda Ruiz	Spanish

### Corporate Members

Thérèse Mirande

## NOTIS President Address

Dear NOTIS members,

First of all, I would like to wish all of you lots of success, great achievements, and new, exciting projects in 2008!

It's the right time to take stock of the accomplishments over the past year and plan for the future. One of the obvious successes is that our organization has grown considerably. As of December 2007, NOTIS had 336 members. Of course, growth is measured not only in terms of quantity. In fact, it reflects on and results from the dedicated work, commitment, passion and enthusiasm both of the Board of Directors and our valued volunteers. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire Board and every single Director for their selfless work for the good of the Society and the profession in general!

Last year, NOTIS offered more diverse programs and events, educational as well as vocational, to meet various needs and interests. By way of illustration, I'll name just a few of them. Four Trados Workshops (June 30-July 1): Introduction, Intermediate/Advanced Features, Multi-Term, and Tag Editor, were attended by 29, 26, 23, and 19 members respectively, and enjoyed enormous popularity. Suffice it to say, one member came over from Florida to participate! The Tax Workshop was also well attended and appreciated.

Another interesting and informative event was the traditional celebration of the International Translation Day organized in collaboration with WITS. The audience enjoyed the presentation "Is Translation Literature?" by Dr. Jean Leblon, one of the founders and an honorary member of NOTIS. Dr. Leblon's talk gave rise to a lively discussion that followed.

Needless to say, the above and other events and activities would be impossible without hard work, meticulous planning of Program Committee Co-chairs Andrea Brugman and Jonas Nicotra, and the involvement of our volunteers. Your work is highly appreciated!

Dwelling on the same subject, I can't help mentioning excellent performance of the NOTIS Medical SIG ably run by Co-chairs Cristina Paget and Renée Palermo. Over the past year, they organized three highly effective forums for medical interpreters in collaboration with such reputable organizations as University of Washington, Children's Hospital and others. The last forum "Inter-

preting Among Grief" drew 46 people. Thank you, Cristina and Renée!

We all know that one of the contributing factors to the success of any organization is active involvement of its members. I would like to say special thank you to our members who generously donate their time, get actively involved in the events and activities NOTIS offers. I believe it may be interesting for you to know that the 2007 Annual Meeting that took place on November 17 was attended by many more members compared to the last few years. And more importantly, they showed a genuine interest and entered into a lively dialog with the Board, sharing their experiences and suggesting ideas. There was a nice, uniting atmosphere of camaraderie. My special thanks go to Kenneth Barger, WITS President, who came to the Annual meeting to address NOTIS members.

I can never overestimate the value and importance of collaborating with WITS, our sister organization. Besides jointly organizing traditional events (International Translation Day celebration, Holiday party, biannual picnics), and publishing *The Northwest Linguist* on a continual basis, WITS and NOTIS have extended the dual membership option for one more year. I hope our two organizations will explore and identify new opportunities and venues for further collaboration. The apex of collaboration on a broader scale was the WASCLA Summit III Conference held in Ellensburg on September 7-8 of 2007. The Conference was unique in that it brought together a wide range of professionals who represented government, administrative agencies, law enforcement, health care providers, non-profits, translators and interpreters. Hopefully, it will lead to greater visibility and recognition of our profession.

Speaking of greater visibility and recognition, I'd like to emphasize the utmost importance of outreach effort in that regard. NOTIS established an Outreach Committee over a year ago. The time to act is NOW! One of the real possibilities is to join in the activity of the Translation and Interpretation Program of the Puget Sound Skills Center in Burien (PSSC). Please read in this issue the proposals outlined by Ann Macfarlane, Chair of the Advisory Committee to the PSSC Translation and Interpretation Program. Ann has laid out in great detail possible steps that we can take. I would *strongly* encourage you to take some of those steps— just think what a

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seeking a national or international accreditation for their certification process. The organization has also updated the requirements for maintaining ATA certification, and they are contemplating adding certification for interpreters.

When Wideburg opened the floor to comments by other members, Albert Feldmann and Maiyim Baron both discussed sessions they had attended.

Mark your calendar for next year's meeting which will be held on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. ❖

## NOTIS ANNUAL MEETING



**Renée Palermo and Ken Wagner  
prepare election materials**



**Board members listen to WITS  
president Kenneth Barger's remarks**



**Selma Nadir shows her smile**



**Newly-elected NOTIS director  
Enrique Garcia-Ayaviri**

## An Invitation to Join Outreach Effort

*By Ann Macfarlane*

This message comes to invite NOTIS to consider engaging in an outreach effort through and with the Translation and Interpretation Program of the Puget Sound Skills Center in Burien, Washington. I write to you wearing the “hat” of Chair of the Advisory Committee to this program. These are ideas which the committee asked me to pass on to you.

Some of you are no doubt familiar with this innovative program, which started in the Highline School District several years ago. It gives bilingual high school students an opportunity to prepare for the careers of translation and interpretation. Our own Courtney Searls-Ridge has been deeply involved in this program from the beginning, and I have played a part as well. Lisa Scheuer Sturgeon, a long-time NOTIS member, is the instructor.

The SpeakYOURLanguages videos were designed for this program. Four different school districts now feed students into the classes offered at the PSSC. The program manages to walk the challenging line of interesting and encouraging students to consider T and I as a career, while helping them understand that years of study are necessary to become a competent professional in the field, and motivating them to undertake that study.

This year the program was recognized for excellence by the federal Department of Education, which issued a multi-year grant to prepare online training materials that will allow the program to be replicated in other parts of the country.

There are many ways in which NOTIS could take up this opportunity, as suggested below—we welcome whichever of them you may consider suitable.

1) Outreach to high school students in February 2008. We have determined that it is critical to make a strong outreach to potential students in February of next year if we are to obtain the enrollment needed to sustain the program. It would be great to have NOTIS members involved in this. As you know, it is easy to obtain materials for a short presentation on T&I to students from the ATA website. By making such a presentation and obtaining a photograph, NOTIS members would also become eligible to win a free registration to the 2008 ATA Conference in Orlando, Florida.

2) Developing press leads and contacts. We would be happy to work with NOTIS in cultivating relation-

ships with reporters that could lead to press stories about this program and about NOTIS. We have seen a continued interest on the part of the press in multicultural issues, and this program is a natural subject for a curious reporter.

3) NOTIS President becoming a member of the Advisory Committee. We warmly invite the President of NOTIS to join our Advisory Committee to facilitate interaction between our organizations and improve opportunities for collaboration. (The President of WITS has been invited to join as well.)

4) Meetings with individual students. We would like to invite NOTIS directors and members to meet with a student one-on-one for one hour. We believe that the personal touch is critical in encouraging these students. By getting together and chatting about the student and his/her background, and also discussing one's own career, individuals can make a real difference to these dedicated students.

5) Inviting students to the MedSIG Forums and other meetings. As part of their curriculum, the students study medical interpreting and work on glossaries and medical issues. Several of them have been inspired to pursue their studies with a view towards taking up this career. A chance to attend one of the Forums and interact with “real live interpreters” would be a great eye-opener for them.

6) Creating a student membership category. NOTIS could consider creating a student membership category, which would enable students more easily to become part of our community.

7) Holding a NOTIS meeting at the PSSC. One of the benefits of the PSSC is an excellent catering program. It might be possible for NOTIS to schedule a program or board meeting at the Center, which would present another opportunity for networking and connection.

8) Helping the instructor locate appropriate materials. It is not always easy to find the right materials for the reading level of the students, who usually need work to improve their native-language skills as well as their English. Lisa has mentioned that she would appreciate suggestions for fiction in Spanish that high school students would like to read for pleasure. There are other

areas as well where NOTIS members could be a superb resource for these students.

If the board is interested in moving forward with this connection, I would be glad to meet with interested directors and discuss details further. In particular, we are eager to proceed with the February initiative, which is just around the corner. I hope that this message gives you enough information to consider the proposal, and I look forward to next steps.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann G. Macfarlane

*Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Translation and Interpretation Program of the Puget Sound Skills Center*

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## Election Results

The following results were tallied for the 2007 NOTIS Board of Directors election from fifty ballots received.

### Nominated candidates on ballot:

Andrea Brugman:	46
Enrique Garcia-Ayaviri	45
Ferdi Nadir	45
Jonas Nicotra	46
Christina Paget	44
Laura Wideburg	45

### Write-ins:

P. Diane Schneider	1
Suzanne Blangsted	1

One other write-in candidate received a vote, but the ballot was invalid because the voter marked all nominated candidates *and* voted for a write-in candidate, thus voting for more candidates than there were positions.

All nominated candidates were elected to their positions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendrick J. Wagner

*Supervisor of Elections*

## Cultural Corner

*By Laura A. Wideburg*

What do tea and ketchup have in common and why does catsup have two spellings? The answer to this may surprise you! Both tea and ketchup are culinary words borrowed into English from the southern Min Chinese dialect spoken in Xiamen (formerly Amoy). Xiamen was a major port for tea exports to England as well as the rest of the world before the British built up the city of Hong Kong, and the item they were buying took the Min name. Oolong tea (wu long ti) is also a borrowing from Min Chinese. Interestingly enough, the Mandarin Chinese word for tea, cha, was borrowed into the Indian subcontinent and became chai. Recently, English has taken the word to mean spiced tea in the East Indian manner.

But what about ketchup? Tea makes sense, but tomatoes in sauce? Aren't tomatoes a product of the Americas? Well, a number of Westerners settled in Amoy and brought tomatoes with them. The cooks of Xiamen took tomatoes as part of the ingredients for a fish sauce. This fish sauce with tomatoes spread all over Asia, including Indonesia and Malaysia, and with the traders was soon known all over the West as well. The first American recipe appeared in a cookbook in 1801! Now what could be more American? It just goes to show you that globalization was happening much earlier than we believe. Happy Chinese New Year!

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## TAX WORKSHOP

### MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008

A tax workshop will be held in the Seattle area on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will cover deductions AND record keeping and will take place at BCC North Campus (room 203) from 10 am to 3:30 pm, with a half-hour lunch break. The tax workshop will be repeated on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Portland, Oregon.

The cost is \$35 for members, \$45.00 for non-members. Register at [program@notisnet.org](mailto:program@notisnet.org) and/or send a check to the NOTIS post box:

NOTIS  
1037 NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street, # 107  
Seattle, WA 98115

## The Accidental Translator

By: Walter G. Andrews

When I come to think of it, I suppose I have been a translator of sorts for more than 40 years. It is just that I have had trouble seeing myself in that role. To my mind a real translator is someone like the Turkish student I had many years ago. She could simultaneously interpret conversations to and from English, German, and Turkish with stunning ease and translated German and Turkish into beautiful English. Her talents boggled my mind, leaving me in awe and unwilling to claim the same status. Now she is a highly respected scholar of comparative literature at a college in the East. I only wanted to teach and write about Turkish literature, especially Ottoman Turkish poetry and culture from the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of course, if one is going to write about Ottoman poetry in English, it becomes necessary to render the poetry in some form accessible to English speakers. And this is a daunting task for many reasons.

### Translating Ottoman Poetry

Ottoman high-culture poetry is the product of centuries of development in three languages from entirely different language families: Arabic (a Semitic language), Persian (an Indo-European language), and Turkish (a Uralic-Altai language). Ottoman Turkish contains vocabulary from all three languages and smidgens of Arabic and Persian grammar and syntax on a base of Western Turkish (the Turkish dialects spoken in Turkey, the Balkans, the Central Middle East, and Iran as opposed to the Eastern Turkic languages such as Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Uygur). The formal features and general themes of the poetry are fixed and immutable, so originality and subtlety of meaning are often found in rhetorical brilliance and exceedingly complex conceits that combine word-play—puns, anagrams, visual similarities of words in the Arabic script, etc.—and complex cultural references to traditional stories, religious texts, local practices and customs. Almost none of this can be translated directly into English and especially not into poetic English. So, for years, I simply avoided the issue of translating poetry into poetry and produced what I very cautiously called *prose paraphrases*, which allowed me both to unpack the layers of sense in the poems and to avoid thinking of myself as a real translator.

As time passed, I became convinced that it might be possible to jettison some of the rhetorical artistry, the rhymes, and some of the cultural references to get at the emotional core of the Ottoman originals through English

poetic translations. The first successful attempt was a book of translations created by working with a poet (who knew some Turkish). A Turkish colleague and I would sit with her and talk at length about each couplet of a poem. We would discuss everything: the background, the cultural references, the stories evoked by the lines. Sometimes it would take an hour for one or two lines. She would go away and come back with her rendering...and then we would start to fight. The majority of her translations were just fine but, in many cases, her lovely couplets would not match up well enough with the Ottoman originals for us scholars. We would (regretfully) reject the lines; she would argue, weep, sink into depression: “But this is a beautiful line!” “We know it is but it doesn’t have anything to do with the Turkish.” “Why not?” “For this reason and this and this...” “But it’s so lovely like this and lines that talk about roasting meat make me sick. I’m a vegetarian!” In the end, we came up with a good book that is still in print (*Ottoman Lyric Poetry*, reprinted recently by the University of Washington Press), and I discovered a personal interest in doing some of my own poetic translations.

Over time, I have been developing a “vocabulary” of ways to deal with the very clever intentional ambiguities of Ottoman poetry. There are still many cases of lines that defy actual translation: for example, a line in which a famous poet says something like, “by describing my body bent like the letter ‘d’ (which in the Arabic script is bent more or less in the form of a ‘>’) before the beloved’s body which is like an ‘a’ (a thin upright stroke like ‘|’), I made a name for myself (the Turkish word for ‘name’ is ‘ad’).” But some equivoques can be expanded in English to cover the basic meanings—of course without the clever punning. For example, it is very common for Ottoman poets to play with the Persian word *mîhr* which means both “sun” and “love.” Thus, a line might say something like, “I am warmed by *mîhr*,” which can mean, “I am warmed by the sun” or “I am warmed/aroused by love.” I have started using phrases like “the sun of love” for *mîhr* to keep both possibilities at least alive.

The following is my translation of a very well-known Ottoman poem. A good example of the kinds of cultural references that occur in this kind of poetry is found in the second couplet. (I have formatted the couplets as quatrains because I think it looks better and reads better that way.) Here the garden in autumn is compared to a der-



vish/Sufi in a torn and tattered cloak and the wind, which takes the “hand” (the five-lobed leaf) of the plane tree, to a Sufi pupil performing the ceremony called “hand-taking” which binds him to his master. In the last couplet there are two primary equivoques: a single word that means both “leaves of trees” and “pages of a book” (which are also “leaves” sometimes in English) and a word that means both “wind” and “fate.”

The time of spring has suffered  
 Loss of fame and loss of face  
 The leaves of trees have fallen  
 In the meadow far from grace

The garden shrubbery now wears  
 Renunciation’s tattered cloak  
 The autumn wind has taken up  
 The plane tree leaf as master’s hand

Everywhere a treasure flows  
 All golden to its feet  
 Expectantly the orchard tree  
 Awaits the bounty of the stream

In the meadow let the breeze  
 Stir it to swaying ceaselessly  
 Today the sapling stands  
 Unburdened, free of fruit and leaf

On this meadow-earth, the leaves  
 Of books and trees are torn, Baki  
 It seems they have a true complaint  
 Against the winds of time and fate

Whether or not my rendition of the poet Baki’s meditation on autumn and old age is successful, I cannot tell but it represented a milestone for me in accepting my role and duty as a translator of poetry.

#### **The Accidental Translator Learns Some Lessons**

Having ended up in the position of being one of very few people who actually work with Ottoman Turkish, I now and then get asked for help with translating various bits and pieces of Ottoman that a surprising number of people have lying around in their houses, offices, scrapbooks, and garages. In general, I find it difficult to say no to anyone and when I was being paid by the State of Washington to teach at the University, I felt it was my duty to help the tax payers with their Ottoman Turkish concerns whenever possible—obviously not that onerous a duty. Nonetheless, a few experiences have made me

wary about translating other people’s precious artifacts. For example, I was at dinner some years ago with a beloved friend and her husband. We were talking about what I do and she remarked that she had an antique prayer rug with a Persian poem woven into the border of the design. The piece had been in the family for many years and was considered a valuable heirloom and a point of family pride. She wondered if I could try to translate the poem for them. I said that this was very difficult and pointed out that such “texts” are often impossible to decipher because of variations in the script, the illiteracy of the weavers, and the (literal) fuzziness of the medium. But I said I would give it a try.

Unfortunately, the “Persian poem” was not all that difficult to translate. I soon realized that it was not a poem, that it was not in Persian, and that it was, in fact, in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman Turkish. I don’t remember the exact text but it was something like, “Ahmet \_\_\_\_\_ and Sons, Rug Merchants \* the finest rugs \* an address in Istanbul \* a 20<sup>th</sup> century date”. It was obviously a souvenir rug from one of the World Fairs and neither antique nor intrinsically precious. There I was, contemplating perjuring myself to a dear friend. Finally, out of pure consternation, I came clean with the truth. She took it well but I felt like a complete spoil-sport.

After a couple more experiences of the same sort—mostly translations of Ottoman passports or documents that called into question cherished family myths—I have started being more cautious. I now tell people one of these stories and ask them if they just might not be happier leaving things the way they are. Sometimes even a good translation is not helpful at all!

#### **Translating Modern Turkish**

I never, ever planned to be a translator of modern Turkish poetry either. I do like writing poetry but haven’t had the nerve even to try publishing any of my own. I did do a few translations of modern Turkish poets who wrote Ottoman-like poems for a book chapter that grew out of a conference at the University of London. Prompted by this, a younger colleague asked if I would translate some poems for an anthology of Turkish literature he was preparing. He was struggling to publish or perish, so Mr. “Can’t Say No” ended up translating some 40 poems by various modern poets and that was going to be the end of it. Except...one of the poets I translated became enamored of my translations of his work and asked me if I would consider doing a book of his poems in English translation. He is quite famous in Turkey and flattered me

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excessively (things like columns in newspapers praising my scholarly work and overall brilliance), thereby encouraging my ego to overcome my good sense. In the end we met in Istanbul and I agreed to take on the project. It lasted for years, during which I learned how relatively comfortable it is to translate poets who have been safely dead for 400 years and, incidentally, how incredibly difficult it is to publish poetry in the United States. The poetry was extremely obscure and hard to translate. The poet (whose English is very good) and I struggled to find English to support the sense he was trying to convey. And he had huge expectations: this translation might just be the first step toward a Nobel Prize. The pressure was tremendous. In the end, we came out with a fine book (*Hilmi Yavuz: Seasons of the Word*, Syracuse University Press) but no Nobel...yet!

### Turkish Prose

The Nobel Prize did go to a Turkish author but not to Hilmi Yavuz. Orhan Pamuk, who won the prize in 2007, is a friend of mine, not because I am a translator or scholar but because I was his basketball coach when he was fifteen. However, the connection—accidentally—gave me a taste of what life is like in the higher reaches of translating for the trade press. At one point, Orhan was not happy with his translator and when we met in his office in Istanbul one summer, he asked me whom I would recommend for his next book. I mentioned my student, Erdag Goknar, who ended up translating *My Name is Red*. Because the setting of the novel is the Ottoman Empire in the late sixteenth century—my specialty—Orhan and Erdag asked if I would look over drafts of the translations. It was time-consuming but fun (I didn't need to do the hardest work) and I had many suggestions of which almost none ended up in the final translation. In fact, the process was amazingly complex: Erdag translated the first drafts, Orhan (whose English is excellent) went over them in detail, I went over them, then Erdag rewrote them, then the editors at the press went over them and made many changes. Erdag did not like the final title and neither did I. I still think it should have been *My Name is Crimson*, translating the Turkish *kırmızı* in Orhan's title accurately as "crimson"—a far more colorful word. To this day, *My Name is Red* sounds to me like a title for the memoirs of an Irish bartender.

Looking back, my "accidental" career as a translator has been the source of some memorable adventures. It has brought me friendships with some wonderfully talented people and has allowed me to touch the lives of

people with very interesting backgrounds and stories. I feel very fortunate to have been to some degree, however shyly, a translator. ❖

*Walter G. Andrews received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan Near East Languages and Literature Department in 1970. He taught Turkish and Ottoman literature in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington from 1968 until his retirement to a research professorship, which he still holds. He has published several books, translations, articles, and edited works on Ottoman literature, modern Turkish literature, and literary theory in English and Turkish. Among his books are Poetry's Voice Society's Song (University of Washington Press, 1985), revised and translated into Turkish as Siirin Sesi Toplumun Sarkıysı, Ottoman Lyric Poetry: An Anthology (with Mehmet Kalpaklı and Najaat Black) with an expanded reprint from the University of Washington Press and most recently The Age of Beloveds: Love and the Beloved in Early-Modern Ottoman and European Culture and Society (with Mehmet Kalpaklı, Duke University Press, 2005). His translations of the poetry of Hilmi Yavuz entitled Seasons of the Word appeared in 2007 from Syracuse University Press. He is also co-director of the Ottoman Texts Archive Project [OTAP], a web-based resource developing tools and methods for the archiving and analysis of Ottoman texts.*

Continued from page 11 ◊◊◊

Maria Elena, what are the most significant changes and improvements you have observed over all those years of work with languages and cultures in your community?

"Snohomish County has changed from being very provincial to being much more sophisticated in regards to cultural awareness." says Maria Elena. "Public positions are occupied by a variety of people with different ethnic backgrounds. They are reflecting our growing international community and the importance of integrating it." Then she smiles and adds: "But there is still plenty of room for further improvements."

"It appears to me the courts, medical facilities and those people with whom we work are much more aware of the need to provide professional language services to limited or non-English speakers. There is also a growing awareness by them of the important role the interpreter plays in legal and medical settings. Further, there is much more diversity within our communities. I feel it is enriching to all. I am excited that more and more minorities are taking leadership roles in government and various organizations. Americans are becoming more aware of being part of a global society, and we need to learn to live with and welcome that change." ❖

## Meeting Our Members

By Katrin Rippel

*Every newsletter Katrin Rippel interviews WITS / NOTIS members for the Northwest Linguist. Maybe next issue it could be you!*

### *From Tertulia to WITS: Meeting Maria Elena Tremaine*

Maria Elena Tremaine was born in Chile and “Chileans love to be with and around people.” Therefore, it was natural for Maria Elena, one of the founding members of WITS, to start a Tertulia in 1984. A Tertulia is a regularly social gathering, especially in Iberia or Latin America, with artistic or intellectual overtones. Usually, the participants are, in some respects, likeminded, whether by having similar politics, similar literary tastes, etc.



In Maria Elena’s Tertulia, they were sharing their Hispanic/Latino cultures and languages — and still do until this day.

Maria Elena came to the U.S. at the age of 17 and attended high school in the Midwest. She received her degree in Interpretation & Translation from the Universidad Católica de Santiago de Chile before she came back to the US to continue studying in the Northwest. She received her A.A. from Central Seattle Community College, her B.A. in Intercultural Communications from the University of Washington and took Master’s level coursework in Foreign Language Instruction at the University of Washington and Western Washington University.

She was one of the first instructors accepted at Everett and Edmond community colleges with foreign credentials, and for her knowledge and practical experiences rather than strict academic U.S. degrees.

Maria Elena taught conversational Spanish courses, interpreting seminars, certification test preparation, and Spanish for Spanish speakers. She invited local college and high school teachers to her Tertulia, or Spanish discussion group, to make them more aware of the richness of the Spanish language and culture.

In 1985, Maria Elena began her career as a Spanish court interpreter at various levels in Snohomish County. It was during a World Interpreters and Translators congress in 1986 in Vancouver, Canada that she and six Spanish colleagues attended when an idea was born to develop a professional association in Washington. This group of six like-minded individuals started to come together and to meet regularly with the goals of raising the standards of their profession, of providing continuing education workshops, and promoting ethical standards as an organization. This group named themselves the Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society, known as WITS.

“Forming WITS was challenging, yet enjoyable fun,” says Maria Elena as she describes how they created all the different committees. “The most tedious part was writing the bylaws... imagine six Spanish-speaking people coming together to agree on some rules ...” Maria Elena starts laughing.

She served as the first chair of the public relations committee for WITS. “For six years, the organizing six people on the board carried out the business of the organization. During the first three years most of those who joined were Spanish language interpreters. Soon other language interpreters of Vietnamese, Laotian, Korean, Russian and Arabic joined the group.”

For Maria Elena, providing ongoing training, continuing education and opportunities to grow and learn, networking of members, and mentoring students and new interpreters were some of the most important goals of the organization. It was also imperative for the organization to educate judges and others connected to the courts of the role of the interpreter.

In 1991, Maria Elena was among the first wave of Washington State Spanish Interpreters to become certified by the Washington State Supreme Court in Olympia. At that time, this first group was sworn in by the chief justice with pomp and circumstance.

In 1996, she became certified in Medical and Social Services Interpreting by DSHS, again one of the first to receive that certification. After 20 years, she still enjoys attending workshops offered by WITS: “I am impressed by the wide range of talented and dedicated people at WITS, especially at the Board level, and their common vision and mission. The organization now encompasses a greater diversity of professionals and experiences.”

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great difference a small step could make!! The NOTIS Board of Directors put outreach planning on the Agenda for the January 24 Board meeting. Currently, Outreach Committee Co-chairs are Lilly May Bayley (lillymaybayley@comcast.net) and Jonas Nicotra (jonasnicotra@yahoo.com). Please contact Lilly May and Jonas and get involved.

Besides outreach focus, the NOTIS Board is planning other interesting and significant events. The highlights are as follows. A Tax Workshop will be offered in Portland, OR, at the end of March. We continue to expand our activity geographically. In addition, one of the NOTIS Directors, Marissa Wright, recently moved over to Oregon. It should be easier to organize and coordinate our work. Marissa, we count on you! Another popular event (organized jointly with WITS) is a biannual picnic that traditionally takes place in summer- we need time to play and socialize! And of course, the GREAT and EXCITING event is going to be the celebration of NOTIS' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary that will take place around the date of the International Translation Day (September 30). As you can tell, there's a lot of work ahead.

And finally, I'd like to update you on the current situation regarding our administrative matters. First off, two Directors stepped down from the Board in 2007, - Pablo Sepulveda and Olivier Fabris. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank them for their contribution to NOTIS. My very special thanks go to Olivier who has been responsible for the Newsletter DTP for many years and done an excellent job! Two new Directors were elected at the Annual Meeting. - Ferdi Nadir and Enrique Garcia-Ayaviri (election results are in this issue). Congratulations and welcome to the NOTIS Board! I hope you'll find your service in this capacity meaningful and rewarding. Currently, the total number of Directors on the Board is 13.

At the last Board meeting of 2007 on December 11, the following officers were elected:

President: Larissa Kulinich, Vice-President: Andrea Brugman, Treasurer: Cristina Paget, Secretary: Ken Wagner.

NOTIS had used the services of ERGA for office management and membership coordination from September 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. I would like to thank Andrew Estep and Ann Macfarlane for all the

work and help they provided for our organization. As of January 1, 2008, NOTIS has a new Office Manager and Membership Coordinator — Director Renée Palermo. Renée has kindly agreed to work in this capacity on a volunteer basis. As you understand, this is a great commitment! I would like to say a big thank you to Renée. This means that our contact information has also changed. Please, note the new permanent mailing address and phone number for NOTIS:

NOTIS  
1037 NE 65th Street, # 107  
Seattle, WA 98115

(206) 701-9183

Our email address remains unchanged:  
info@notisnet.org

And, the last but not the least piece of news is that NOTIS Director Caitilin Walsh was elected a Director of the ATA Board of Directors at the 2007 ATA Conference in San Francisco. Congratulations, Caitilin! This is good news for NOTIS, which is a Chapter of ATA.

Finally, this is what I want to say:

Our organization will be strong

To the extent the members feel that they belong.

*Larissa Kulinich, NOTIS President*

## Joke Box

*Shawn Morse has received a \$5 coffee card for sending in this joke:*

Q: How many translators does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Depends on the context!

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# News Release

FOR: Landmark Audio Technologies  
[rbamberger@landmarkfm.com](mailto:rbamberger@landmarkfm.com)

CONTACT: Richard Bamberger  
 Toll Free: (888) 677-4387

## Interpreting for the Masses

When Landmark Audio Technologies, a manufacturer of assistive listening systems, was asked to supply interpretation equipment for an exceptionally large international convention, they were a bit overcome by the request. Thousands of transmitters and receivers were needed for the UNESCO sponsored Universal Forum of Cultures that took place in the city of Monterrey, Mexico from September through December of 2007.

The 2004 event, held in Barcelona, Spain, spanned 141 days and attracted 3.5 million visitors from all over the world. Although the 2007 Forum was whittled down to 80 days, the more than 100 scheduled activities, including workshops, seminars, dialogues, theater performances and art exhibits, ensured sleepless nights for the event planners.

The Forum, as it is widely known, seeks to foster interaction and understanding in an increasingly global society, through inter-cultural dialogue. Interpreters and good equipment were high on the list of must-haves since one of the stated goals is to “utilize the spoken word as a tool to listen more profoundly to the conversations of our fellow human beings”.

When Nicholas Gibler, of Gibler and Associates, a specialist in medical congress and technical interpretation based in Mexico and Texas, contacted Landmark Audio Technologies, the deadline was tight, and the final quantity of equipment had yet to be decided. Luckily, Landmark Audio keeps a large inventory and was able to ship the systems in time for the start of the meetings.

Landmark Audio’s transmitters are small and portable. Individual interpreters carry them to different meetings and venues, as necessary. An interpreter can speak to a single person, or to a group. Several interpreters, speaking different languages, can work in the same room without interfering with each other.

Gibler was quick to comment on how “versatile and useful” Landmark’s products were. “In an environment where we had 24 different meetings at one time, in three or four different languages, that meant three or four frequencies PER ROOM and yet, there was little or no interference from the other rooms”. Additionally, some rooms were already equipped with transmitters from other manufacturers. Landmark Audio’s Radio Orpheus receiver had no trouble working with other systems, proving how compatible and versatile the Radio Orpheus receivers truly are.

The Radio Orpheus receiver delivers high quality, clear, sound and are sold with a variety of headsets. The individual user controls the volume. The small, palm-sized receivers are easy to use—even for those who feel they are “technologically challenged”.

Aside from language interpretation, Landmark Audio’s transmitters can also be plugged into any existing PA system to allow hearing impaired participants access to meetings and performances. Because Radio Orpheus receivers are compatible with any system, they can be taken along to any event in any venue.

A global society means a global economy and Landmark Audio Technologies assistive listening systems are cost-effective as well as versatile. The staff will help you to decide which configuration is most suitable for your particular needs. Richard Bamberger, managing partner, says, “Our job is to facilitate the spoken word and we were excited to play even a small part in an event as far-reaching as the Forum. Whether for language interpretation or hearing assistance, we work hard to come up with the best solutions for our clients.”

For more information on LAT or its product offerings, call (888) 677-4387 or visit their website at [www.landmarkfm.com](http://www.landmarkfm.com).

## Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
March 4th, 2008	NOTIS MedSIG Forum: "Most Common Cardiac Problems that Make Patients Run to ER"	<a href="http://www.notisnet.org/program/notiscal.html">http://www.notisnet.org/ program/notiscal.html</a> info: medsig@notisnet.org	Pacific Medical Center Beacon Hill
March 8, 2008	Tax Workshop	info: program@notisnet.org	Bellevue, WA
March 22, 2008	Tax Workshop	info: program@notisnet.org	Portland, OR
March 22, 2008	Fourth Immigration Terminology Conference for Interpreters and Translators	<a href="http://www.witsnet.org/programs/INDEXcalendar.htm">www.witsnet.org/programs/ INDEXcalendar.htm</a>	Miami Dade College, FL
March 14-16, 2008	Conference on Narrative Building Bridges Among Language, Identity, Interaction, Society and Culture	<a href="http://www8.georgetown.edu/college/gurt/2008/">www8.georgetown.edu/college /gurt/2008/</a>	Georgetown University Department of Linguistics Washington, DC
March 28-29, 2008	ATA Spanish Language Division (SLD) 5th Mid-Year Conference	<a href="http://www.ata-spd.org/">www.ata-spd.org/</a>	Philadelphia, PA
March 29, 2008	Certification and Registration Exam Prep	<a href="http://www.witsnet.org/">www.witsnet.org/</a> TBD	TBD
March 28-30, 2008	Mid-America Chapter of the ATA (MICATA) Annual Educational Symposium for Language Professionals	<a href="http://ata-micata.org/E&amp;P/Conferences/2008%20Symposium/08Symp1.htm">http://ata-micata.org/E&amp;P/ Conferences/2008%20Symposi um/08Symp1.htm</a>	Bethany, OK
April 12, 2008	Computer Tools and Methods for Great Translation Performance	10:00am-5:00pm Speaker: Jamie Lucero info: program@notisnet.org	Bellevue Community College, WA
April 11-12, 2008	California Healthcare Interpreters Association (CHIA) 8th Annual Educational Conference From Grassroots to Redwoods: The Growth of Healthcare Interpreting	<a href="http://chiaonline.org/">http://chiaonline.org/</a>	Costa Mesa, CA
April 12, 2008	Tennessee Assn. of Professional Interpreters & Translators (TAPIT) Jury Instructions: Technique and Terminology Workshop	<a href="http://www.tapit.org/directions2.html">www.tapit.org/directions2.html</a>	Knoxville, TN

## Events Calendar (continued)

Date	Event	Details	Location
April 26, 2008	ATA Certification Exam Sitting	<a href="http://www.atanet.org/certification/index.php">http://www.atanet.org/certification/index.php</a>	University of WA, Seattle
April 26, 2008	Modern Language Association 123 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention	<a href="http://www.mla.org/convention">www.mla.org/convention</a>	Chicago, IL
January to June 2008	TIP-Lab 17 <sup>th</sup> Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop	<a href="http://www.tip-lab.org">www.tip-lab.org</a> or e-mail Alicia Marshall at <a href="mailto:aliciamarshall@comcast.net">aliciamarshall@comcast.net</a>	Distance Translation Revision Workshop
May 3, 2008	PDFs for Translators	10am - 1pm Speaker: Jamie Lucero info: <a href="mailto:program@notisnet.org">program@notisnet.org</a>	Bellevue Community College, WA
May 3, 2008	Pre-Wordfast	2pm - 5pm Speaker: Jamie Lucero info: <a href="mailto:program@notisnet.org">program@notisnet.org</a>	Bellevue Community College, WA
May 7, 2008	Wordfast I	2pm - 5pm Speaker: Jamie Lucero info: <a href="mailto:program@notisnet.org">program@notisnet.org</a>	Bellevue Community College, WA
May 14-17, 2008	Association of Language Companies 2008 Annual Conference	<a href="http://www.alcus.org">www.alcus.org</a>	Hotel Nikko San Francisco, CA
May 16-18, 2008	NAJIT 29th Annual Conference	<a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a>	Onni William Penn Hotel Pittsburgh, PA

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)

## Membership renewal

Thanks to all of you who have renewed! A reminder-if you have not renewed your membership in NOTIS, this is your last copy of NW Linguist.

## NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
WITS	February 23, 2008	Kenneth Barger's residence	(206) 382-5690
NOTIS	March 5, 2008, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	April 16, 2008, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	May 21, 2008, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org

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

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