

THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 22 No.4, Fall 2008

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Letter from the NOTIS President

By Larissa Kilinich

Dear NOTIS members,

It is time of the year to take stock of our successes and accomplishments during 2008 and look ahead. Speaking of our achievements, we have many things to celebrate and be grateful for.

First, NOTIS is much bigger and stronger now than it has ever been before due to the tireless and selfless work both of the Board Directors and membership at large. I would like to thank each Director in particular for their professionalism, commitment, utmost sense of responsibility and a shared passion for volunteer work. It is a feeling of camaraderie, serving common goals and an awareness of doing great things for the sake of the profession and the community that unites all of us in our service and makes it fulfilling and rewarding. And I can never overestimate the significance of the fact that we have continued to collaborate with our sister organization WITS.

The year 2008 has been particularly special in the history of both NOTIS and WITS — we have celebrated the 20th Anniversary of both organizations. Many of you participated in this festive event that took place on October 4 at the Mercer Island Community Center. It drew over 100 people. The celebration turned out to be a huge success, - with the recognition of the

Founding Members and Past Presidents of both organizations, interesting, informative and insightful speeches of the two keynote speakers — Justice Susan Owens of the Washington State Supreme Court, Chair of the Interpreter Commission for the Judicial Branch, and Judy Langley, an accomplished professional translator who has been working for the United Nations for many years. The celebration provided an excellent opportunity to socialize with friends and colleagues and meet new professionals, not to mention an uplifting atmosphere — white table cloths, beautiful flower arrangements and good food! Needless to say, a lot of work had been put into it. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the WITS and NOTIS Program Committees and all the volunteers for their enormous work and endless hours they invested to organize this event. On the NOTIS side, my special thanks go to the Program Committee Co-Chairs Andrea Brugman and Jonas Nicotra. I also want to recognize Board Directors Cristina Paget, Marilyse Benyakar, Renee Palermo for their great contribution. I also want to thank WITS President Kenneth Barger for his invaluable help and support.

Another highlight of 2008 has been a two-day Localization Workshop on Au-

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

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Reneé Palermo

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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

Dawn Andrews	French > English German > English
Lance Bergstrom	
April Berumen	Spanish ◊ English
Alban Bodjrenou	English > German Chinese ◊ English English ◊ French
Guillermo Bremauntz	
George de Orbegoso	
Carla Di Franco	German > English
Halyna Field	English ◊ Russian English ◊ Ukrainian
Eleonore Mitchell	English ◊ German
Rosario Montero	Spanish > English
Sarah Officer	
Nicole Pennebaker	French > English
William Plumley	English ◊ Spanish
David Simmons	Spanish > English
Wendy Tan	English ◊ Chinese Cantonese ◊ English Mandarin > English Mandarin > Cantonese

Corporate Members

Russian Translation Service
Translation 4 All

Rejoining Members

Niuvis Ferro-Gonzalez	Spanish ◊ English
Azucena Flores-Urueta	English > Spanish
Victor Guzman	English ◊ Spanish
Alan P. Lai	English ◊ Chinese Cantonese ◊ English English > Mandarin
Maria Cristina Paget	Spanish ◊ English
Rita Pavone	English ◊ Italian Portuguese > English French > English Spanish > English
Wendy Tan	English ◊ Chinese Cantonese ◊ English Mandarin > English Mandarin > Cantonese

WITS Notes

New Members

Tina Machuco	Spanish
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Corporate Members

Jovi Lee	Mien
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Letter from the WITS President

By Kenneth Barger

Thus far it has been an exciting 20th anniversary year for WITS and NOTIS. We've seen how far our organizations have come from their small beginnings. And we're just getting started.

We celebrated our anniversary in style on October 4, in a joint celebration of the two societies. I once again had the pleasure of sharing the stage with NOTIS President Larissa Kulinich as we introduced WITS and NOTIS founding members and former presidents to the attendees. As I have noted before, I am encouraged to see that almost all founding members and former presidents of both societies continue to be members today.

The introduction and recognition of these dignitaries was followed by remarks from Justice Susan Owens of the Washington State Supreme Court and from NOTIS Founding President Judy Langley. Then we enjoyed a sumptuous meal, accompanied by wine and dessert. The respective Programs Committees of our two organizations really came through with a great event, free to members and their guests.

Once this event was over, it was time to pack bags and get ready for the next adventure. On October 7, Claudia A'Zar, Emma Garkavi, Katrin Johnson, Judge Dennis Yule, and I were to make a presentation at the Judge's Annual Conference in Spokane. This was a follow-up to our successful presentation to the District and Municipal Court Judges Association on June 2. Justice Owens introduced us, and for the next two hours, we presented on court interpreting techniques, challenges, tips, credentials, and related issues. The judges in attendance at our session had stimulating questions about tricky areas of interpreting such as use of colloquial expressions, why we do not act as cultural brokers, and many others.

This presentation differed from the previous one in that after our presentation, we heard from Robert Lichtenburg of the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an office of the Department of Social and Health Services. This was fascinating for me personally, because my knowledge of interpreting for the deaf and hard of hearing was limited, and Robert's presentation was very enlightening. There are many differences, both subtle and dramatic, between foreign language interpreting and sign interpreting. We look forward to col-

laborating with him (and the excellent interpreters who worked with him) in future presentations.

Now we look to the future and our next twenty years. Or at least to next week. By the time you read this, the IV WASCLA Summit will have taken place in Wenatchee, and we'll be looking forward to the Holiday Party, to be held on December 6. Be sure to come and bring something really yummy from your country of origin! ❖



Lew and Ann Macfarlane, Susana Stettri-Sawrey and Kenneth Barger



Kamal and Elham Abou-Zaki

NOTIS and WITS 20th Anniversary Celebration!



Founding Members



*Current and former presidents
and founding members*



WITS and NOTIS presidents



Kenny and Susana



Kenneth Barger and Justice Owens



Larissa Kulinich and Judy Langley



Milena and Andrea



Ferdi and Selma Nadir

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gust 23 and 24 which ATA and NOTIS offered our members jointly. The Workshop was very well attended and highly appreciated by the attendees. The participants were awarded 6 ATA continuing education credits for the first day and 3 credits for the second day of the Workshop. The lion's share of preparation on the NOTIS side was done by the NOTIS Co-Chair Jonas Nicotra. Thank you, Jonas!

Speaking of the administrative matters, I would like to focus on two major things. First, the NOTIS Board of Directors made a decision in March 2008 to start the preparatory work to amend the NOTIS Bylaws to make them more consistent and bring them into compliance with common parliamentary practices and state legislature. That was a thorough, multi-stage process. First, an Ad Hoc Committee was established: Jean Leblon, Marissa Wright, Marilyse Benyakar, Larissa Kulinich. Later the Committee was joined by Renee Palermo. The Committee put together a packet of proposals for the Board to consider. I would like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their time and commitment. The Board discussed the proposals at a number of successive Board meetings. Then the Board consulted a professional parliamentarian on this matter, - Mr. Paul McClintock who is currently the Bylaws Committee Chairman for the Washington State Association of Parliamentarians. After more discussion, the final version of the Bylaws was approved by the Board on June 21, 2008. And finally, the approved version was sent to the ATA attorney for review. You will get the documents explaining all the changes and amendments in the mail. We plan to amend the Bylaws at the NOTIS Annual Meeting on November 15, 2008. I would encourage you to come to the meeting and vote for the amendments.

The other administrative matter has to do with the duties of the Office Manager and Membership Coordinator. As you know, Director Renee Palermo has been fulfilling these duties since the beginning of the year on a volunteer basis. On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity and thank Renee for all her great work! Renee will be stepping down from both positions.

As of the beginning of November 2008, Rosa Bendezu Allen assumed the responsibilities of NOTIS Membership Coordinator. Thank you, Rosa! The Office Manager position will be transitioned as of January 2009.

As always at the end of the year, we have Board Directors whose terms are expiring and who are stepping down. This year, out of 13 Directors, six of them are

leaving the Board: Caitilin Walsh, Ken Wagner, Marissa Wright, Lilly May Bayley, Marilyse Benyakar and Larissa Kulinich. I can never thank enough these wonderful people who have served on the Board many years, and contributed a lot to NOTIS! Perhaps you know that some years ago, Jean Leblon referred to himself as a dinosaur, and this definition has become a standing jocular phrase amidst the Board members. It would be very true to say that Caitilin Walsh is another dinosaur of NOTIS — Cait has been serving since 1992 — sixteen years!!! Cait has been instrumental for the organization in various capacities. From 1998 to 2000 she was President of NOTIS, for many years she has been the Webmistress (and continues to be), for the last couple of years she has been a Director of the ATA Board. We have relied heavily on her extensive knowledge and expertise. Thank you, Cait!

The next Director of the “dinosaur” category is Ken Wagner. Ken has been on the Board since 1998 —ten year!! For many years in a row, Ken has been Supervisor of the elections at the Annual meetings. He has been responsible for lending the ATA DVD to members so that they might get continuing education credits. This last year, Ken has been serving as NOTIS Secretary.

Marissa Wright, Lilly May Bayley and Marilyse Benyakar have served for six years! For many years, Marissa has been fulfilling the duties of Secretary until Ken took over last year. Marissa was a member of the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee. Lilly May has been Chair of the Board Development Committee for many years in a row; she has served as Outreach Committee Co-Chair, and has been responsible for providing snacks and beverages for the Annual meetings for many years. Marilyse served a two-year term as Vice-President, was a member of the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee, this year she has been Chair of the Board Development Committee. From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my gratitude to these dedicated professionals and wonderful friends.

The good news is we have excellent candidates who agreed to serve on the Board: Kathryn German, Jamie Lucero, Marjan Van Spaandock, Katrin Rippel, Faiza Sultan, Loiose Morehead. Our candidates are accomplished professionals with many years of experience and excellent reputation. I would like to thank them for their willingness to serve.

And finally, this is my last address to you in the capacity of NOTIS President. I have had the privilege of serving you as President since 2004. And prior to this, I

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King County Bar Needs Volunteer Interpreters

By Rebecca Fogarty, KCBA Neighborhood Legal Clinics Program Manager

Spanish interpreters are needed on a regular rotation at the Bilingual Spanish & Immigration Legal Clinic on Wednesday evenings in downtown Seattle. A typical volunteer commitment is one Wednesday evening every 6 weeks. Interpreters of various languages are also used at a variety of clinics held in various King County locations on an as-needed basis. After Spanish, the top languages are Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese, though need arises for other languages from time to time as well. Legal and/or professional interpreting experience is required. Please contact Rebecca Fogarty at rebeccaf@kcba.org or 206.267.7029 for more information.

Interpreter Commission passes reciprocity provision

The Washington State Court Interpreter Commission recently adopted language allowing for reciprocity for Oregon State and federal certification, as well as certifications from other states that use the state consortium exam and similar standards to Washington's. The policy passed in June reads:

Reciprocity with Other States

(a) Interpreters certified by the Oregon Court Interpreter Certification Program or the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination Program may become certified by the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts upon: (1) providing formal written documentation of certification status; (2) providing a letter from the certification program stating that the interpreter is in good standing; (3) submitting to a fingerprint background check; (4) executing the Oath of Interpreter, and (5) obtaining an interpreter ID badge from the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts

(b) Interpreters who have taken and passed the oral certification exam developed by the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, but administered by another state court interpreter program under the same testing standards used by the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts, may become Washington certified upon (1) providing written documentation of passing the oral certification exam from the administering state; (2) passing the Washington Court Interpreter Program written exam; (3) attending a mandatory class on the Introduc-

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Joke Box

CREATIVE WORDING

Being Creative with Troublesome Kin!

You are working on your family genealogy and for sake of example, let's say that your great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1899.

A cousin has supplied you with the only known photograph of Remus, showing him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture are the words:

"Remus Starr: horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison, 1885. Escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged, 1889."

Pretty grim situation, right? But let's revise things a bit. We simply crop the picture, scan in an enlarged image and edit it with image processing software so that all that is seen is a head shot.

Next, we rewrite the text:

"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad.

Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed".

Court Interpreter Program Update

By Katrin Johnson

On August 11, 2008 the Court Interpreter Program was proud to grant Registered Interpreter accreditation to twenty new interpreters representing the following languages: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Portuguese, Punjabi, Samoan, Tagalog and Urdu. To earn this credential the interpreters (1) passed a written exam on English, legal terminology and interpreter ethics; (2) passed an oral proficiency exam in their target language(s); (3) passed a criminal background check; and (4) attended a daylong course on interpreter ethics, courtroom protocol, and the three modes of interpreting. As seen in the photo, their oath was administered by Judge Ron Mamiya of Seattle Municipal Court and member of the Interpreter Commission.

On October 3, 2008, the Interpreter Commission held its regular business meeting at the Pasco School District Office. In conjunction with the meeting, it met with students and faculty of the local high school interpreter/translator training programs. Local court administrators and certified interpreters also attended. The students spoke about their studies and preparation for DSHS certification, and hopes for court certification. They also took advantage of the opportunity to ask for advice and guidance from the court certified interpreters.

A major role of the Interpreter Commission is to develop policies for the Court Interpreter Program, and at its October meeting it created two new rules regarding training and testing for registered and certified interpreters. First, beginning in 2009, all candidates who pass the written exam will be required to attend a daylong orientation program. The purpose of this class is to provide candidates with clear information about the accreditation process, the profession of court interpreting, the court's expectations of court interpreters, and ways to develop and improve interpreting skills in the three main modes — consecutive, simultaneous and sight translation. This new requirement will apply to both certified and registered candidates.

Second, also beginning in 2009, certified candidates must pass the oral exam within three years of passing the written exam. If a candidate does not pass the oral exam within three years, he/she must retake the written exam and the orientation class previously mentioned. Under the previous policy, a candidate who passed the written



Ron Mamiya, Presiding Judge of Seattle Municipal Court and member of the State Interpreter Commission, swears in newly registered interpreters

exam could continue to take the oral exam over and over, without ever having to retake this screening test or attending another training event. Finally, while it is not included in the policy language, next year the Court Interpreter Program is going to work hard to provide accessible, affordable exam preparation courses, for those committed to passing the oral certification exam.

For any questions about the court interpreter registered or certified accreditation process, please contact us at 360.704.4062. ❖

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served a two-year term as Vice-President. It has been a challenging yet an exciting and rewarding experience. I would like to thank all of you for your support. I would also like to share with you the major lesson I have learned having served on the NOTIS Board for 7 years. I have deduced the FOUR Cs that provide for the successful work of a Board of volunteers, which are:

Courtesy
Commitment
Coordination
Continuity

I wish NOTIS to keep growing and developing! ❖

Localization and Professional Development: Past Experiences and Future Opportunities

By Carlotta Boyd and Laura Parma-Veigel

During the August 23rd - 24th weekend, over 40 members of ATA and NOTIS, from the Northwest and other parts of the country, met in Seattle to hear from four excellent speakers. They were also able to exchange experiences and ideas on tactics and strategies, techniques and tools to guide translators, particularly those just entering the profession, through the challenges of localization.

The general focus of the presentations was how to best offer our clients more value beyond translation services, in order to compete more successfully in the global market.

The first speaker, Keiran Dunne, is an associate professor of Modern and Classical Language Studies at Kent State University. He offered not only his perspective from the classroom, where he teaches graduate courses in localization and language project management, but also shared his experiences as a localization subcontractor for many different business clients.

To highlight the difficulties and pitfalls of localization and globalization, he entertained and enlightened us by showing a number of sample commercials aimed at different markets and asked us to reflect on the possibility of localizing them. We discussed as a group which ads would be more internationally accepted and widely understood. The winner ended up being a Nike ad with no text or spoken words. It consisted only of amazing break dancing performances by different young people, presented in a minimalist black and white format.

He went on to explain more in-depth approaches to localization, from the 80's early challenges to locate translatable strings in source code to the more current internationalization of Windows GUI objects. He gave us an overview on how to use specialized software and translation memory tools to make localization easier and more effective. He also started a general discussion on machine translation. He encouraged us to search the Internet for types of content that we encounter more often in our translation projects (such as end-user license agreements, privacy policies, terms of use documents, etc.). Then, by using the TM alignment feature, those texts would be ready to be used in current and future projects.

During the last part of his presentation, he devoted time to explain the steps involved in localizing help files. Some important suggestions included the general rule that the user interface should always be translated before the help, that attention should be paid not to disturb coding and text format and to avoid translating the table of contents before completing the translation of the help document. He encouraged us to bring to the client's or agency's attention any unaddressed internationalization issues in the early stages of a project to save time and major problems later on. At the same time, we would demonstrate our value as language professional in the general effort of internationalization.

One example given centered on hard-coded strings. These strings are embedded in the program code and do not show up in the localization files. The problem could be that the translator did not receive all the source files or that the company missed something in the engineering process. He listed what the requirements should be for agencies, clients, and freelancers; from professionalism to clear expectations. He encouraged us to take some programming courses, just to become more familiar with fundamental concepts. And, if possible, practice by localizing a shareware or free program.

Keiran concluded his excellent presentation by urging us to position ourselves as providers of professional business services, rather than a translator and/or a localizer.

* * *

In the afternoon, Carla DiFranco, Program Manager for Windows International at Microsoft, gave a very lively presentation on the topic: "Software User Assistance Localization: Skills and Globalization."

Addressing in particular those in the audience just entering the field of localization, Carla outlined some basic concepts of localization, starting with the definition of the main terminology used in the industry:

*UA/UE/Help, which indicate the different documentation items produced (and translated) for the end user: user assistance, UA; user education, UE; and the Help systems;

*Localization, the process of adapting a software program for a specific market;

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*Localizability, or the design of software that can be localized into many languages without changing the code;

*Globalization/Internationalization, meaning the development of programs based on code and features that are not specific to any particular language or market.

It is important to remember that these four broad categories are tightly interconnected, requiring that all the people involved in the development and marketing of a product for the global market recognize, understand, and use the same platforms, encoding, and translation tools.

Carla specifically illustrated in detail the differences between HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) and XML (Extensible Markup Language), in terms of flexibility, reliability and ease of use. For the purpose of localization, HTML and XML both offer different and significant advantages, but also unique challenges.

The discussion of font management and encoding standards was particularly interesting, the differences between them and the importance of choosing the right encoding for the localization process, as means to generate and display correctly special characters unique to each language, and in terms of software development.

As translators, it is crucial to know how the development process works and to be able to recognize different formats and requirements, in order to be a valuable resource for the translation and localization tasks.

An extensive analysis of the relationship between CAT tools and the localization of UA documents followed, focusing particularly on the importance of creating a well organized terminology database, knowing how to use the CAT tools and validating the final files to ensure tag integrity and error resolution prior to handoff.

In the second part of her presentation, Carla focused on the concepts of Globalization and Localizability, and on the philosophical, development, and management issues that define them.

A major component of any globalization process is the issue of content creation. In order to ensure consistency within the source documents and facilitate the translation process, it is important to use controlled language and style guides. Also, to avoid problems at the end, it is imperative that legal issues, specific to each locale where the product will be distributed, be addressed at this stage. Carla offered a series of examples of content creation, HTML vs. XML, and what constitutes a “good” globalization effort.

A discussion of the localization project management phase, from localization planning, to cost management, to project communication and vendor management concluded the presentation.

An animated and productive networking hour ended the Saturday session.

The Sunday morning session, organized by NOTIS, included two spirited presentations by *Hiram Machado* and *Colleen Nylund*, of the localization project management firm Adaquest, who directed their attention specifically to translators and localizers.

In “Translator Technology Focus: Using Tools and Localization to Maximize Success,” *Hiram Machado* started the presentation by focusing on a general overview of this industry and its 20-year history. He then emphasized the importance of the global marketplace to US companies, by stating, for example, that over 50% of the American software companies sales are made overseas. Hiram provided extensive market data and an analysis of the different translation/localizations clients by industry sectors.

He urged us to keep current and use technology to our advantage, from translation memory to project management systems, and even to take another look at machine translation, which has improved over the years, but still needs the assistance of competent reviewers.

Hiram concluded his presentation by providing a comprehensive look at emerging trends in the industry. One example is the trend of developing the initial documentation with translation in mind, by setting specific guidelines for the source language. Finally, he suggested a couple of interesting books to use as reference: “Computer-Aided Translation Technology” by Lynne Bowker and “Localization of Information Technology” by Ravi Kumar Jain B.

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the Board. With a charming smile, Jean puts his French hat on, says “Au revoir” and leaves the coffee shop—he still had much to prepare as the next day he was flying across the country to an ATA meeting! ❖

Meeting Our Members

By Katrin Rippel

This issue Katrin sits down with “Dinosaur” Jean LeBlon at a local coffee shop and discovers his remarkable pre-translation history as part of her series on NOTIS and WITS founders as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

Man of Many Hats —meeting Jean Leblon

We have a man in our midst that is unshakable present since the beginning of the organization, clearly active and a creative shape shifter. By the same token, you don’t hear loud and colorful stories about him; he is rather quiet and almost invisible. It’s that kind of person, when you ask other people about them, their tone of voice becomes that gentle touch it has when speaking of someone who had left a deep impression on them. The person in question is Jean Leblon.

Jean Leblon was born in Belgium and his life focused around languages from an early age. He spoke French and Dutch fluently, studied Classical Languages at school, and added German during the German occupation. After high school, he decided to go to America, learning English while on a Merchant Marine ship to the New World. After spending eight months travelling with three GI’s, Jean decided to settle down in the state of Kansas. He attended college, learning Spanish and studying English, and later moved on to graduate studies at Yale.

He completed his Ph. D. in French Philology and Literature at Yale University. He dedicated many years to teaching at Yale and Vanderbilt University before moving to Seattle and changing careers to become a Translator, French Terminologist, Copy Editor, and Localizer at Microsoft.

Together with few like-minded people, he created NOTIS in 1988. Jean Leblon served as Secretary, Treasurer and President for that organization. Furthermore, he was past president of the Alliance Française de Seattle, past vice president of Seattle-Nantes Sister Cities Association, member of Modern Language Association and American Association of Teachers of French, and served 17 years on the ATA’s Board of Directors —and still serves in ATA committees with conscience and passion. He was husband (his wife on) and is father of two daughters.

Jean describes himself as having a serving nature, a passion for exchange and connecting with people through giving and helping - and entertaining. If he wouldn’t have

chosen the language path, he would have become an actor. Actually, he was an actor in various French language plays, including major roles in Beckett, Moliere, Marceau, Anouilh, etc.

Nevertheless, during NOTIS’ Fifth Anniversary celebration, as Ann Macfarlane told me recently, he gave a presentation on the various “hats” that people wear in life. He arrived with five self-made hats and demonstrated in a lively manner the shifts one take to accomplish all those roles every day.

Another demonstration of his flexibility of switching “hats” was particularly helpful to Courtney Searls-Ridge, when, during NOTIS’ Tenth Anniversary celebration, he jumped in and gave Courtney’s well prepared speech. Courtney was president of NOTIS at that time, yet still too nervous to give a speech in public.

No matter which role he plays, his “Dinosaur”-colleagues —as he refers to the old-timers like himself — recall him as “extremely helpful and cooperative, very charming, highly intelligent and knowledge full”.

“He is this familiar stranger who seems so wise, serene and kind and one always sees as an ATA proctor during ATA certifications.” says Kenneth Barger, President of WITS. And Courtenay Searls-Ridge adds: “He has such an interest in next generation and what they are doing.” And everybody mentions his incredible entertaining and educational lecture “Is Translation Literature?” at the Translators Day 2007 (read article in “The Northwest Linguist” Fall 2007) and recall details they refer to as “I will never forget that in my life!”.

In 2003, the Republic of France has honored Jean Leblon with the “Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques” presented by the Consul General of France at the Alliance Française de Seattle. “This highly prestigious award was established in the early 19th century and recognizes academic achievement in the field of French language and literature”, explains Christine Knorr, Executive Director of the Alliance Française de Seattle.

Jean told me at the end of our conversation that his vision is fulfilled: NOTIS, which just celebrated its 20th anniversary, has a wealth of volunteer servers and the programs are amazing. He especially admires the depth of

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NOTIS ELECTION FOR THE BOARD 2008

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Kathryn German

For many years NOTIS has been a wonderful source of educational support, valuable contacts, work opportunities and other resources, and I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the Board of Directors. I believe it is important to continue this work and extend these valuable services throughout the Northwest.

I received a M.A. in Spanish Literature from the University of Washington and a B.A. in Spanish from Santa Clara University. These studies were accompanied by a Fulbright at the Universidad Católica in Quito, Ecuador, and additional studies at the Universidad Católica in Lima, Peru. Since that time, I have completed the coursework in Translation at the Translation & Interpretation Institute at BCC, as well as several courses in Translation in Barcelona and Ávila, Spain. Currently, I work full-time as a Spanish translator for Quorum Review, part-time as an instructor in the Interpretation and Translation Program at Puget Sound Skills Center for high school students, and I also teach the translation portion of the Introduction to Translation and Interpretation course at the Translation & Interpretation Institute.

Thanks for considering me for this opportunity to serve an organization that has been so important for the Northwest community of translators and interpreters.

Jamie M. Lucero

Very recently, I began serving NOTIS as an interim board member for Caitilin Walsh, who is now in Ireland. It has been and continues to be a pleasure to serve in her stead. As a freelance French to English translator and translation tools consultant, Program Manager of and instructor in the Bellevue Community College (BCC) Translation and Interpretation Certificate Program, and translation graduate of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, I have diverse skills and experience to offer NOTIS. In addition, I have worked closely in recent years with Board members Jonas Nicotra and Andrea Brugman to bring NOTIS members various workshops at BCC that are valid towards ATA continuing education credits.

As an elected Board member, I will not only work with the Board and membership to achieve the general

objectives of NOTIS, but also strive to expand and diversify workshop offerings available to NOTIS members, to improve representation and participation of NOTIS members not based in the Seattle metro area, to develop collaboration with other ATA Chapters (particularly in the Western region), and to upgrade the technical capabilities of NOTIS where appropriate.

Louise Morehead

The personal and lifetime background that has brought me to the interpreting and translating field is wide, lengthy, and varied. In fact, it includes living in France and on the East and West Coasts of the US, studying on both continents —many subjects if not translating and interpreting — and being used to combining talents and activities in a dynamic fabric of action that has been my life for quite a while.

This is currently the case - typical of my life-long experience; I am currently working to develop and expand my translating-interpreting business and activity, while including continuing education in this field and in my other major professional field of training: psychotherapy. I also currently teach - on the side, as we say.

When I envision participating and contributing to the activity and support of NOTIS, the feeling I have is quite like my feelings on approaching all my interpreting, translating, or therapeutic events, large or small: Let's see what I can do and where this takes me. I feel neither confidence nor the lack thereof —rather a profound curiosity that has brought me this far and thanks to which I now find myself among us all here at NOTIS - and in our combined fields. Let's see what I can do and where this leads.

Renée Palermo (Incumbent)

My goals for the upcoming term is to continue as the Co-chair of the NOTIS Medical Special Interest Group (MedSIG), to do my best to see that their needs are being met and to ensure that the mission of the former Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI) lives on. I am currently the NOTIS Office Manager and serve on the Administrative Ad Hoc Committee which strives to streamline the management of the organization. It is my

hope that by remaining on the board I can provide continuity and further strengthen the abovementioned areas.

Katrin Rippel

I am honored to have been asked to become a member of the NOTIS Board of Directors. The translator community and NOTIS have been a great resource for my establishment and career as a language professional in the Pacific Northwest. Currently, I am part of NOTIS' newsletter "The Northwest Linguist" committee, where I write the column "Meeting our Members" and assemble the Calendar of Events.



As a Board Member, I hope that my contribution of time, ideas and enthusiasm will help increase the importance of NOTIS in the Northwest. I would like to help promoting NOTIS to local businesses and organizations as their resource of local language professionals that can help bridging caps of communication and cultural differences in a global business world.

Born in Germany, I grew up in Dresden, learned in Stuttgart, and then worked for 16 years in international tourism. After assignments in Germany, France and the United States, I moved to Washington State and completed certification programs in Translation and Software and Website Localization at the T&I Institute and the University of Washington. In 2005, I launched MENU Translations & Services, a web design and localization firm specializing in the travel, hotel and food industries.

Faiza Sultan

Ms. Sultan owns her own company, Translation4all, LLC. She has over five years management experience in translation, role playing, Interpretation, language development and localization projects managing over 50 translators and linguists. She also has over 10 years experience in teaching Arabic and English languages at all levels, which include three years in teaching Arabic at college level and four years experience in developing Kurdish and Arabic lessons (listening and reading) for the GLOSS project which include selecting texts and audio segments according to students' level.

Ms. Sultan has experience in giving lectures about Islam and the Middle East in the USA, as well giving interviews about the political and socio-cultural situa-

tion in Iraq for various TV and Radio stations. She has worked with mixed media production and text-writing for radio and print including short stories and poetry in Arabic as well as developed and directed dramatic demonstrations for UNICEF in Iraq.

Ms. Sultan holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of Mosul —College of Education, and has DSHS Medical Certifications for Kurdish and Arabic Languages, a Certification of Excellency in the DLI Gloss Project at the Foreign language Center, Fort Lewis.

As a board member of NOTIS, I will be faithful to the organization's mission. I will be committed to the public and to the mission of the board. I will make myself available to participate effectively and affirmatively in discussions. I will strive to find ways to make NOTIS more accessible to linguists. I will tag on the mission of heartening more members to join the organization.

Marjan Van Spaandonk

I look forward to making the most of the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for NOTIS. Having been a member of the translation community in the Northwest for many years, it is impossible not to be aware of the presence and activities of NOTIS. To have a chance now to become actively involved in the organization is an enticing prospect.

I am a Dutch native with a degree in Dutch comparable to a B.A. I started my career as a Dutch language high school teacher in the Netherlands. Shortly after I moved to the U.S. in 1982 I entered the field of localization and translation of English to Dutch language products. Most of my work experience centers around high tech programs and medical software. Over the years I have worked alternately as a free-lance translator/proof-reader nationally and a localization project manager locally.

I have a passion for language in general and for Dutch in particular. I would like to put this enthusiasm and my experience to good use on behalf of NOTIS. Aside from the personal joy of working with like-minded individuals, my interests lie in helping NOTIS grow as a network for all its members, to increase its services and to expand its influence. Thank you for your trust and support.

CULTURAL CORNER

By Laura A. Wideburg

Thanksgiving, the American holiday I missed the most when I was living abroad, is just around the corner and is making me think of “American culture” lately. While in Sweden for the Gothenburg Book Fair this past September, one of the members of the Swedish Academy, Horace Engdahl, declared that American literature was too “parochial” to rise to Nobel Prize in Literature standards. This put me in mind of a Thanksgiving dinner I made for my German in-laws and friends of my husband one year when we spent November in Hildesheim. After slaving over the usual turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, I was rewarded with this praise from one of the attendees (an English teacher to boot!): “I didn’t know that there was such a thing as American cuisine! This food is actually quite good.”

Actually, most of the food served at the Thanksgiving table is Native American cuisine passed through a European filter, and, as new waves of immigrants add spice to this cultural stew, various new dishes land on American tables. Something new is being created on this continent still, something where Native words like *squash*, *raccoon*, *moccasin*, *pemmican* mixed with Mexican-Spanish words like *rodeo*, *lasso*, *corral* and German words like *sauerkraut*, *Kindergarten*, flavored with Chinese *ketchup*, *dim sum*...well, you get the idea. Our American language is rich with the cultures of the world, and our literature is not as parochial as Horace Engdahl believes, just because we do not follow European literature styles, and our Thanksgiving feast is truly a feast for the senses and the palate, as it is wealthier in taste than Europeans can imagine. We lucky translators and interpreters get to play our part as well, stirring the stew pot so that the flavors are released! Happy Thanksgiving! ❖

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tion to Court Interpreting, provided by the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts, and (4) meeting requirements three through five in paragraph (a) above. The Washington Court Interpreter Program reserves the right to reject oral certification exam test scores for individuals who passed the exam more than four years prior to application for certification in Washington and have subsequently performed little or no court interpreting.

(c) Interpreters certified under provisions (a) or (b) above are subject to all Washington Certified Court Interpreter requirements for continuing certification, including continuing education.

Those interested in the minutes of the commission meetings may read them online. Minutes are posted after being finalized and approved at the following commission meeting. Currently, the June minutes are posted. The October minutes will be posted after being approved at the first 2009 meeting. The URL for accessing these minutes is http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_interpret/index.cfm?fa=pos_interpret.minutes

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In “Emerging Trends: Look Beyond Current Translator Tools to Prepare for the Future,” Colleen Nyland gave us hints on how to stay competitive in the marketplace by increasing our skill set, which would also allow us to command higher fees. She suggested that we take into consideration the Project Management Certification and explore localization engineering to gain a better understanding of project cycles, software processes and builds.

Both days of seminars were incredibly valuable to us as translators, not only for the topics discussed, but also for the opportunity to satisfy some of our ATA continuing education requirements, locally and at a relatively low cost.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank ATA and NOTIS for organizing this invaluable seminar and for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts with other colleagues. In particular, we want to thank Jonas Nicotra, NOTIS Program/Outreach Co-chair, for his tremendous effort and support during and after the seminar. Thank you, Jonas, for a job well done! ❖

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
November 15, 2008	NOTIS Annual Meeting & ATA Conference Recap	Info: +1(206) 701-9183 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Bellevue Community College North Campus, Room 110 10700 Northup Way, Bellevue
November 17, 2008	Canadian Language Industry Showcase 2008	www.ailia.4poyntzdeign.com	Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
November 21-23, 2008	2008 ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo	www.actfl.org	Orlando, FL
November 22, 2008	Northern California Translators Association (NCTA) Trados for Beginners	www.ncta.org	San Francisco, CA
November 29-30, 2008	Organización Mexicana de Traductores (OMT) XII International Congress of Translation and Interpretation, San Jerónimo 2008	www.omt.org.mx/	Guadalajara, Mexico
December 2-4, 2008	Gilbane Conference Boston "Content Management"	www.gilbaneboston.com	Boston, MA
December 6, 2008	NOTIS/WITS Holiday Potluck Party	Info: +1(206)701-9183	University of Washington Waterfront Activities Center, Seattle, WA
December 27-30, 2008	Modern Language Association (MLA)	www.mla.org	San Francisco, CA
December 27-30, 2008	American Assn. of Teachers of Slavic & Eastern European Languages (AATSEEL) Annual Conference	www.aatseel.org	San Francisco, CA
February 10, 2009	TAUS Round Table — Localization Business Innovation	www.translationautomation.com	Seattle, WA
February 20-21, 2009	ACM International Workshop on Intercultural Collaboration	http://langrid.nict.go.jp/iwic2009/	Palo Alto, CA

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	December 11, 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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