



# NOTIS/WITS NEWS



Volume 18 No. 1, WINTER 2005

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## Get 'Em While They're Young: Teaching Interpretation in High School

*Courtney Searls-Ridge, Academic Director of Translation  
Translation & Interpretation Institute*

Since the summer of 2002, The Translation & Interpretation Institute at Bellevue Community College has been working with a grant from Social Venture Partners (SVP) to the Highline School District to develop and refine a one-semester Fundamentals of Interpreting course for high school students with a heritage language other than English. The program is taught by professional interpreters with experience in interpreter training. Lead instructors have been Lisa Scheuer Sturgeon, Courtney Searls-Ridge, and Susana Stettri Sawrey.

The classes are not language specific. This means that the lead instructor does not speak the languages of all the students in the class. The two current classes at Tye High School in Seatac and Highline High School in Burien have students speaking Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin Chinese, Punjabi, Samoan, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Some of the skills taught in the Fundamentals of Interpreting course include interpreter protocol, how to conduct a pre-session, note taking, and glossary research. Students finishing the Fundamentals course come away with some basic interpreting skills, the perception that their language skills are valued in the school community, new motivation and methodology

for improving their English and their heritage language, and an awareness of options for other careers using their languages. Data from the past two years indicate that the bilingual students in this program are less likely to drop out of high school than their bilingual classmates who have not participated in this program.

A key factor in the success of this program has been the participation of professional interpreters who come to the classroom every six weeks to practice with the students and help them with vocabulary in their heritage languages. This semester the students were visited by Kamal Abouzaki, Gigi Ball, Veronica Barber, Kenneth Barger, Safia Egal, Karry Fefer, Yusuf Guled, Diana Noman, Joseph Pham, and Santosh Wahi.

Here is what some of the current students say about this semester:

“The class was not what I expected. It was hard. I thought we would only talk in our language, but we had to learn new words in English and then translate in to our language working with professionals.” (Gurpreet, Punjabi speaker)

“This class made me practice my language and that way I won't lose my first language.” (Hector, Mandarin speaker)

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**Northwest Translators and Interpreters  
Society**

A chapter of the  
**American Translators Association**

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*NOTIS NEWS* is published in February, May, August, and November. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Please send submissions to Editor sarah.garriott@aolti.com. Submissions become the property of *NOTIS NEWS* and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Society, or its Board.

Editor	Sarah L. Garriott (206) 463-2152
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Deadline next issue	April 15, 2004

NOTE: Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 a year. Send a check, payable to NOTIS, P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98165-2001

NOTIS Membership Fees  
Individual & Institutional \$35.00 a year  
Corporate \$50.00 a year  
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WITS Newsletter is published quarterly by the Washington State Court Interpreters & Translators Society, PO Box 1012, Seattle, WA 98111-1012.

Our voicemail telephone number is (206) 382-5690.

WITS has a Web page which can be visited at [www.witsnet.org](http://www.witsnet.org).

WITS accepts advertising to be published in the Newsletter. Advertisements are subject to approval and must be consistent with the goals and purposes of WITS. The acceptance by WITS of a paid advertisement in the Newsletter does not constitute endorsement of the product or services advertised. Acceptable sizes (width by height) are as follows:

6-1/2" x 4": \$60.00

3" x 4": \$30.00

3" x 2": \$15.00

To submit an ad, send camera-ready advertisement together with payment to the WITS PO Box address noted above.



## NOTIS Notes

### Welcome to New Members

#### Individual

Mónica Bierge	English > Spanish	Melissa Mintel	French > English
	Spanish > Catalan	Lionel Pillas	French <> English
Nancy Buyers	Spanish <> English	Katrin Rippel	English > German
Roger Elmore	German > English	Katherine Ritzer	Spanish <> English
Haifa Erickson	Arabic <> English	Spiro Savvides	Greek <> English
Thuan Huynh	Vietnamese <> English	Andrea Shirley-Brown	Spanish <> English
Radu Ivan	Romanian <> English	Julie Simon	ASL <> English
	German <> English	Johannes Tan	Indonesian <> English
Kellyn Nuñez	Spanish <> English		Malay > English

#### Rejoins

Jamie Lucero French > English

#### Corporate

Northwest Interpreters, Inc.

## WITS Notes

### Welcome to New Members

Jin So	Korean <> English
Tatiana Nazarco	Romanian <> Moldovian <> Russian <> English
Radu Ivan	Romanian <> Moldavian <> German <> English

#### Rejoins

Jesse Acosta	Spanish <> English
Judith Aguilar	Spanish <> English
Ernest Pino	Spanish <> English

## From the NOTIS President and Vice-President

Dear NOTIS members,

It is our pleasure to address you and provide a regular update of the latest developments in this first joint NOTIS/WITS Newsletter. It appears appropriate at this time of the year to look back and take stock of the accomplishments achieved in 2004, and look ahead and plan for 2005.

From our perspective, one of the major accomplishments has been an effort to consolidate and strengthen our organization by making some tangible steps towards reaching out to our members, identifying their needs and concerns, and trying to meet them. The Membership Satisfaction Survey and the Membership Drive conducted by dedicated volunteer groups headed respectively by Director George Fowler, and Office Manager and Membership Coordinator Christina Zubelli, highlighted the effort. Our thanks go to these wonderful people who made it happen.

As you know from our previous updates, the Board's responses to the Survey have been the subject of thorough discussions at a number of successive meetings. As a result, the Board has identified a tentative list of workshops and seminars which cover a fairly wide range of topics and involve various levels of complexity. This list will be further discussed and finalized by the participants of the "Global Program Meeting" - interested members of NOTIS, SOMI and WITS who will get together on January 31. The NOTIS coordinators and organizers are Program Committee Co-Chairs Michelle Privat Obermeyer and Deya Jorda Nolan, and NOTIS Past President Ann Macfarlane. We hope the meeting will result in an outstanding program calendar that will benefit our members, and add value to the profession, and we certainly appreciate the joint effort of our three sister organizations.

The Membership Drive has been successfully completed. 187 potential members have been identified: 90 individual, 42 corporate, and 57 institutional. 187 letters containing an application form, President's letter, and NOTIS Brochure were mailed on January 19. We extend our thanks to Christina Zubelli for her enormous work and commitment. Hopefully, this effort will lead to an increase in our membership, and considerable organizational growth.

Further developing the topic of consolidation, we cannot help mentioning the two annual events which occur at the end of each year and highlight the spirit of belonging and camaraderie—the traditional Holiday Pot-

luck, and the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was held on November 13, 2004. The Board of directors presented their reports which were well received by the members and gave rise to a productive dialog. On behalf of the Board, the President thanked immediate past President Alex Mosalsky, who stepped down from the Board, for his contribution to NOTIS. The election to fill the vacant positions on the Board followed. Five incumbent directors were reelected, and a new director, Jasna Rustempasic, was elected. We would like to congratulate Jasna and welcome her to the Board. After a break, during which the members had refreshments and enjoyed socializing and networking, the ATA Recap took place. The presentations covered a fairly wide range of topics and stimulated lots of questions.

The traditional Holiday Potluck took place on December 4. It is always a fun event, but this time it was even more significant because we were privileged to have distinguished guests from ATA: President Scott Brennan, President-Elect Marian Greenfield and Administrative Coordinator and Meeting Planner Teresa Kelly. The guests came to Seattle to prepare for the ATA conference. President of WITS, Sam Mattix, took the floor and made an address with a touch of poetry to it. He quoted a poem "I Heard a Bird Sing" by Oliver Herford.

*I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December  
A magical thing  
And sweet to remember:  
We are nearer to spring  
Than we were in September  
I heard a bird sing in December.*

Sam used the poem as a parable to emphasize his thought that in a world of despair we (NOTIS, SOMI and WITS) play a key role in bringing understanding, healing and justice. President of SOMI, Renée Palermo, arranged for a salsa lesson and dancing. It was a lot of fun!

Looking ahead, we can say that the New Year 2005 will offer us both new and exciting prospects and the inevitable challenges that come along. One of such prospects is the 2005 ATA Conference that will take place in Seattle's Westin Hotel, November 9-12, 2005. We are proud to say that NOTIS began intensive preparatory work well in advance. The Hosting Committee, headed by Director Caitilin Walsh, has been working very hard for the last year. Due to their activity, NOTIS was made highly visible at the ATA Conference in Toronto. There is still a lot to be done within the remaining time. Please take advantage of this unique

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## Letter from the President

Sam Mattix, WITS President 2003-2004

Thank you for the privilege of serving as president of WITS for the last two years. I did not stand for re-election to WITS board because of a need to refocus on other goals. But WITS bylaws provide that outgoing presidents serve in *ex officio* capacity for one more year to pass on the baton (gavel) to the next WITS president, to be chosen by and from among the current board members. I hope that I can be as helpful to the new president as Emma Garkavi, the previous president, was to me two years ago.

Welcome to Vania Haam and Eugenia Munday as new WITS board members. And welcome back for a second term, Steve Muzik. Thank you for agreeing to serve your profession in this way.

WITS board members and committee members have been hard at work this year. I hope you were among the many who attended WITS' excellent continuing education programs this year. WITS e-mail broadcasts, Web site banner ads and mailings informed us of upcoming events, including events organized by sister organizations in the Pacific Northwest and the nation, and also quality training events offered by a number of WITS members. For interpreters of languages certified by the Administrative Office of the Courts in Washington State, those who attended all WITS programs were able to obtain 10 CEU's, including two ethics CEU's required for the 2004-2005 compliance period. See the link on the "Members" page of the WITS Web site. Please note that the International Translator's Day CEU's will soon be posted to the AOC site.

Speaking of the Web site, we are hearing great feedback about our Web site's attractiveness and ease of use from people who use it to look for interpreters. A planned improvement is to enable searches for interpreters by last name. There have been rough spots to work out with the recently updated system. At the moment we are not receiving forms by e-mail from people who update their online directory information online. We expect to have this problem resolved by the time you receive this newsletter. If you don't see your updates in the online directory within two weeks of submitting changes online, please try again, or print out the form and mail it in, or e-mail our webmaster. We promise to work with you until we get it right! Thank you for your patience. Please note that you will not appear in the online directory unless (1) your membership dues are paid by the renewal deadline and (2) you have specifically requested to be listed and (3) you have given your language information. (We do not assume you are a Spanish interpreter if you don't tell us!)

Point a. of WITS Bylaws, ARTICLE 1, Objectives, states: "To advocate and promote the recognition of interpreting and translating as a profession and to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of the professional interpreter and translator." WITS has actively pursued this objective during 2004. We sent two representatives, Julie Bryan and Emma Garkavi, to the Washington State Human Rights Commission conference *Planning Strategically: Civil Rights in Washington State*, in Tacoma, December 1-3. And we also are having a voice in Washington's Department of Labor & Industry revision of its interpreter standards and payment policy. But our board is also responding to widespread cries for greater advocacy from the professional interpreter community. At our January 22, 2005 meeting we voted unanimously to establish an Advocacy Committee, chaired by Claudia Zar, with Mario Flores and Diana Meredith immediately signing on as members. Would you like to be part of the action? I'm sure they would like to hear from you.

Another significant advance this year is that Rachel Wenru Chen began giving a few hours of her time each month to serve as WITS office manager. Now your messages left on WITS voicemail are listened to, logged and responded to more than once a week. Also all mail received is logged and forwarded or responded to as appropriate. Rachel will soon be trained to maintain and use our membership database in ways that will more efficiently support volunteers to do mailings and other tasks.

In order to serve language professionals better, NOTIS and WITS decided to merge our newsletters, giving more content with less duplication, and saving on paper and postage. Now we have begun to explore what Ann G. Macfarlane entitles a "Radical Proposal" to consider a thorough revamp of our existing T&I societies that have a history of cooperation: NOTIS, SOMI and WITS. No big changes will be made lightly. WITS Bylaws require a vote of the membership to amend the bylaws. Furthermore, Article 13 - DISSOLUTION states: "The Society may be dissolved by a three-fourths majority of the Membership present at a meeting called for that purpose." Clearly your involvement as a WITS member is needed in the coming weeks and months. We want to take a good look at why we exist as a society, and at how to better achieve those purposes and objectives. This is an exciting time to be involved.

And finally, I want to close with a reminder. Please remember to send in your membership renewal soon if you have not already done so. And if you choose to be listed in the online directory, make sure your listing appears there and that it is correct. Our court interpreter society exists for us, but it also exists because of us. Let's make WITS the best it can be!



## Joint Holiday Potluck





*The editors of this publication wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to the newest group of certified court interpreters. These interpreters have shown the talent and perseverance necessary to meet the challenge that is the Washington State Court Interpreter Certification Exam. It is our hope that this success will bring many opportunities. Below, four of Washington's newest certified court interpreters share their thoughts on the experience.*

**Joe Tein, Washington State Certified Spanish Court Interpreter**

Hello to my new colleagues! I'm very relieved and proud that I passed the oral portion of the legal interpreter test. Regina McDougall called to let me know my results a couple of weeks ago, and the official letter came yesterday, January 24. I never worried about the written test, but the oral part was such a different experience that I had no idea how it would come out. I can clearly remember how much adrenaline I had going through me when I was in that little room with the headphones on—much more than I've ever felt in an actual interpreting situation in a courtroom! Since then I've kept thinking about the places where I probably made mistakes, and what words I should have used, and wondering how it was going to turn out. So I'm really glad that part is over and I can get on with the work.

I was born in Israel and learned Spanish in Uruguay, where I lived as a child. My experience working for the Sheriff's department and as a qualified interpreter for the courts here on San Juan Island for the past five years is what made it possible to pass this really challenging test. I'm looking forward to connecting with some of you in the future.

**Michael Zheleznyak, Washington State Certified Russian Court Interpreter**

I moved to Seattle from Boston in 1992, and, while working as a lithotripsy technologist and ultrasonographer, I started interpreting mostly in medical settings, working for the company Hospital Interpretation Program. My services were expanding, and in 1994, I received a contract with Medical Assistance Administration of DSHS. At that time I was already interpreting in legal settings, but medical interpretation was my main focus.

In 1997 I passed the written portion of the Court Interpreter Examination. Then I decided to take the oral part, and it took me several attempts to succeed. I was attending seminars designed to prepare us for the exams,

and I especially liked one that was taught by Karine Avagimova. I think it helped me a lot. I should also mention a list of legal terms that I obtained from the Office of Interpreter Services of King County Superior Court. It was very useful.

The exam is very difficult, in my opinion—especially the simultaneous portion. But this is good, because it shows a very high standard. Shortly before Christmas of 2004, I received the letter advising me that I had passed the exam. I was very happy; it was the best present for the holidays. I

*“The exam is very difficult... it shows a very high standard.”*

wanted to become a court certified interpreter to distinguish myself and to have more opportunities to interpret in various legal settings. It is a very challenging profession and I am very proud that now I am court certified.

I want to offer some tips to future candidates. Try to simultaneously interpret the news from the radio or TV. Try to do something else when you interpret consecutively; for example, distract yourself by writing something. I often use these exercises. Also, if you want to become a court interpreter, come to the court and watch other interpreters work. Good luck to you, and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Pablo Sepulveda, Washington State Certified Spanish Court Interpreter**

When people ask me what did I do to pass the oral exam for the court certification, I cannot think of any one event in particular that helped me the most. It was a combination of experiences that culminated in the successful completion of this exam.

I am originally from Chile where I grew up. I immigrated in 1987 at the age of 18, and I have lived in the USA for the past 18 years. It would be easy to think that with this exposure to language, I would naturally be a good interpreter and translator. My experience was not that easy. I had to study.

In 1995, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance from the University of Washington. Upon graduating I was con-

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## Computer Skills and Translation Tools for Translators:

Four Saturday Workshops this Spring sponsored by the  
Translation & Interpretation Institute at BCC  
Eligible for ATA Continuing Education Credits

### Microsoft Office for Translators (Intermediate)

Instructor Roger Chriss

Saturday, April 30, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This four-hour workshop has been designed to provide translators with useful skills in MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. There will be a quick review of basic skills and concepts, followed by an in-depth look at intermediate and advanced skills that help translators work more efficiently and accurately. In Word, students will practice customizing toolbars and menus, creating and formatting text and tables, and creating macros. In Excel, bookkeeping and terminology spreadsheets will be covered, including graphs and simple formulas. Students will examine editing in PowerPoint, in order to change a presentation as one might do while translating.

This workshop is appropriate for beginners and intermediate-level users of MS Office.

Instructor Roger Chriss is a freelance translator/writer and a graduate of and former Adjunct Professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Location: BCC North Campus, 10700 Northrup Way, Bellevue,

Fee: \$49

Registration Item Number: G9250

### Affordable Tools for Translators

Instructor Jamie Lucero

Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This five-hour workshop will provide translators with an introduction to a variety of practical and affordable tools for or related to word processing, document conversion, Internet research, translation memory, machine translation, terminology, and general computer maintenance. This will be accompanied by three hours of hands-on training with Wordfast, an inexpensive translation memory tool compatible with Trados and most other CAT tools using the TMX standard. A discussion of project management issues will follow. Participants should be familiar with PCs with a recent version of Windows, and have an

intermediate level of experience working with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and doing Internet searches.

Instructor Jamie Lucero is a graduate of the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California where he earned a M.A. in French-English translation. Now the owner of Morning Star Translations in Portland, Oregon, he has worked as a translation tools consultant and both as a freelance and an in-house translator in the United States and in Quebec City, Canada.

Location: BCC North Campus, 10700 Northrup Way, Bellevue

Fee: \$79

Registration Item Number: G9253

### Microsoft Office for Translators (Advanced)

Instructor Roger Chriss

Saturday, May 14, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This four-hour workshop will provide translators with broader skills in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access to improve productivity. The workshop will cover advanced skills and power-user techniques such as Styles, advanced formatting, and document control in Excel, manipulating presentations in PowerPoint, and creating and working with an invoicing database, a client manager, and a terminology database in Access.

This workshop is appropriate for intermediate-level and advanced users of MS Office. Participants should be familiar with the material covered in the workshop MS Office for Translators (Intermediate).

Instructor Roger Chriss is a freelance translator/writer and a graduate of and former Adjunct Professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Location: BCC North Campus, 10700 Northrup Way, Bellevue

Fee: \$49

Registration Item Number: G9251





## Business Skills for Translators

Instructor Roger Chriss

Saturday, June 11, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This four-hour workshop will introduce students to the translation industry, in particular to who is hiring, where the jobs are, what skills are in demand, and how to develop and market oneself. Attention will be given to creating résumés and cover letters, finding potential clients or employers, impressing translation managers and project managers, and (for freelancers) negotiating jobs and getting paid. Emerging technologies and industry trends will be discussed, how translators can adapt to the evolving international and Internet-based market, and the importance of professional associations and continuing education.

Instructor Roger Chriss is a freelance translator/writer and a graduate of and former Adjunct Professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Location: BCC North Campus, 10700 Northrup Way, Bellevue

Fee: \$49

Registration Item Number: G9252

Register before March 27, 2005 and save the \$8 registration fee.



Sponsored by the BCC Translation & Interpretation Institute. For more information:

<http://www.conted.bcc.ctc.edu/worldlang/ti.asp>, 425-564-2263

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“I didn’t take this class because I want to interpret. I took it because I want to get better at my languages. Now I know that interpreting is really helpful to others and to ourselves.” (Montana, Spanish speaker)

“It was a lot harder than I thought. I thought all we would do was talk, but we had to learn new vocabulary, and talking in our language was really hard. I couldn’t remember most of the words because I don’t speak my language that often. When they brought in the interpreter, I really loved it. Our interpreter was really cool! He taught me a lot.” (Hanh, Vietnamese speaker)

“I gained more vocabulary words that I never ever thought I would gain in school. The most important help

*“I really loved it. Our interpreter was really cool! He taught me a lot.”*

came from the professional interpreter who comes in and tells us about what this job is about. This class would change somebody’s life, not only now, but in the future.” (Mohamed, Somali speaker)

After completing the Fundamentals course, exceptional students—those exhibiting enough talent, maturity, and interest—are invited to continue honing their skills by becoming a Highline Public School Student Interpreter. Participants in this after-school program have an opportunity to interpret at social events for parents and staff at elementary schools in the Highline School District. They meet weekly with an interpreter instructor and earn high school credit for their participation. There are clear restrictions and guidelines for the situations in which the Student Interpreters may be used, and school principals are required to participate in a one-hour training session on how to work with interpreters before they can request a Student Interpreter from the program. The Fundamentals of Interpreting course and the Student Interpreter program—both made possible by a grant from SVP—are changing the way the Highline School District works with professional and student interpreters and greatly increasing communication with limited-English speaking families in the district.

The SPV grant also funded the soon-to-be-released *Speak Your Language* series of videos on careers in languages, directed by Ann Macfarlane and featuring, among others, WITS member Claudia Zar (court interpreter) and NOTIS members Jessica Cohen (freelance literary translator), and Shoko Fujita-Ehrlich (in-house translator).

Look for details about the *Speak Your Language* video series and the Student Interpreter program in future issues of this publication. Also, for more information about taking translation and interpreting to the classroom, see the American Translators Association school outreach tips at: [http://www.atanet.org/ata\\_school](http://www.atanet.org/ata_school).

**ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE WASHINGTON STATE COURT INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS SOCIETY,  
THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL INTERPRETERS, AND  
THE NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY  
January 27, 2005**

The boards of directors of NOTIS, SOMI and WITS have each met in the last month to discuss the idea of unifying our societies more closely for mutual benefit. Each of the boards is in favor of exploring this idea. You are invited to participate in a "Saturday Summit" that will be held on March 19, 2005 to discuss this idea. It is anticipated that the Saturday Summit will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Shoreline Center in Shoreline, Washington. All members of all three societies are warmly encouraged to attend.

**BACKGROUND**

We are fortunate to have several voluntary organizations of translators and interpreters in the Pacific Northwest. It has been rewarding to engage in closer communication, joint programs, and common social events over the past several years. We as individuals have many times heard the question, "why do we have so many local translator and interpreter groups?" Reflecting on that question, we have come up with the idea mentioned above. The present situation has many benefits, but working more closely together could benefit us even more:

1. reduced duplication of effort
2. less likelihood of volunteer burnout
3. cost savings
4. better communication among all of us
5. greater visibility for our profession
6. more clout on the governmental and policy scene
7. greater resources for publicity, advocacy and marketing for our members

Two different ways of achieving these benefits have been proposed:

- A. The radical proposal: to consolidate into a single entity with distinct subdivisions.
- B. The moderate proposal: to create a federation of our three existing societies.

We know that our members have affection, respect and commitment towards our own organizations. It feels risky to propose starting something new, and perhaps to give up the organizational structures that we now have. Yet change is a part of life, and we welcome the idea of exploring this possible change.

At the Saturday Summit, to be facilitated by Ann Macfarlane, boards and members of our organizations will each explore all aspects of our voluntary work. Each organization will have the chance to reassess its priorities and decide what it considers most essential in its activities. We will then meet in common and discuss how we can best move forward. Doing this will be a way to get to know one another better and build towards our common future.

Please join us on Saturday, March 19, for the Saturday Summit to explore a new future for our three organizations. Further details will be provided as soon as possible.

Sam Mattix, President, Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society

Larissa Kulinich, President, Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society

Renee Palermo, President, Society of Medical Interpreters

Ann G. Macfarlane, Past President, Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society



## 2004 WITS Outreach Committee Activities

*Julie Bryan, Outreach Chair*

The Outreach Committee for WITS accomplished some interesting things in 2004.

In August, Claudia Zar, Amy Andrews, Julie Bryan, Emma Garkavi and Sam Mattix spent several hours with Monroe Prison's Hostage Negotiations Team. This team wanted to explore negotiation using an interpreter. This was a mutually instructive opportunity. The interpreters taught the negotiators about what interpreters do and how to use an interpreter, while the negotiators taught the interpreters some of the unique strategies and situations that they face. Together we role-played several scenarios. This enabled the Hostage Negotiations Team to experience firsthand what interpreters do, as well as experiment with how an interpreter might impact a negotiations situation. Much laughter, curiosity and information was exchanged. We hope to continue to develop a two-way educational relationship.

In November, WITS presented an orientation on the effective use of interpreters to the City of Seattle's Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Team. This orientation included prosecutors as well as advocates. An opportunity exists to do this again with an expanded group of prosecutors.

In December, Emma Garkavi and Julie Bryan attended the Planning Strategically: Civil Rights in Washington State conference, sponsored by the Washington State Human Rights Commission and the Office of Governor Gary Locke. The topics discussed in working groups included housing, education, employment, access, justice, communications, and accommodation and transportation. All of these fundamental rights and access to them require humans to engage effectively in two-way communication. Therefore, to enable people of differing languages to participate, interpreters and translators are vital tools in the assurance of civil rights in Washington State. WITS aggressively represented the interests of interpreters and translators in two of the identified issues. In the area of access, WITS representatives promoted a global vision: "In an open and safe environment, each person has access to communicate,

be heard and achieve 'equitable participation' in the rights, benefits and obligations of society."

The second issue was justice. The vision for this topic is to see Washington State become "...the national leader in providing access and application to 'equal justice' under the law. This includes access to advice, information, representation, and aid to promote and defend legal rights and protections in both civil and criminal systems." Two of the specific goals of this vision pertain to interpreters and translators. One is to demonstrate the need for language-specific information in the court system, and the other is to support increased resources for legal representation, legal interpretation services and disability accommodations. This conference was an excellent way to increase our visibility, and WITS should continue to actively participate in ongoing sessions.

As the Outreach Committee looks to the future, we have several goals for 2005. We will continue to seek out opportunities to offer talks on the effective use of interpreters, with an eye to making the presentation and outline available to WITS members in all parts of the state, and offering training in making the presentation. We will develop an outreach plan for WITS. Outreach will celebrate the Year of Foreign Language through targeted and "out of the box" outreach to the schools, media, and general public, with information and stories about interpreters and their languages. We also aim to create social learning tools to promote membership to WITS, such as monthly glossary building events focused on specific legal vocabulary.

This committee can be a real mover and shaker for our professional visibility to the public and to our internal group identity. It is a fun committee that is task oriented. If you would like to learn more about how you can join the fun, call Julie at (206) 781-8667.

*"...interpreters and translators are vital tools in the assurance of civil rights in Washington State."*

☉☉☉ *Continued from page 4*

opportunity, get involved and make a personal contribution! You can contact Caitilin at: [cwalsh@nwlink.com](mailto:cwalsh@nwlink.com)

It is extremely propitious for the cause of further advancing our profession that 2005 has been declared The Year of Languages by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). ACTFL has issued a proclamation to that effect. Sharing the stated goals and wholeheartedly supporting them, the NOTIS Board of Directors adopted its own proclamation at its meeting on January 19. Please see the full text of the proclamation in this issue. We would encourage all our members to be aware of it and make an effort to promote it.

It is obvious that NOTIS has been continually moving ahead. And what is most encouraging is that we have been collaborating with our sister organizations, WITS and SOMI. One of the manifestations of this collaboration is the current issue of the newsletter. The process of consolidation is already underway. The boards of directors of NOTIS, SOMI and WITS decided to explore the possibility of a closer collaboration. Each of the boards had a meeting last month, and discussed the idea of unifying our organizations. As a result, the proposal to consider unification appeared. Please read the full text of the proposal in this issue. We fully understand that it might be a challenging and overwhelming process, and yet we believe that it would be for the benefit of our societies and profession should we choose to move in this direction. Needless to say, the input of our members is absolutely crucial and indispensable. You are invited to join us on Saturday, March 19, for the Saturday Summit to explore a new future for our three organizations. Details as to the time and venue will be provided.

In conclusion, it might be appropriate to quote Emerson, "The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind." And we have enormous power: the wisdom, experience and good judgment of our members.

*Larissa Kulinich  
Marilyse Benyakar*

☉☉☉ *Continued from page 7*

fronted with the sad reality that there are very few jobs in music. I had to do something else that paid the bills, so I found interpreting to be an easy way to make extra money. I took the DSHS Medical Interpreting Exam and passed. I was so confident of my interpreting abilities that I decided to try for the court certification. I studied hard for the written exam and I passed again. I thought to myself:

this is easy. Little did I know how challenging the oral portion of this test would be.

I studied every day for the month prior to this test. I went to take the exam full of confidence. I was not even nervous. I was sure I had passed the test. A few months later I received *the letter*. I was fully expecting to read the congratulatory news, but instead was met with the shocking information that I had not passed the test. They gave me the score, told me that I had potential, and recommended that I try again. I was so sad and disappointed that I did not try to take the test for another three years. This time around I built up a more intense habit of practicing, so much so that six weeks before the exam I was studying every day for three to four hours.

When I received the phone call informing me of my passing the test, I was happy and hopeful of the future. I look forward to the opportunities that await me in my career as a certified court interpreter.

**Carlos Cerecedo, California and Washington State  
Certified Spanish Court Interpreter**

During our trip to Washington State, my wife Christine and I fell in love with a little town called Sequim, in the Olympic Peninsula. We took a deep breath, made an offer on a house, and I took the Washington State Court Interpreter Certification Exam. So here we were, back in Santa Barbara, California—beautiful, but we were already longing for a summer in the Olympic Peninsula.

The written exam was given very professionally. A large auditorium, numbered seats, very quiet, and the aides provided excellent service. When I finished, I took a deep breath and felt insecure; then my wife picked me up, and off we went to Sequim by ferry. The cell rang—they accepted my offer on the house.

Escrow closed. I took the oral. It was intense, solemn, efficient. Simultaneous, sight, consecutive. Again I felt very insecure. Then it was off to visit Sequim again. The house is beautiful.

Back to Santa Barbara. Wait, wait, wait... Christmas, nothing...January 7 ... the cell rang ...YEAH ... "Mr. Cerecedo, you passed the oral"... Washington dreaming!

Thanks to all of you that worked so hard to make it a profession so now we can have our "Washington Dream." My wife Christine and I look forward to meeting all of my colleagues.





## Sick of Clueless Clients?

Get in on the ground floor. Join the ATA school outreach movement and start educating clients one classroom at a time.

It's easy

It's fun

It's free

... and it could win you free registration to next year's conference in Seattle, November 9-12, 2005.

Here's how:

1. Visit the ATA website at [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org).
2. Click on School Outreach
3. Pick the age level you like the best and click on it.
4. Download a presentation and deliver it at your local school or university.

5. Get someone to take a picture of you in the classroom.
6. Send it to the ATA Public Relations Committee at [pr@atanet.org](mailto:pr@atanet.org) (subject line: School Outreach Contest) or at 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include your name and contact information, the date, the school's name and location, and a brief description of the class. The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2005.

The best photograph wins free registration at next year's ATA conference in Seattle. The winner will be contacted by August 15, 2005. Any member of ATA or of any ATA-affiliated organization is eligible to enter.

Any questions? Contact:

Amanda Ennis: [germantoenglish@earthlink.net](mailto:germantoenglish@earthlink.net)  
Lillian Clementi: [lillian@lingualegal.com](mailto:lillian@lingualegal.com)

## ATA is coming!



That's right, the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual ATA Conference is going to be held in the City of Seattle. We have a terrific opportunity as hosts to promote ourselves. Your hosting committee is working on several items:

- Pro Bono project
- Opening Session program
- NOTIS presence at conference
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Excursions/Tours
- Restaurants
- Child care
- Tennis tournament

### How can you help?

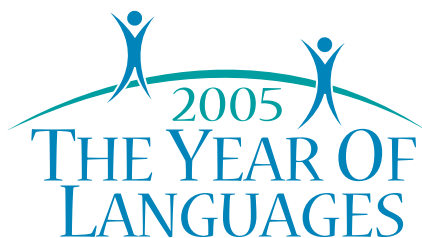
It's easy! If you're a local, think of recommending your favorites to our guests. Please tell us what it is, how much it costs, and tell us why you like it. We'll include it on our spiffy hosting Web site:

[http://www.notisnet.org/ata\\_2005.html](http://www.notisnet.org/ata_2005.html)

We will also be looking for volunteers for the event as well as helping hands on the projects above. Of course, you're more than welcome to join in—or just chime in! Please contact Caitilin Walsh at [cwalsh@nwlink.com](mailto:cwalsh@nwlink.com).

Mark your calendar! Save the date!

**ATA 46th Annual Conference**  
**Seattle, Washington**  
**November 9-12, 2005**



The Board of Directors of NOTIS wishes to share with you the following proclamation and thanks you for all you can do to carry out its objective.

**PROCLAMATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY**

WHEREAS world languages play a crucial role in the positive development of peaceful relations among nations and peoples, and

WHEREAS world languages have become an essential part of the social fabric of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS study of, knowledge of, and mastery of world languages are crucial to the economic health, national security, and internal well being of our nation today, and

WHEREAS it is desirable for everyone living within our nation to understand the culture, mindset and common humanity of those who speak other languages than English, and

WHEREAS our society of translators and interpreters relies upon members who have gained a mastery of world languages,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

that the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society strongly supports the initiative of the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages which proclaims

**2005: YEAR OF LANGUAGES**

and encourages all its members to publicize this initiative, to promote knowledge of world languages, and to encourage all residents of our area to increase their understanding of other languages and cultures.

Seattle, Washington

January 19, 2005



# Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Time & Place
February 24, 2005	“Practical Leadership Seminar” by Ann G. Macfarlane	6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Free and open to the Public	Richmond Beach Library: 19601 21 <sup>st</sup> Ave. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177
March 5, 2005	ATA Professional Development Seminar: Legal Translation	<a href="http://www.atanet.org/pd/legal">www.atanet.org/pd/legal</a>	Embassy Suites, Houston, Texas
March 7, 2005	“Jurassic Parliament, How to Run Great Meetings” by Ann G. Macfarlane	6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Free and open to the public	Shoreline Library: 345 NE 175 <sup>th</sup> St., Shoreline, WA 98155
March 16, 2005	WITS CE Workshop: Juvenile Court	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue, WA
March 19, 2005	SOMI, WITS & NOTIS Summit	10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. <a href="http://www.notisnet.org">www.notisnet.org</a>	Shoreline Community Center, Shoreline, WA
April 26, 2005	ALO (Associated Linguists of Oregon): Dr. Pietro Ferrua, conference interpreter	7:00 p.m.	Balestra Hall, St. Michael's Church, SW 4 <sup>th</sup> & Mill, Portland, Oregon
April 30, 2005	ATA Certification Exam (must be a member of ATA at least 4 weeks in advance)	Registration with ATA required. Call: +1(703) 683-6100 or download application: <a href="http://ww.atanet.org">ww.atanet.org</a>	University of Washington, Seattle, WA
April 28, 2005	ATA Mentoring Workshop	<a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a>	Jersey City, New Jersey
April 29-May 1, 2005	ATA Professional Development Seminar: Financial Translation	<a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a>	Jersey City, New Jersey
April 30, 2005	Microsoft Office for Translators (Intermediate) with Roger Chriss	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration Required	BCC North Campus, Bellevue, WA
May 7, 2005	Affordable Tools for Translators with Jamie Lucero	9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration Required	BCC North Campus, Bellevue, WA
May 13-15, 2005	NAJIT 26 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	<a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a>	Washington D.C.
May 14, 2005	Microsoft Office for Translators (Advanced) with Roger Chriss	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration Required	BCC North Campus, Bellevue, WA
May 24, 2005	ALO Meeting: Roundtable	7:00 p.m.	Balestra Hall, St. Michael's Church, SW 4 <sup>th</sup> & Mill, Portland, OR
June 4, 2005	WITS Annual Meeting plus CE Workshop: Domestic Violence & Protection Orders	TBD	TBD
June 11, 2005	Business Skills for Translators with Roger Chriss	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration Required	BCC North Campus, Bellevue, WA
August 4-7, 2005	17 <sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Federation of Translators	<a href="http://www.fit-ift.org">www.fit-ift.org</a>	Tampere, Finland
August 27, 2005	WITS CE Workshop: Ethics	TBD	Yakima, WA
October 1, 2005	WITS Deadline to submit Board Member Nominations		
October 25-27, 2005	Localization World Conference	<a href="http://www.localizationworld.com">www.localizationworld.com</a>	Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle, WA
November 2005	Election of WITS Board Members conducted by Mail		

## Calendar (cont. from page 15)

Date	Event	Details	Time & Place
November 9-12, 2005	ATA 46 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	www.atanet.org	Westin Hotel, Seattle, WA
December 3, 2005	WITS/ SOMI/NOTIS Annual Holiday Party		University of Washington Waterfront Activities Center

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

### NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
	February 21, 2005 7:30 p.m.	Teleconference	
NOTIS	March 2, 2005 6:30 p.m.	Laura Cooper Residence	Info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	March 29, 2005 6:30 p.m.	Mavis-Kulinich Residence	Info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	May 14, 2005 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	The Dunn Garden	Info@notisnet.org

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

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