

NOTIS NEWS

VOLUME 13, No. 4, WINTER 2000

NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY

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41st Annual ATA Conference Recap: Into the 21st Century

by *Mark Blackbird*

On October 3 at Greenlake Library, NOTIS held its recap of this year's American Translators Association Conference. The meeting was quite well attended, and more than a dozen conference attendees were on hand to discuss their experiences. NOTIS President **Caitilin Walsh** got the meeting under way at about 6:30.

First up was **Ray Roman**, who talked about a presentation by George Rimalower, manager of a translation agency, on "Marketing Yourself as a Successful Translator." Essentially, the presentation was about what agencies like to see in a résumé. First of all, they want to see a cover letter, and it should be to the point: contact info, date, language pair, expertise, services offered, "what makes you special," and how you found out about the agency.

On the résumé, the information should be in the order of importance, which means your language pair goes right at the top. Then it should include the usual information, but also such things as the computer hardware you use, the software with which you are familiar, a little bit of personal information (countries where you have lived and how long, interests and hobbies, "what makes you special"), and references.

Things to avoid in marketing yourself to an agency included poor netiquette ("no viruses please"), using your computer as a

typewriter, misspellings and inaccuracies, and applying when you are not qualified.

In the ensuing discussion, **Nicholaas Beehler** of A.C.E. InfoGroup offered some emendations. Your computer hardware and software experience are important because agencies need to be sure that both you and your computer will be capable of dealing with the information formats you may be called upon to use. Using your computer as a typewriter, e.g. using tabs to center text

JOINT HOLIDAY PARTY with SOMI and WITS

Saturday, December 9,
2000
Noon to 3 p.m.

at the UW Waterfront
Activities Center

instead of the centering tool, is a no-no because it indicates that you are unable to take advantage of the capabilities of your software. The discussion also stressed that your references should include clients and other agencies for whom you have worked.

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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 Anita.Krattinger@philips.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.

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Deadline January 10th, 2001
next issue

NOTE: Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 a year. Send a check, payable to NOTIS, P.O. Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2001

NOTIS Membership Fees
Individual & Institutional \$35.00 a year
Corporate \$50.00 a year
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NOTIS NOTES

**Welcome to
New Members**

Michael Korchonoff, Dennis Stevens,
Linda Tapp, Christina Zubelli, Nina
Gettler

**Welcome to
New Corporate
Members**

Accurate Translation Services

**Letter to
The Editor**

Dear NOTIS,
Thank you very much for the latest issue of NOTIS News. I particularly enjoyed Ann Macfarlane's account of her visit to Yokohama and how her family history opened the city to her. I am struck by the variety of activities and opportunities NOTIS offers its members considerably more than in the days when I was a Seattle resident and a member of the NOTIS board. Please continue to send me the newsletter. Many thanks for keeping me updated on the world of translation in the Pacific Northwest.
Willard Wood, Norfolk, CT

**2001 NOTIS
Directory**

The 2001 NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters has gone to press and will be distributed to over 600 users of language services across the country. The advertising revenues will make a substantial contribution to the cost of publication. Many thanks to all who advertised for supporting NOTIS in this vital aspect of our member services. The next step will be distribution. Please contact NOTIS voice mail if you are able to help lick stamps and stuff envelopes for the all-important mailing party on December 2nd. Light refreshments provided for all hands!

Think Renewal!

We'll be sending out reminders for renewal at the end of the year, but you can save us postage and time by renewing early. Membership rates remain the same for 2001: \$35/yr. for individual and institutional members, and \$50/yr. for corporate members. Please be sure to let us know of any changes in your postal address and phone number when you renew.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Festivities

Come enjoy a festive Holiday Potluck on Saturday, December 9th from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the UW Waterfront Activities Center. Network and renew ties with colleagues from WITS and SOMI in an informal setting. Coordinators from translation & interpretation agencies are also invited to this event. Please bring a dish to share with others. Beverages provided.

Saturday, December 9, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., University of Washington Waterfront Activities Center. For more information go to www.notisnet.org

Accreditation Workshop

NOTIS will again offer an Accreditation Workshop in preparation for the American Translators Association Examination scheduled for April 27th in Seattle. The workshop will be held **Saturday, January 27, 2001, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Please arrive by 12:45, if possible. Presented by NOTIS, the workshop will help you prepare for all the “major and minor do’s and don’ts” of the exam. **Registration deadline is Saturday, January 15.** Cost before deadline: \$15 for members of NOTIS, SOMI, WITS; \$20 for non-members. You may join NOTIS at registration. After the deadline, if places are available: \$25 for all. To register and for other information, including advance handouts, call Jean Leblon at (425) 778-9889. If there is no answer on the phone, please leave a message with a clear mention of your name, spelled out, and the telephone number(s) where and when you can be reached.

ATA Accreditation Workshop, Saturday, January 27, 2001, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at University of Washington campus, Denny Hall 216. Pre-registration is required.

ATA Financial Translation Conference

The ATA Professional Development Committee (PDC) is organizing this financial translation workshop in cooperation with New York University’s SCPS Translation Studies Program, May 18-20, 2001.

Friday we will offer financial translation background sessions in English. Saturday and Sunday, financial translation specialists will present language-specific sessions. Participants will be asked to sign up for a specific language pair, but will be free to attend sessions in

other languages. Languages offered will be based on early registration figures (mid-February cutoff) as well as availability of speakers specializing in financial translation. Please send suggestions for speakers (any language pair) and offers to serve on the organizing committee in any function, and sponsorship offers/ideas to Marian Greenfield, PDC member, at msgreenfield@compuserve.com.

ATA Financial Translation Conference, May 18-20, 2001, hosted by New York University’s SCPS Translation Studies Program.

SOMI Forum

Congenital Disorders: Spina Bifida & Down Syndrome, presented by Bob Resta, Genetic Counselor. Dinner at 6 p.m., presentation at 7 p.m. Information: (206) 621-4693 or www.SOMI.net.org.

November 14, 2000, Swedish Medical Center, 5th Floor North Conference Room, Seattle.

Cindy Roat Departs CCHCC

Friends of interpretation who value the contribution interpreters make to members of communities in Washington state are saddened to learn that Cindy Roat is leaving the Cross-Cultural Health Care Program. Cindy has been with the program for almost a decade, and has been the driving force behind its extensive training, educational and outreach programs to members of ethnic communities in our region. CCHCP has gained a national profile, in large part to Cindy’s efforts.

The good news, however, is that CCHCP’s training mission will continue. There are now trained people ready to train others all around the United States, and this valuable work will go on. Even better from a personal point of view, Cindy will still be working here in the Seattle area. She has taken a position as General Manager of Pacific Interpreters, which is opening a branch office in our city. Cindy will continue her volunteer work as Co-chair of the National Council on Interpretation in Health Care. She will also provide oversight of important research projects now under way in California and elsewhere, through which, it is hoped, there can be empirical evidence of the way that professional interpretation improves medical outcomes. Cindy has also been very active in assisting the Society of Medical Interpreters to develop as an organization in our area. NOTIS thanks her for her contributions, and looks forward to seeing her continue as an advocate for those needing interpretation services.

Continued from page 1

But the most stress was placed on being honest about your capabilities. An agency needs to know what kind of volume you can cope with and what your real areas of expertise are—and what you expect from the agency in return. Under the rubric “honesty,” an agency will also expect you to be a team player, which can be demonstrated by a willingness to take on editing and proofreading work and not just lucrative translation projects. In fact, many agencies would prefer to hand out proofreading assignments to their new translators in order to assess their work habits and skills before entrusting an important translation project to them. Thus, proofreading can be a good “in” when marketing to an agency.

Tangential to the discussion on marketing was **Sara Koopman's** discussion of her presentation on “When, Where, and How to Donate Our Professional Services.” She said that donating your services is not only a good way to support a cause or an organization that is meaningful to you, but that it can also be used as an opportunity to promote yourself professionally and to raise awareness of the importance of our profession. Whenever possible, translators and interpreters should insist on acknowledgement for their donated work. She provided examples of what such an acknowledgement could look like. For a translation: “This translation generously donated by Sara Koopman, a member of the Translators and Interpreters Guild/CWA. Please thank her for her support by calling her when you or someone you know needs a Spanish translation or interpretation. She can be reached at [contact information].”

Ken Wagner discussed the “The Role of the International Conference on Harmonization Guidelines in Japanese-to-English Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Translation.” He writes, “The International Conference on Harmonization

of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) was established in 1990 by industrial and regulatory entities in the US, Europe, and Japan to streamline the approval process for drugs marketed internationally. At present, the information filed with drug approval applications differs in form and content from country to country. A major goal of the ICH is to standardize or ‘harmonize’ such efforts by establishing a universal application document (called a ‘common technical document’) to be used by all ICH participants. The ICH impacts biomedical and pharmaceutical translators in two ways. (1) Common Technical Documents will require translation as the approval process moves from country to country. (2) The ICH provides a vast web-based research resource in the form of its many published guidelines which are often available in at least two languages. The guidelines and other ICH information can be accessed on the Web at the ICH’s main page www.fpma.org/ich1.html and the Japanese/English guidelines pages www.nihs/go.jp/dig/ich/qindexe.html.”

Gretchen Sleicher and **Anita Krattinger** discussed presentations on the technological front of the translation profession. In “Websites: Danger and Opportunity,” the ATA panel laid out some of the potential pitfalls in the potentially lucrative business of translating websites. One such pitfall is the text within the <title> and <meta> HTML tags. This text never appears on the webpage itself, but is instrumental in helping automated indexing of webpages for search engines. Thus, a failure to translate this text can make it difficult for web surfers to find the webpage using target language search terms. Another pitfall is the text embedded in graphics, such as navigation buttons and logos. It is important that the translator have adequate technical sup-

“Into the 21st Century”

port from the agency in order to translate and redraw the text within graphics. Other presentations focused on the increasing importance of technical knowledge for the translator. Of particular importance is familiarity with HTML, the relatively easy-to-learn markup language for webpages. Any translator hoping to ride the wave of technological advance should learn it. Other important web-based technologies include JavaScript and XML. The latter is a new more powerful markup language, but also more difficult to learn. Even a casual web search will dig up a plethora of information about these technologies. Also discussed was a new translation memory tool called SDLX. More information about it can be found at the SDL International website www.sdlintl.com/sdlx.

On news within the ATA itself, Past-president of NOTIS **Ann Macfarlane** (and current President of the ATA) discussed proposed changes to the ATA accreditation. Among the proposed changes are the replacement of the term “accreditation” with “certification” and the establishment of pre-qualification criteria. ATA secretary and NOTIS director **Courtney Searls-Ridge** discussed her presentation on a new ATA mentoring initiative. Next year will see the kickoff of a small mentee-driven pilot program in formal mentoring. The goal of program will be to match up 25 mentees with mentors by November, 2001 and evaluate the program by November 2002. She stresses the benefits the program should provide for mentees (expansion of professional network, time saved in learning, honing of professional and people skills), for mentors (increasing professional network, renewed enthusiasm for work, peer recognition), and for the ATA (faster integration of new members, enhancing status

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MEETING REVIEW FROM BREMERTON TO BEAVERTON

This year's NOTIS picnic was distinguished by the farthest geographic reach in recent memory. Four colleagues drove from Bremerton and two from Beaverton, Oregon, to reach sunny Magnolia Park on a brilliant Saturday in August. We had a delightful array of varied food—fruit seemed to be a particular favorite—and the usual unexpected meetings and pleasant reunions. The prizes awarded for the Fun Walk/Run are listed below; many thanks to all those who participated! Finally, the “whiffleball baseball” was a great success. You may view the traditional photo of everyone we could inveigle in front of the camera on the Web site.



This picnic is held every other year, and we were pleased that forty-five people attended: translators, interpreters, friends and family. Thanks to everyone who helped out with the arrangements. We look forward to the next event, and hope that those of you who couldn't make this one will plan on it in the next biennium!

Photo: (right middle) Ann G. Macfarlane, (right bottom) Chuck and Courtney Searls-Ridge, Amelia Gill, (below) Picnic Smiles



PRIZES FOR THE FUN WALK/RUN

Category	Prize	Winner
First Finisher	Paper nightingale	Lisa Wagner
First Adult Finishers (tie)	Cretan mosaic puzzle	Toshiko Wagner
	Bug gun	Ken Wagner
Two-for-One Award	Animal radar	Abigail Clay
Best Supporting Performance	Acrobatic animal	Betsy Streib
Best Performance with Props (joint award)	Mendel puzzle	Keiko Gabbert
	Piano toothpick holder	Richard Gabbert
	Butterfly stickers	Karen Gabbert
Most Outstanding Performance by an Interpreter	Mechanical ear	Sara Koopman
Most Distinguished Repeat Performance	Tangle puzzle	Marcus Hellstern
Most Leisurely Finish	Paper great bird	Alfred Hellstern

Special thanks to Marilyse Benykar, Hillary Fayen Higgins, Louise Nick, and Lotte Schmitz who came from Bellingham, and David and Virginia Anderson who traveled from Beaverton despite encountering enormous traffic jams arising from three accidents on I-5. It was great to have you with us!

T&I Institute at BCC Awards 9 Certificates of Accomplishment

About 40 people attended the graduation ceremony of the Translation and Interpretation Institute at Bellevue Community College on Friday, October 13, 2000 at the Factoria Campus.

With eight graduates, this is the largest graduating class since the Institute was founded in 1995. Certificates were awarded to:

Erin Neff—Certificate in Translation [Spanish>English]

Lorena Farr—Certificate in Translation [English>Spanish]

Alicia Martinez—Certificate in Translation [English>Spanish] and Certificate in Interpreting [Spanish/English]

Rebecca Gutierrez—Certificate in Translation [Spanish>English]

Isabell Loew-Trozzo—Certificate in Translation [English>German]

Nanae Mawatari—Certificate in Translation [English>Japanese]

Yukiko Nakayama—Certificate in Translation [English>Japanese]

Nicole Teuber (*in absentia*)—Certificate in Translation [English>German].

T&I student Michael Korchonoff added to the festivities by playing several charming pieces on his North Umbrian smallpipe, a small bellows-blown bagpipe with a sweet, mellow tone. Food was served and instructors, administrators, guests, and students had an opportunity to mingle and congratulate the graduates on their considerable achievement.

Ann Macfarlane, president of the American Translators Association, spoke eloquently in her keynote speech on the burden and the privilege of translation and interpretation. She reminded the audience that, although translators and interpreters are always striving for perfection, the perfection we seek is never attainable.

The Institute currently has about 75 students enrolled, 15 of whom are certificate candidates. Former graduates of the T&I Institute are working as freelance and in-house translators and interpreters in Washington state, Iowa, Washington, DC, Japan, and France.

TWO LINES: A Call For Submissions

TWO LINES, a journal of translation based in San Francisco, is calling for submissions. They are looking for possible interpretations of the theme "cells":

Cells: organisms, prisons, honeycombs, telephones, monasteries, revolutionaries, hermit's caves, film stills, ventricles, nunneries, batteries.

What to Submit

Original translations into English of writing from any genre—including fiction, poetry, reportage, legal documents, advertising, oral histories, diaries, proverbs, case studies, essays—and short articles concerning the translation process will be considered. Especially sought are works which bring to the attention of the reader new genres and rarer languages. Previously unpublished translations only.

In order to be considered, submissions must include a brief introduction with information about the original author, the background of the piece, special problems the translation presented, and the way you see the piece in relation to the theme of the issue. Please enclose a copy of the original text with your submission.

The publishers expect translators to acquire copyright permission when necessary. Permission can generally be requested from the publisher of the original work. Because they do not operate for profit, they cannot offer compensation but gladly offer a copy of the journal to translators (and living authors) whose work is chosen for publication.

How to Submit

Submissions on diskette or over the Internet would be greatly appreciated, but printed or typescript submissions are also welcome. For electronic submissions, please save your documents as RTF (Rich Text Format); for hard copy, please send an appropriately sized, self-addressed stamped envelope if you

would like your materials returned. Send submissions to editors@twolines.com or TWO LINES, P.O.Box 641978, San Francisco, CA 94164.

The 2000 issue of TWO LINES, entitled *Crossings*, is available for purchase. Crossings features world literature in translation about bridges, passages, betrayals, contradictions, and intersections.

Would you like to:

- ❖ **Learn** more about NOTIS and the T&I profession?
- ❖ **Help** NOTIS give the best possible service to its members?
- ❖ **Earn** a little spare cash?

The NOTIS Board of Directors invites interested candidates to apply for the position of Office Manager. This detail-oriented person is responsible for handling the day-to-day functions that keep NOTIS running smoothly, including processing of mail. Computer skills and email a must.

To apply, please send a résumé and letter describing your background, suitability for the position and reasons for seeking it to the NOTIS Board of Directors. Preference will be given to members of the Society.

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of profession, discovery of future leaders.) More information can be found at the ATA website www.atanet.org and at www.mentoringgroup.com.

Throughout the evening a number of people commented on the value of ATA membership and simply attending the conference. First-timer **Christina Zubelli** called the experience “overwhelming,” so much to see that one had to make difficult choices about what *not* to attend. **Tatyana Davis** of Pacific Interpreters in Portland said she would be happy to hire only ATA accredited translators and that the conference is an excellent recruitment venue. Another pointed out that simply leaving his business card in the jobs area had resulted in several people calling him about new jobs.

All in all, the conference recap was informative. As a new member of NOTIS I also found the people friendly. I am looking forward to more NOTIS meetings in the future, but I do not plan on relying on next year’s conference recap for information—I intend to be at the conference!

*Mark Blackbird translates from German into English
and can be reached at m.blackbird@europe.com*

Visit: www.notisnet.org

AFTI Scholarship

The American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI), Inc., announces its first national scholarship competition. Made possible by grants from the American Translators Association and corporate contributions, two \$2,500 scholarships will be offered to students enrolled or planning to enroll in graduate or undergraduate programs in translator or interpreter education at accredited US colleges or universities.

One \$2,500 non-renewable scholarship will be for a student enrolled or planning to enroll in a program of non-literary translation or in an interpreter program for the 2001-2002 academic year; the other \$2,500 non-renewable scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled or accepted into a program for literary translation.

Applicants must be full-time students who have completed at least one year of post-secondary education, and who should have at least one year of academic work remaining to complete their program of study in translation or interpretation. Preference will be given to students in B.A./B.S. or M.A. and Ph.D granting programs.

Applications must be received by February 28, 2001. Awards will be announced by the end of April 2001.

Application forms and additional information may be obtained by contacting AFTI by mail at AFTI, Western Michigan University, 335 Moore Hall, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5093.

Translation and Interpretation Institute

The T&I Institute offers a certificate program for linguistically-skilled people of diverse educational backgrounds who wish to pursue a career in translating and interpreting. Courses are offered at Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA.

WINTER 2001 (Jan 3 - March 22)

***Introduction to Translation & Interpreting**
10 Thursdays, Jan 4 - Mar 8
Taught by Martha Cohen/Anne Quinn

***Fundamentals of Translation**
10 Wednesdays, Jan 10 - Mar 14
Taught by Courtney Searls-Ridge/
Jochen Liesche

***Technology for Translators & Interpreters**
10 Thursdays, Jan 4 - Mar 8
Taught by Caitilin Walsh

***Ethics & Business Practices (INTRP 106)**
10 Tuesdays Jan 9 - Mar 13
Taught by Michelle Privat Obermeyer/
Susana Stettri Sawrey

Non-credit Workshops

***Essential Skill-Building Seminar for Consecutive Interpreters**
Jan 27, 9:30 am - 4 pm
Taught by Christina Perez-Lopez

***Advanced Skill Building for Consecutive Interpreters**
Feb 3, 9:30 am - 4 pm
Taught by Christina Perez-Lopez

***Localization Workshop**
Feb 3 & Feb 10, 9 am - 3 pm
Taught by Ulrike Irmeler/Tsukao Kawahigashi

***Skill-Building for Medical Interpreters**
Mar 3, 9:30 am - 4 pm
Taught by Christina Perez-Lopez

To request a brochure call 425-649-3171. To register for Institute courses, you must first register as a BCC student by calling 425-641-2222. International students please call International Student Services first at 425-649-3118. For information about specific course content call the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252. All classes and workshops are subject to change or cancellation by The T&I Institute or BCC. In most cases, advanced language-specific classes will run with three or more students. Please notify the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252 as soon as you can estimate in which quarter you expect to be ready for your advanced classes. In some cases, classes cancelled because of low enrollment will mean that you are not able to finish the certificate program as quickly as you anticipate.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Thursday, November 16, 2000	NOTIS Board Meeting	All members welcome	Call NOTIS voice mail or president for details
Saturday, December 2, 2000	NOTIS Directory Mailing Party	As many helping hands as possible needed	Call Voice mail or president for details to help out
Saturday, December 9, 2000	NOTIS/WITS/SOMI Holiday Party	Potluck get-together with colleagues	UW Waterfront Activities Center, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 10, 2001	Deadline Next <i>NOTIS News</i>	All submissions welcome	Call Editor at (425) 747-5240
Wednesday, January 17, 2001	NOTIS Board Meeting	All members welcome	Call NOTIS voice mail or president for details
Saturday, January 27, 2001	ATA Accreditation Workshop	To prepare for ATA examination	University of Washington Campus
Saturday, April 28, 2001	ATA Accreditation Exam	Contact ATA to register	University of Washington Campus

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