

NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY

**NOTIS ANNUAL MEETING TOASTS POSITIVE TRENDS,
 THE HOLIDAYS AND CHARTS COURSE FOR THE NEW YEAR.**

NANCY A. THIELE

Do the words "annual meeting" conjure up images of stuffy boardrooms and equally exciting presentations (yawn)? Delete them once and for all. The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS) Annual Meeting, held December 4, 1997, was everything but. Perhaps this was due to the positive reviews of the past year and the equally encouraging view of the future. Perhaps it was due to the wit of the presenters or simply the prospect of holiday treats and revelry due to follow the business meeting. Perhaps it was all three together.

Among the tidings:

Membership is up. Advertising is up dramatically and went a long way to covering the production costs of the new *NOTIS Directory*, hot off the press and available in hard copy to members for \$5. Distribution of about 600 copies of the *NOTIS Directory* to an extensive database list was scheduled for December 6. NOTIS continues to fine-tune its Web presence and the goodies available to consult and download from its home page. NOTIS now has its own domain name. The daily number of visits to the site is up. The treasury is benefiting from increased advertising revenues. NOTIS programs, events and workshops were well received and some had further success in presentations at the national American Translators Association (ATA) conference.

NOTIS News is changing over to a quarterly format. The introduction of an office manager a year ago has had a positive impact on the behind-the-scenes running of the organization. Lots of success thanks to the

hard work of many members who volunteer their time to support NOTIS programs and endeavors. And once again among those in attendance, including members founding and otherwise, there were new faces for whom it was their first NOTIS meeting.

Among the calls to action:

Dominique Blachon has agreed to help test the Mac version of the NOTIS *InfoBase* (NIB), the electronic version of the *NOTIS Directory* which is available for downloading from the NOTIS home page.

Program chairs Courtney Searls-Ridge and Mary Brown invite program ideas and helping hands to help plan 1998 programs and particularly Cascadia '98, to be held September 18-19, 1998 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. "Cascadia" is a biennial regional conference for translators and interpreters and those in allied fields in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. The conference is presented jointly by NOTIS and her sister organizations in Washington and British Columbia to provide programs of interest to the newcomer and the established professional.

Planning this type of event requires an early start and a Cascadia organizing committee, including Alex Mosalsky and Mary Brown, as well as representatives of the sister organizations, has been formed. Helping hands and minds are invited to join in preparing the conference program. There is a lot to be done and this is the time to start, even if it seems like early days yet.

NOTIS News is moving to a new quarterly format and Pieter Zilinsky urges members to please provide feedback or tell him

the topics and types of articles you want to see in the publication.

NOTIS is also looking for help with membership data entry and for someone with advertising expertise to help develop policies with a particular view to on-line advertising.

THE SPECIFICS

Membership

NOTIS former VP and wearer of many hats, Caitilin Walsh spoke not only about membership, but also the *Directory*, the home page, and permutations of the three. NOTIS mem-

Continued on page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NOTIS NOTES 2
 WHERE WERE YOU 4
 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 4
 WEB WISE 5
 UPCOMING EVENTS 11
 TII SPRING SCHEDULE 11
 ATA WORKSHOP 11
 NOTIS LITSIG FLOURISHES 13
 CASCADIA CONFERENCE 13
 NOTIS DIRECTORY 13
 CALENDAR 14

**Northwest Translators
and Interpreters Society
(NOTIS)**

OFFICERS

President	Caitilin Walsh
Vice-President	Abigail Clay
Treasurer	Jochen Liesche
Secretary	Katalin Pearman

COMMITTEES

Computers	Alfred Hellstern (206) 382-5642
Directory Membership	Caitilin Walsh Rosa Allen (425) 347-5723
Program	Courtney Searls-Ridge Mary Brown
Publications Hospitality	Mary Brown Lilly May Bayley

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Literary	Ghuzal Badamshina (206) 527-6299
Slavic	Karina Watkins (425) 562-7156
Office Manager	Anita Krattinger

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. 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 Pieter Zilinsky
(206) 932-5118

Editorial Board Katalin Pearman

Pagemaking Annegret Keller-Davies
(425) 820-6523

Production Assistant Ursula Zilinsky

Deadline 10th day of month before issue

NOTE: Due to printing and postage costs only one complimentary issue of **NOTIS News** is offered to non-members. Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 a year.

Send check, payable to **NOTIS**,
P.O. Box 25301, SEATTLE, WA 98125-2201

Membership in NOTIS

Individual & Institutional	\$35.00 a year
Corporate	\$50.00 a year

For membership information write to **NOTIS**
or call **NOTIS** Voice Mail (206) 382-5642.

E-mail: info@NOTISnet.org
Home Page: www.NOTISnet.org

NOTIS is a Washington State non-profit organization.

NOTIS NOTES

**WELCOME TO
NEW MEMBER**

Deya Nolan

**WELCOME TO
NEW CORPORATE
MEMBER**

International Language Bank, Portland, Oregon

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Caitilin Walsh** on her election as President of NOTIS.

Caitilin has brought NOTIS forward by serving as Vice-president, chairperson for Membership and the NOTIS *Directory*, as well as developing and launching the NOTIS InfoBase (NIB). She has provided the membership, locally and nationally, with her leading edge presentations on the essential electronic tools of the trade.

Her leadership will strengthen and extend the impact of NOTIS.

Congratulations to **Abigail Clay**, newly elected Vice-president of NOTIS.

Her spirited contributions in various NOTIS activities have brought improved services to the membership.

Congratulations to **Katalin Pearman** on her reelection as Secretary of NOTIS.

Her valuable help in this office will continue to benefit the organization.

PLEASE VISIT

DID YOU KNOW that the NOTIS Web site is updated weekly? Come see what's changed!
www.NOTISnet.org

NEW NIB

The spring update to the NOTIS InfoBase will be appearing at the beginning of April. Look for it on our home page (<http://www.NOTISnet.org>). The deadline for changes to information for the next update is the 15th of March.

CORRECTION

The NOTIS InfoBase entry of member **Anna Veraldi's** email address should be: **anna.veraldi@mci2000.com**. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**DIRECTORY COMMITTEE
APPRECIATION**

The *Directory* Committee is pleased to report that at the mailing party on December 6, 1997 over 580

DIRECTORIES were sent out. Many thanks to our helping hands: **Alexandra Allen, Arturo Allen, Martina Allen, Rosa Allen, Maiyim Baron, John Chamberlin, Chila Harrington, Alfred Hellstern, and Fernanda Ohayon.**

A special thanks to **Elsa Brodin**, hostess of this successful event.

DIRECTORY ADVERTISING THANKS

The 1998 NOTIS **Directory of Translators and Interpreters** is hot off the presses, and ready for distribution (see above). The advertising revenues have made 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.

THANK YOU

A generous and deeply felt thank you to **Willy Evans**, founding Editor of *NOTIS News*, Editorial Board member and proofreader *par excellence* for her many years of unstinting service. Willy will no longer be proofreading NOTIS. We wish her well in all of her endeavors.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the NOTIS members who gave up a Saturday afternoon to serve as table leaders at the accreditation examination workshop: **Emma Garkavi, Chila Harrington, Noriko Hill, Jean Leblon, Jochen Liesche, Richard Patner, Courtney Searls-Ridge, and Pieter Zilinsky.**

COMMITTEE NEWS

Rosa Bendezú Allen has volunteered to serve as the new **Membership Chair**. Three new board members have also taken up committee responsibilities: **Mary Brown** is **Publications Chair**, **Alex Mosalsky** is **Cascadia Committee Chair**, and **Abigail Clay** is **Publicity Subcommittee Chair**. NOTIS extends our gratitude.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

MOVING?

Please let us know your **new address and phone numbers** so we can keep your membership record and *Directory* information current. Remember, the electronic *Directory* updates quarterly and we want potential clients to be able to find you!

Member Help Alert!!!

In **Maiyim Baron's** own words: "Let my fellow NOTIS friends et al. know that my house burned down end of January. ALL my records are gone - ALL! If one of you kind souls is sympathetic enough to send me editions of *NOTIS directory*, WITS roster, SOMI roster, past conference attendees etc, I would be very appreciative. Address: 3039 NE 92nd. St., Seattle, WA 98115. Phone (cellular only) 425-260-3408 maiyim.baron@internetMCI.com."

New Page

The Cascadia Page is coming soon to our Web site! www.NOTISnet.org/cascadia/cascadia.htm.

From the NOTIS Board

NOTIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elsa Brodin, Mary Brown, Abigail Clay, Jean Leblon, Jochen Liesche, Ann Macfarlane, Alex Mosalsky, Katalin Pearman, Courtney Searls-Ridge, Kendrick Wagner, Caitilin Walsh, Pieter Zilinsky.

NOTIS Board Action

At its December 1997 meeting, the NOTIS board took the following actions:

- ♦ Established an Executive Committee, consisting of the four officers, the immediate past president, and the office manager. Since the board now has twelve members, the executive committee will be able to process some of the day-to-day decisions, leaving the full board more time for policy issues.
- ♦ Agreed to forward job offers received electronically to our members via e-mail.
- ♦ Approved a change in the method for handling subscriptions to NOTIS News, to ensure that subscribers receive their copies on an "as paid" basis rather than by calendar year.

At its January 1998 meeting, the NOTIS board took the following actions:

- ♦ Elected the following officers:
Caitilin Walsh, President (one-year term)
Abigail Clay, Vice-President (two-year term)
Katalin Pearman, Secretary (continuing for another one-year term)
Jochen Liesche will continue in his second year as NOTIS Treasurer.
- ♦ Discussed program events planned for NOTIS' tenth anniversary year and the fifth biennial Cascadia Conference, September 1998.

WHERE WERE YOU TEN YEARS AGO?

PLUS ça CHANGE...

ANN G. MACFARLANE, PAST PRESIDENT

At the last NOTIS board meeting we passed around a file of copies of *NOTIS News* from 1988. It was a thrill to see how vigorous our society has been from the very beginning. Close to 100 translators and interpreters from the states of Washington and Oregon attended the inaugural meeting, on June 4. The very first issue of *NOTIS News* included a photo of the meeting room, jammed with participants, among whom some very familiar faces can be discerned.

It was *NOTIS News* that drew me to our society in the first instance. In 1992, I was making the rounds of the translation agencies downtown with my resume in hand, looking for freelance work. One of our corporate members said, "Have you seen *NOTIS News*?" and was generous enough to give me a copy. I was delighted to find a publication so rich in information, and also human interest.

After five years of yeoman service, Willy Vuysje Evans, our first editor, passed the torch to Pieter Zilinsky, who does such a fine job despite recalcitrant authors and the vicissitudes of shifting deadlines. Although the format of our publication has changed, the initial spirit is there. I thought you readers might enjoy an excerpt from an early article by long-time member Richard Patner. It struck me as highly relevant to all those, like your humble servant, for whom "macro" still remains a word of mystery and (perhaps) allure. The article combines practical information, wit and liveliness, and a very individual point of view—desirable qualities for any subject, particularly one moderately technical like this.

In discoursing on macros at the introductory meeting of NOTIS, it occurred to me that the topic actually involved a means of automated thinking executed by macros. (A macro is an arrangement using a computer in which numerous keystrokes are executed via one simple order). By automated thinking I mean the man-machine interface (to use computer jargon). This is important because this process enables you to type and think faster.

Some people equate speed with sloppiness. To paraphrase Barry Goldwater (something I never thought I'd do), alacrity in translation is no vice, and lethargy is no virtue. Speed is virtuous because it permits your thoughts to flow more smoothly, thereby enabling you to fill in the omissions found in the original text by reading between the lines with greater ease. [Richard Patner, from *NOTIS News*, July, 1988]

Probably the fact that I'm old enough to remember when Barry Goldwater was a major force on the American political scene gives me a special appreciation of this little excerpt. But even younger members than I can appreciate Richard's comments on the uses to which we put our technology. The nuts and bolts, after all, are only a means to a higher end.

Our new President, Caitilin Walsh, has done more than anyone in the Society to refine and extend the use of technological nuts and bolts to benefit our members. This month she is handing over her files (both types) as membership chair to Rosa Bendezú Allen. These files include many macros developed over the years to expedite what is in some ways the foundation service we offer our members, accurate records of membership and, if desired, directory information. Caitilin will continue to serve as Directory Chair and Webmistress. She has written in the past about the process of experimentation and insight that led to the production of the NIB (NOTIS InfoBase), our electronic directory which is the most popular part of our Web Page. Her dedication, creativity, and energy have been vital to NOTIS' success.

I owe Caitilin a personal debt of gratitude also, since she has served as Vice-President for the entire three years of my service as Prez. Her humor, warmth, and ability to recall the items I left off the agenda have been a support and stay to me personally. I know that she will serve the Society very well during the coming year.

This is, of course, our tenth anniversary year. I want to repeat the invitation offered

elsewhere to any of you who would like to assist us in observing it well. We are planning a picnic in July, and some celebratory activities associated with the fifth biennial Cascadia conference in September. Please don't be shy. Offer your ideas and your support, and we will all benefit from the resulting synergy.

As for me, ten years ago I was in Kathmandu, Nepal, just leaving the Foreign Service for Washington D.C. and an unknown future. My husband and I decided to return to his native city of Seattle. It was my extraordinary good fortune, unknown at the time, that NOTIS was being founded that year. I have had great joy and satisfaction from being a member of NOTIS, and from serving you as President. I look forward to further service as a director and member of the board, and thank you all for your support, your friendship, and your involvement in our society.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAITILIN WALSH

When I was first approached to take the helm of this fine organization, NOTIS, I felt a degree of uncertainty. Then I saw that this is the best of times to take on this challenge. NOTIS' past leaders have built a solid foundation and have added a strong board full of new faces. As we enter our tenth year I know this group will shape fresh perspectives and set new goals.

Our new Board faces a full agenda this year. We have plenty of "housekeeping" to do. We must continue to sort out our policies and procedures in addition to reexamining our official relationship with the American Translators Association. All this in a Cascadia Conference year, which demands close collaboration among four organizations.

Let's get started!

continued from page 1

“NOTIS Annual Meeting..”

bership increased 7% (with 48 new members) in the past year, bringing it to a total of 251. Of these, 225 are individual members, 22 are corporate members, and 4 are institutional members. This membership increase is much lower than the prior year's growth rate of 19%, but this was an off year for Cascadia. The Cascadia conference has traditionally generated a spike in membership during the conference registration period. With the next Cascadia conference scheduled for September 1998, at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, NOTIS anticipates a similar membership increase in the second half of 1998.

Directory

The 1998 *Directory of Translators & Interpreters* has been released. Close to 600 copies have by now been mailed to an extensive yet select list of translation and related service users, including past recipients of the *NOTIS Directory* and a well-known national translator marketing list.

Directory advertising increased more than 53% over last year, to a total of \$2300. This revenue increase helped to offset the slower membership revenues and substantially covered the production costs of the *NOTIS Directory*.

The electronic version of the *Directory*, the NOTIS NIB, is now in its fourth year and is the most popular download from the NOTIS home page. A Macintosh version was added this year.

Home Page

Visits to the NOTIS home page have increased to 8-10 “hits” per day. Of those visiting the site, seven joined NOTIS using the on-line membership form. With 371 downloads since June 1997, the NOTIS NIB, the electronic version of the *Directory*, is the most popular download. Next in line is the ENN, the electronic version of the *NOTIS News*, with 160 downloads in the same time period. In addition to membership information and on-line form, the NIB and ENN, the site includes an archive of NOTIS-specific files such as program notes, an events calendar, a feedback area, a wide range of links to related sites including educational resources, and even a photo from a NOTIS picnic. A goal for 1998

is to develop the NIB in an on-line searchable format.

With the number of members with email addresses nearly doubling for the second year, email reminders are reaching a wider number of members and are being used more frequently to disseminate information.

Treasury

Treasurer Jochen Liesche reviewed the year's finances. Membership, advertisements and workshop registration fees are the top sources of revenue. The top expense items are the *Directory* (printing and distribution), the *NOTIS News*, copies and a variety of charges that come under the “miscellaneous” heading. The revenue and expense items make themselves felt at different times of the year, renewals primarily at the beginning of the year, the *Directory* in the latter part. The increased advertising revenues this year helped to offset the slower membership growth as well as cover the *Directory* costs. Production and postage costs for the *NOTIS News* will decrease in 1998 as a result of the switch to a quarterly format. These trends, plus the anticipated membership spike during next year's Cascadia conference are expected to have a positive impact on 1998 NOTIS accounts.

Program - 1997

Co-chair Courtney Searls-Ridge reviewed the events of the year and the plans for 1998.

In January, NOTIS held the ATA accreditation workshop, led by Jean Leblon, a prep session prior to the ATA exam sitting later in the spring. About 40 attended. The workshop has become a tradition and NOTIS will again offer the workshop in 1998. The ATA board decided at their last meeting that the practice exam is no longer mandatory.

In March, Courtney Searls-Ridge and Melissa Meier led an editing workshop jointly presented by NOTIS and the Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS). About 41 attended the NOTIS workshop. The same workshop was presented at the national ATA conference with about 100 attendees.

In April, Courtney Searls-Ridge and Caitilin Walsh presented tips on résumés and the *NOTIS Directory* with over 30 attendees.

On April 28, NOTIS held the annual ATA accreditation exam sitting with 28 participants.

In May, Michael Broschat held a workshop on transferring files electronically. Also in May, the Slavic SIG held a session on banking terminology.

In October, NOTIS and WITS jointly presented several sessions related to financial survival, given by members. Ann Macfarlane addressed issues related to agency/freelancer relations, Alan Seid gave a presentation based on the book “Your Money or Your Life”, Glenna White talked about transcription issues faced by interpreters and Jerry Torgerson spoke to the needs of financial record keeping, including the various software tools like Quicken.

In November, NOTIS held the ATA recap meeting where attendees shared their impressions of the national conference. Some were first-timers; some had attended over the course of many years. They described specific workshops as well as perceived trends with regard to meeting the needs or responding to issues with which translators and interpreters are faced.

Program - 1998

Courtney Searls-Ridge and Mary Brown are looking for member input on program topics, both for regular NOTIS events and particularly for the upcoming Cascadia conference. Program Co-chair Mary Brown is developing some ideas from the perspective of a newcomer to the industry. Also on the program topic list; addressing concerns about repetitive stress injuries.

So far the calendar includes:

May 19-23 – The Critical Link – this conference is being held in Vancouver, B.C., with a primary emphasis on issues related to community interpreting.

July – the NOTIS picnic returns to the calendar after a one-year absence.

September 18-19 – Cascadia '98 will be at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

NOTIS News

Editor Pieter Zilinsky apologized for being the second most expensive item in the budget. The change from a bi-monthly to a quarterly schedule will save on some of the expenses related to production and mailing. Increased advertising

Continued on page 10

continued from page 9

"NOTIS Annual Meeting.."

revenues will also help. The *NOTIS News* is an archival record; it exists for and because of the membership. With the move to a quarterly system of publication, member feedback is needed more than ever. It is vital that they tell NOTIS what they want to see in the *NOTIS News* so that the *News* can respond. Many thanks went out to the volunteers who assist in the production of the *NOTIS News*: Annegret Keller-Davies for her desktop publishing work, Shoko Fujita-Ehrlich for the electronic version of the *News*, Ursula Zilinsky, the production assistant, proofreaders Michelle Privat Obermeyer and Katalin Pearman. Special acknowledgment and heartfelt thanks went out to Willie Evans, founding editor of the *NOTIS News*, archivist and for some time *NOTIS News* proofreader, whose years of service and untiring efforts have helped shape NOTIS. Willie has asked to be relieved of her proofreading duties and though the editorial board is sorry to lose Willie's expert eagle eye, her resignation was accepted.

Office Manager

This position was added a year ago and Anita Krattinger is the first person to fill it; taking the reins when it was called "virtual office manager." Anita assured the audience that there's nothing "virtual" about the position any more and she now has boxes at her home filled with NOTIS directories and brochures to prove it. Increased membership has translated into more work and Anita is on the lookout for even more new members and is enjoying her role as office manager. Intimately familiar with all that Anita's job entails from long experience performing those duties, Ann Macfarlane pointed out that the decision to create this position has been proven sound and Anita has made an instrumental contribution to the smooth operations of NOTIS.

Election of Directors

Based on mail-in and meeting ballots, the following directors were elected to two-year terms: Mary L. Brown, Jean Leblon, Ann Macfarlane, Katalin Pearman, and Pieter Zilinsky. Kendrick Wagner was elected to a one-year term. This election completes the

expansion of the board from ten members to twelve. Moreover, the addition of Kendrick Wagner, whose language pair includes Japanese, broadens the board's previously heavy Eurocentric sphere. Ann Macfarlane stated that if reelected, she would continue as a board member, though not as NOTIS president, since she was elected president-elect of the ATA at the November conference.

Presidential remarks

Ann Macfarlane noted that with an expanded board of 12 members, an executive committee has been formed to allow the rest of the board to focus on policy issues. The executive committee consists of NOTIS officers, immediate past-president and the office manager. They will focus more on day-to-day operating issues. As NOTIS has grown and its events and endeavors expanded, the board meetings have become lengthy affairs with far too much to cover at any one time. This delineation should help channel time and effort more effectively.

NOTIS continues to be a leading regional group for translators and interpreters through its efforts in program events, *NOTIS News*, the *Directory*, Web site and biennial Cascadia conference.

One area, which the board is looking at closely, is that of strengthening ties to sister organizations. In 1995 there was a very active coalition, forged by the need to address serious issues with state government and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) in particular. The needs of the time fueled this endeavor but it was also exhausting. In 1996 and 1997 liaison activities were not as engrossing. NOTIS has good relations with sister organizations, witness the joint program presentations and the biennial Cascadia conference. But without the driving needs of a particular issue, the question is how to make the ties to sister groups stronger. Members are asked to submit their ideas.

Needed/Wanted: In the membership arena, a volunteer is needed to help with data entry. The program committee is looking for any number of creative minds and organizers to help with general program needs and in particular the Cascadia organizing committee. Someone with advertising expertise is also

needed to help the board craft policies, particularly with regard to on-line advertising.

ATA news, heightened by the fact that the past NOTIS president has stepped to the national stage as president-elect of the ATA:

The ATA has made changes to the classification categories available to regional groups. Heretofore a group could be a "chapter," a "cooperating group" (that's what NOTIS is), or an "unaffiliated group" (considered an odd contradiction in terms). The new classifications offer only two options, either that of "chapter" or an "affiliate." NOTIS has a year to decide which it wants to be. There are trade-offs. As a chapter there are benefits in the form of monetary support from the ATA. There are, however, requirements that would affect who could be an officer of NOTIS. NOTIS has enjoyed its independence as a cooperating group and reviewing the pros and cons will be a matter for careful consideration.

The ATA has also decided that the associate members will be listed in the next *Directory* for the first time. Until now ATA members had to have active status to qualify for a listing.

Ann's first project as president-elect of the ATA will be organizing next year's conference, to be held in Hilton Head, South Carolina. She is anxious to get a committee going and asks that members let her know what direction the ATA should take with the conference program.

Ann also expressed how glad she was to see newcomers, corporate members, and past directors in attendance, a reflection of the many and varied contributions that have shaped the direction and success of NOTIS.

Holiday Revelry

With the adjournment of the business meeting, the transition was made to holiday revelry via the Official Notical Questionnaire, a whimsical icebreaker. Prizes went to **Emma Garkavi, Jan Pendzich, Caitilin Walsh, and Claudia Kellersch with first place going to Sandra Layman.** Many thanks to **Carol Leibowitz** of Deli-Catique for the catering, hospitality coordinator Lilly May Bayley, and all those who organized and set things up. It is safe to say a good time was had by all.

UPCOMING EVENTS

English/French Diploma in Translation Programme

A training programme offered by the French Department of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC provides intensive preparation for Canadian or US official certification examinations. Limited enrollment. Requirements: BA or equivalent, a high level of proficiency in the two languages and passing a 3-hour entrance examination.

30 credits including courses (evening) + translation project + practicum in a professional translation environment. Deadline for application: International/US - March 31, Canadian citizens/landed immigrants - July 31. For details: Tel.: (604) 822-2879 Fax: (604) 822-6675, or write: Co-ordinator, Diploma in Translation Programme, Dept. of French, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6T 1Z1.

Continued on page 13

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION INSTITUTE

The T&I certificate program is intended for linguistically skilled people of diverse educational backgrounds who are interested in pursuing careers in translating and interpreting. For information call: (206) 281-9612. To register call: (425) 641-2263

SPRING 1998

Vocabulary Acquisition & Terminology Research

Dates: Mondays, Apr 6 - Jun 22. Time: 6-8:50 pm.

Location: Bellevue Community College

This course is useful for beginning and experienced translators and interpreters. Students will develop valuable skills in terminology research, dictionary usage and glossary building. At the same time they will acquire the basic terminology required for translation and interpreting in the fields of medicine, law, computers, business, and international organizations.

Basic Interpreting Skills

Dates: Tuesdays, Apr 7 - Jun 16. Time: 6-8:50 pm.

Location: Bellevue Community College

This course is for students with advanced language skills who are already working as interpreters with no formal training or others seriously considering a career in interpreting. Students will learn the building blocks of interpreting: analyzing, summarizing and paraphrasing, listening comprehension, continuing with shadowing and closure. Note taking will also be introduced in this course.

Ethics & Business Practices

Dates: Wednesdays, Apr 8 - Jun 17. Time: 6-8:50 pm.

Location: Bellevue Community College

This course is appropriate for beginning and experienced translators and interpreters as well as others who work closely with translators and interpreters. Students will learn about the role of the interpreter in the business, conference, medical, and courtroom setting as well as ethics and standards of practice in translation and interpreting.

Basic Translation Skills

Dates: Fridays, Apr 10 - Jun 19. Time: 6-8:50 pm.

Location: Bellevue Community College

This course is for students with advanced language skills with no formal training in the process of translation. Students will learn basic translation techniques and the process of translation. The course also offers a practical review of English writing and editing skills necessary to produce clear, polished translations.

SUMMER 1998

Introduction to Translation & Interpreting

Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jun 30 - Jul 30. Time: 6-8:50 pm.

Location: Bellevue Community College

BASIC TRANSLATION SKILLS

Dates: Mondays & Wednesdays, Jun 29 - Jul 29. Time: 6-8:50 pm.

Location: Bellevue Community College

TECHNOLOGY FOR T&I

Dates: TBA. Time: TBA. Location: Bellevue Community College

Students will learn about basic equipment necessary to compete in the field of translation and interpreting. Instructors will provide up-to-date information on the tools available for Computer Assisted Translation and Machine Translation.

ADVANCED WORKSHOPS

(Dates and location to be announced)

Advanced Translation Workshops (language-specific small group)

Students will translate texts drawn from a variety of fields including sci-tech, legal/commercial, and medical. Prerequisites to advanced workshops: Introduction to Translation or Introduction to Interpreting, Ethics and Business Practices, Basic Interpreting Skills or Basic Translation Skills. Anyone wishing to take courses out of sequence must obtain instructor's permission.

Spring

German Interpreting I & II Spanish Interpreting I & II

Summer

German Translation I & II Russian Translation I & II

ATA TEST PRACTICE WORKSHOP

ANNE DRIESSLEIN

For people interested in taking the ATA Accreditation Examination, this year's NOTIS Practice Workshop, held on January 24, 1998 at the University of Washington campus in Seattle, was definitely a worthwhile experience.

I was one of about thirty people in the workshop, conducted and organized by Jean Leblon, Courtney Searls-Ridge, and Ann Macfarlane. It was very well planned, with a nice buffet guaranteeing the participants got the most out of the three-hour session without getting hungry.

Jean Leblon put together an interesting pre-information packet sent to all participants in advance. It included previous ATA Accreditation text samples and two introductory articles containing useful information on how to prepare for the examination. It also gave encouraging figures, such as the 17% pass rate in the 1995-96 examinations!

The workshop itself was divided into three one-hour sections. During the first hour, Jean Leblon and Courtney Searls-Ridge

gave a general introduction to the ATA Accreditation Examination. Supported with overhead transparencies, they pointed to all the things to consider, not only when taking the examination, but also when working on translation assignments. We were introduced to the features of the five text passages on the test. Three, or in some cases two, passages should be completed for a pass. The group discussed grammatical issues, such as tenses, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, and stylistic issues, such as idioms, finding the correct register, and considering the target language culture. We were taught how to distinguish between minor, major and global errors, keeping in mind that two major errors (or was that global errors?) normally lead to a fail in a text passage. After an hour of hard work, a welcomed break allowed us to gain new strength at the buffet, which greeted us with sweet delights. (Unfortunately I mistook the whipped cream for cream cheese).

During the second section of the workshop, the really hard work began. Each of us translated an original test passage into our target language, which we discussed in the last hour with an experienced translator of that language. This part of the session opened the opportunity to specifically apply to our own language the general information given at the beginning of the workshop.

When the workshop was over, it became very clear that the ATA examination is more than just an easy piece of cake. The ATA expects us to present near-perfect translations in a non-perfect environment without advanced reference tools or computers, (I'd better start practicing my handwriting), and within a limited time period that leaves little time for editing. The passages differ greatly from one year to another. It seems, therefore, that for passing the ATA Accreditation Examination, not only preparation but also a great deal of luck is needed.

Good luck to everyone doing the exam in April 1998.

NOTIS LITSIG FLOURISHES

For the rainy Sunday morning of February the 8th, NOTIS LITSIG members gathered at the University Village Barnes & Noble cafe. It seemed like all of us found the time spent fruitful and enjoyable, indeed. Many, many thanks to Joseph Kiegel who kindly shared with us his translation of a poem by an Abkhazian poet Fazil Iskander. The introduction was intriguing: "A poet for whom Russian was (at least) his third tongue, Iskander enters a debate that has been on-going for two centuries: is Russian adequate for poetic expression?"

As translators, we deal with the phenomenon of diction, its figures and their expressiveness on a daily basis. Metaphorically speaking, language is our raw material, our main tool, and our final product. This is why when a subject like this is chosen for a short, somewhat aphoristic, poem, the message becomes especially engaging.

Joseph's presentation drew us through the stages of the process toward the final version. It showed how, when working on a creative project of this kind, it is so very important to retain respect for the author's choice of meter, his sequencing of verbal 'events', and his quasi-stylized, almost Pushkinian, intonation.

Afifi Durr is just starting her work on translating contemporary poetry from Arabic into English. Her spontaneous interpretations of the originals, presented at the meeting, offered some lyrical moments in the company of a Lebanese poet Nizar Kabbani whose vibrant voice, she informed us, is heard everywhere in the countries of the Arabian world nowadays. She is planning to discuss her drafts with the LITSIG peers via e-mail, and the group is looking forward to the time when the embellished tapestry of the images she shared with us will be 'rewoven' into English.

Our next meeting is scheduled for

Saturday, the 7th of March - 10:30 AM, at Barnes & Noble (University Village). If you would like to participate, and want to be included into our information exchange-list, please contact Dr. Ghuzal BADAMSHINA (ghuzal@u.washington.edu Tel: (206) 528 3226). But for now, enjoy the poetic piece reproduced here with a kind permission of Joseph Kiegel.

**Neither mother's milk did feed,
Nor did I think or hear it,
I am called through Russian
To meet with God's spirit.**

**So that, crossing any fire,
And not burning up with heat,
I would speak in Russian
Whenever we should meet.**

continued from page 11

"Upcoming Events"

ATA Accreditation Examination

The American Translators Association Accreditation Examination will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 1998**. Candidates must be members of ATA for at least four weeks prior to that date (March 20) to be eligible. For application forms and information contact: **Jean Leblon (425) 778-9889**.

Second Latin American Congress for Interpreters and Translators

April 23-25, 1998, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Information: L (541) 371-8616, e-mail: congrelat@bibtra.edu.ar

VIth Symposium of the German Terminology Society (DTT)

"German Terminology in International Business", **April 24-25, 1998**, Cologne, Germany.

Information: +49 228-8160-152 or email: jensh@translingua.de

The 19th Annual NAJIT Meeting and Educational Conference

May 15-17, 1998, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: NAJIT, 551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3025, New York, NY 10176. Tel. (212) 692-9581, FAX (212) 687-4016. e-mail: headquarters@najit.org

Web site: <http://www.najit.org>

Critical Link 2: Interpreters in the Community

International Conference on Interpreting in Legal, Health and Social Service Settings. **May 19-23, 1998**, Vancouver, Canada. Contact: Critical Link 2 Conference Office c/o Portfolio, 1385 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5M9. Tel. (604) 685-4888 FAX (604) 685-5787.

email: Portfolio@intouch.bc.ca Web site: <http://www.terpsnet.com/crlink>

FIFTH BIENNIAL CASCADIA CONFERENCE

The Fifth Biennial Cascadia Conference will be held at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington, on Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19, 1998. Sponsored by the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS), the Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI), the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC), The Translators and Interpreters Guild (TTIG), and the Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS), the conference will offer workshops of interest to all translators and interpreters.

This is a golden opportunity to meet with colleagues from the Pacific Northwest and Canada, visit product exhibitors, and discover how the profession is evolving and growing. Activities on Friday will include an ATA Accreditation Examination sitting, a tour of a local business of interest to translators, and an opportunity to socialize at a special dinner. Saturday will be filled with workshops, presentations, and exhibits.

Mark your calendar and watch future issues of *NOTIS News* or the Cascadia '98 Web page (www.NOTISnet.org/Cascadia/cascadia.htm) for updated details. The Cascadia Conference Committee welcomes interested people to join in planning and coordinating the conference. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call the NOTIS voice mail at (206) 382-5642.

WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY OF THE LATEST NOTIS DIRECTORY?

As you know, NOTIS distributes our printed professional Directory free to over 600 clients and users of translation and interpretation services. This is one of the major benefits offered to our members who are seeking work, and the single biggest item in our budget. We ask members who would like their own copy to pay the modest sum of \$5 to cover printing and mailing costs. If you would like a copy of the handsome mauve spiral-bound 1998 edition, please send in this form. (Copies of the electronic version, known as NIB, the NOTIS InfoBase, are available free for downloading from the NOTIS web page. NIB is updated quarterly and contains the most up-to-date information available.)

NOTIS E-mail has been down from February 7 until press time. Sorry for the inconvenience.

MEMBER REQUEST FOR DIRECTORY

I am a member of NOTIS. Please send me a copy of the 1998 *Directory of Translators and Interpreters*. I enclose a check for \$5 to cover costs.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Thursday March 12	Tap the Resources of the Small Business Administration	Follow the path to succeed in your own business. Craft a business plan.	5:30 - 7:30 pm SBA Center 1200 Sixth Ave, Ste, 1700, Seattle
Saturday April 18	ATA Accreditation Examination	Call Jean Leblon (425) 778-9889	To be announced
Saturday June 6	WITS Annual Meeting	To be announced	To be announced
Sunday July 12	NOTIS Picnic	To be announced	To be announced
September 18-19	Cascadia Biennial Conference	NOTIS, SOMI, STBIC, TTIG, WITS	Meydenbauer Center Bellevue

NOTIS
P.O. Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98125-2201

Voice Mail: (206) 382-5642.
 E-mail: info@NOTISnet.org
 Home Page: www.NOTISnet.org

