

The Northwest Linguist



A FAREWELL TO KATRIN JOHNSON OF THE AOC

By Lorane West

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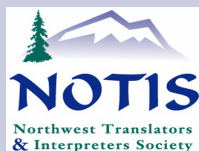
It is with great sorrow that I write an article I consider around 25 years premature. Many of us had hoped that Katrin would remain our fierce champion as Court Interpreter Program Coordinator at the Washington State Administrative Office for the Courts (AOC) until retiring, but she has moved on to the fortunate folks at the Office of Public Defense. Her oversight of interpreter testing and training, staffing of the Interpreter Commission, and assistance to courts statewide on interpreter matters, along with her vital administration of the interpreter expense reimbursement program, will be more than missed.

It is difficult to capture what Katrin has done for our profession - like trying to describe the feeling of a single candle in a dark room. Beyond being the requisite attorney for her post, she speaks both Spanish and Swedish and has an intuitive feeling for communicating. As a professional, Katrin is both gentle and unstoppable. She manages to be both calm and effective, an almost impossible combination. As a person, Katrin glows, and she sheds light around her in everything she does. The following is just a short sampling of some of her legacy in training, funding, legitimizing and publicizing Washington interpreters. Unable to capture her spirit, I rely on her accomplishments to paint her story.

Katrin stepped into the AOC some five years ago. In accordance with her magical image, some claim she actually started work on February 29th in a leap year. At that time, the

AOC had a much shorter list of certified interpreters, no oral testing in English for registered interpreters, and a patchwork of court systems with diverse ways of choosing, working with, and paying interpreters. Many were at a loss as to how to find interpreters for so many languages. The Washington Legislature had passed funding to partially reimburse courts for interpreter costs, but the program had yet to be implemented. The AOC database was not easily updatable, and on occasion listed interpreters who were no longer working while missing newcomers. Hours and continuing education credits had to be mailed in with paper copies. There was no centralized system for the interpreter oath. People with the best of intentions, from court clerks to lawyers to interpreters, simply did not have any centralized guidance on how to best follow the constitutional protections when it came to non-English speakers and the Deaf community. Katrin walked in and rolled up her sleeves.

Katrin truly appeared like a light in the darkness. One of the quiet leaders whom no one has seen out of sorts or impatient, she seemed to just get things done effortlessly. She saw needs and went about solving problems. She managed in a very short time to network and build trust, connecting courts, the public, interpreters and legislators. Somehow with Katrin in the room we were all talking, and noticing how many shared goals and interests we had. Katrin's magic was not only in starting the conversation, but moving from talk to action to measurable results. (Continued on page 7)



Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)

A Chapter of the American Translators Association

OFFICERS

President: Kathryn German
translationskg@comcast.net
 Vice-President: Toby Kawahigashi
ttkawah@comcast.net
 Secretary: Manbir Kaur
 Treasurer: Renata Akalin
Renata.akalin@hotmail.com

COMMITTEES

Membership: Jonas Nicotra
membership@notisnet.org
 Program: Edgard García-Ramírez
 Cindy Roat
programs@notisnet.org
 Certification: (206) 432-9203
 Executive: Kathryn German
 Toby Kawahigashi
 Manbir Kaur
 Renata Akalin
 Jonas Nicotra
 Katrin Rippel

Webmistress: website@notisnet.org

Financial: Renata Akalin
 Paul Natkin
 Toby Kawahigashi
 Nominating: Renata Akalin
 Jonas Nicotra
 TBA
 Outreach: TBA
 TBA

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

MedSIG
Cindy.roat@alumni.williams.edu Cindy Roat
 Chinese SIG:
michele@c2etranslation.com Michelle LeSourd

OFFICE MANAGER

Jonas Nicotra
officemanager@notisnet.org
 NOTIS
 1037 NE 65th Street, #107
 Seattle WA 98115
 or call: NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 701-9183.
 Email: info@notisnet.org
 Website: www.notisnet.org

NEW MEMBERS

Meagan Lauing DeNeui
 Joe Doherty
 Melissa Kostelecky
 Lina Manzanilla Kramer
 Marybel Marks
 Liisa Milpacher
 Justin Renquist
 Olga Verhasselt
 Doreen Wai

French > English
 German > English,
 French > English
 German > English
 French > Spanish
 English > Spanish
 English < > Finnish
 French < > English; Dutch >
 English, Dutch > French,
 German > English
 English > Ukrainian; English >
 Russian, French > English,
 German > English,
 Japanese > English
 English < > Cantonese, Man-
 darin > Chinese (Traditional)

REJOINING MEMBERS

Ines Bojlesen
 Laura Friend
 Linda Golley
 Niuvis Ferro-González
 Marlene Heinemann
 Christine Jammes
 Chantharang Khampha
 Eileen Martin
 Shawn Morse
 Raúl Cortés Ortiz
 Richard Schindler

English < > Portuguese
 (Brazilian)
 Russian > English; French >
 English
 Spanish (L.A.) > English
 English > Spanish
 German > English
 French > English
 French > English; Spanish >
 English
 Japanese > English
 English < > Spanish
 Russian > English

STUDENT MEMBERS

Crystal Barnett
 María Concordia
 Tricia Diamond
 Claudi Thompson

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Jay Stover: The Language Exchange
 Diana Donatti: Donatti Translation and Interpreting
 Memon Mohammed: Languages Pro, LLC

See page 15 for **NOTIS Membership** information.



Washington Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS)

OFFICERS

President:	Nancy Leveson
nancy@levesonlanguage.com	
Vice President:	Linda Noble
la7noble@gmail.com	
Secretary:	Milena Calderari-Waldron
milenacw@live.com	
Treasurer:	Fumi Janssen
makifo@live.com	
Board Member:	Alicia Lanzner
acldotcom@yahoo.com	
Board Member:	Louise Morehead
morehadlouise@yahoo.fr	
Board Member:	David Neathery
dave.neathery@gmail.com	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy Chair:	Kenneth Barger
KennethBarger@q.com	
Email Guru:	Diana Meredith
DianaEMeredith@gmail.com	
Membership Chair:	David Neathery
dave.neathery@gmail.com	
Programs Co-Chair:	Alicia Lanzner
acldotcom@yahoo.com	
Programs Co-Chair:	Louise Morehead
morehadlouise@yahoo.fr	
Website Manager:	Sheila Harrington
sheharr@aol.com	
Outreach Chair:	Christina Woelz
Christina.woelz@idiomasavants.com	

OFFICE MANAGER

Jamal Jackson
witsofficemgr@gmail.com

WITS
 PO Box 1012
 Seattle, WA 98111-1012
 Website: www.witsnet.org

WITS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual & Institutional:	\$45.00
Student:	\$15.00
Individual NOTIS member discount:	\$40.00
Corporate:	\$90.00

To join WITS, renew membership, or update your online directory listing, visit the WITS web page at www.witsnet.org or write to:
 WITS,
 PO Box 1012
 Seattle, WA 98111-1012.

NEW MEMBERS

Raul Cortes Ortiz Spanish

REJOINING MEMBERS

Elzbieta Torzecka Polish
 Doreen Wai Cantonese and Mandarin

STUDENT MEMBERS

Yasuko Scher Japanese

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOTIS PRESIDENT

By Kathryn German

Greetings, WITS and NOTIS members!

I'm excited to be serving as your new NOTIS president, and I hope that the next few years will be fruitful ones. Faiza Sultan made some very valuable contributions in her term as NOTIS President, including our new website, which now allows you to update your directory profile as needed and renew your membership online. New training opportunities and translation/interpretation events are continuously added to the website calendar page as well as soon as we are aware of them.

I would like to start out the year by thanking all of you for the job that you do for our community. Living just a few minutes from the airport, behind the high school reported by *The New York Times* as the most diverse in the nation, I get a first hand look at what life is like for those who have recently arrived in this country. In less than a one block radius my neighbors are from Laos, Vietnam, Somalia, Guatemala, Eritrea, Sudan, Japan, and Tibet, and the high school I mentioned now educates students who speak over 67 different languages. As translators and interpreters you are sometimes the first hand extended in friendship to a new arrival to this country, and thus one of the first impressions that person will carry away with them. In hospitals and in courtrooms, you are the glimpse of hope that comes from the comfort of feeling heard and understood. The work of translators and interpreters stresses the importance of each individual voice and life and the positive results that arise from mutual comprehension. Not everyone understands the importance of the work we do, but we do, and we should support one another in the task before us and help one another acquire the skills we need to be the very best we can be in our craft.

For many years, I have been lucky enough to work full-time as the senior translator for an independent ethics board of clinical trials, Quorum Review. Quorum Review is dedicated to protecting the rights of participants in clinical trials and as a result has always been aware of the importance that understanding plays in the role of human rights. They have also always encouraged their employees to continually pursue



educational opportunities as a way of perfecting their skills, and I have seen the results in the quality of the work produced and the pride that each team takes in their efforts. This experience has highlighted the importance of offering opportunities for continued growth, and I hope that NOTIS will offer some excellent ones to you this coming year.

My goal over the next few years will also be to create a closer bond with our sister organizations, especially with the Washington Court Interpreters and Translators Society of Washington (WITS) and the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC). WITS and NOTIS have a tradition of working closely together and of supporting their mutual efforts to serve the translation/interpretation community and I hope this work will continue. I plan to be in close contact with Nancy Leveson, the WITS President, to ensure that things roll along smoothly. With one very successful year as President behind her, she has been an encouraging mentor.

I have been meeting periodically with STIBC, our neighbour in the north, and recently became a certified Spanish into English translator through their certification program. They are a highly professional, talented, and friendly group of translators and interpreters and I am always looking forward to attending their next event. It's been over a decade since the three organizations cooperated on a large scale conference, but once upon a time there were Cascadia Conferences hosted here and in Canada which all three groups endeavoured to put on as a joint effort in order to draw members from outlying areas. It is something to think about. NOTIS will make a decided effort to offer programs in Oregon on a regular basis, and our first event there is already in planning. We are extremely lucky this year to have two Oregon members on our board, Edgard García-Ramírez and Fahmi Slail, and they will be able to guide us in the types of programs most needed in that area.

Please feel free to let me know your own hopes for NOTIS and your program wish list. I would love to hear from you and look forward to serving you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE WITS PRESIDENT

By Nancy Leveson

Happy New Year!

I'd like to start out by congratulating Kathryn German, the new president of NOTIS, as well as all of the new NOTIS board members. I'm looking forward to the opportunities that we'll have to work together this year. I've been a member of both NOTIS and WITS from the moment I first joined, so both organizations are near and dear to my heart. I think that we can create some real synergy by joining our efforts together wherever we can, so I'm excited to see how we can develop new and ever-improving ways to work together.

Here at WITS we've been undergoing changes on our board as well. A number of board members finished their terms on the board at the end of 2012: Barbara Hua Robinson, Sheila Harrington, Kamal Abou-Zaki, Hernán Navas-Rivas, Veronica Barber, and Vienkham (Pheng) Nix. I'm grateful to each of them for the contributions they've made over the years, and we'll definitely miss them on the board. Luckily, our board elections resulted in the reelection of two of our existing board members, Alicia Lanzner and Louise Morehead, along with the election of two new board members: Linda Noble, a Russian interpreter, and Fumi Janssen, a Japanese interpreter.

Along with these board changes, we've also shuffled some specific roles. Linda Noble is our new vice president, Milena Calderari-Waldrón has become secretary, and Fumi Janssen is our new treasurer. David Neathery stepped down from the secretary position in order to focus on his role as Membership Committee chair. Alicia and Louise, our reelection board members, are our Programs Committee co-chairs, and our other two committees continue to be headed up by Kenny Barger (Advocacy) and Christina Woelz (Outreach). It is both a pleasure and an honor to get to work with this great group of individuals, and I know we have an exciting year ahead of us!

Part of the reason that this year will be an exciting one is that this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of both WITS and NOTIS. Although the two organizations were established separately, we actually have similar histories. We've always worked closely together,



and we even shared some of those key members in the early days. (Susana Stettri Sawrey mentioned that at one point she was actually president of both organizations at the same time!) Things have come a long way in those twenty-five years, and many of the principal concerns from back then are things that we are now able to take for granted, thanks to a lot of hard work over the years. In spite of how much things have changed, however, we still face many similar challenges as professionals. That's where WITS and NOTIS provide a space to meet like-minded people and to work to improve our profession, both for ourselves as individuals through continuing education and networking, and also for the profession as a whole, through advocacy and outreach.

I hope you'll read the wonderful article on team interpreting by Lorane West in this edition of the newsletter. Even if you're not an interpreter, I think it contains a general concept that applies to all who work in our industry. The article struck a chord with me, and I clearly recognized myself and that fear that a colleague would judge my skills and find me lacking. Like Lorane, however, I've found that the reality of my interaction with colleagues, whether on the job, at a training, or in a social setting, has always been a positive, rewarding experience. The opportunity to hear other people's experiences, points of view, and suggestions about how they've learned to deal with difficult situations is one of the things that I love best about being involved with WITS and NOTIS.

We are all one community of translators and interpreters, but our community consists of many different people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We all bring different strengths to the table, and we can all learn so much from one another. My hope for this year is that we can continue strengthening and deepening the ties between WITS and NOTIS, along with our relationships with other organizations like WASCLA and STIBC, so that we can all benefit as much as possible from these kinds of connections. I am confident that with the strong boards that we have in place at both organizations, we're well set to continue

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OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH: The Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia By Kathryn German

The Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote the interests of translators and interpreters in that region of Canada. All members of STIBC are bound to a strict Code of Ethics and as part of the membership application process, are tested to prove that they are both familiar with the Code and able to fully understand and apply it in their work. Potential members must also demonstrate their translation or interpretation skills through an admission examination or evaluation of their credentials and experience.

Once a current member in good standing, a translator or interpreter can then go through the application process to take the certification examination. Certification Exams are generally held in February, with a full-day preparation workshop prior to the test date. Court Interpreting Exams are also generally held in February, and they have both a written and an oral component. Members who pass the examination are entitled to use the protected occupation title of CT, and may use an official stamp obtained through the organization for affixing to Certificates of Translation. In their certifications, translators must specify the language combination and direction for which they are certified.

STIBC is an affiliate of the Canadian Translators, Terminologists, and Interpreters Council (CTTIC), the umbrella organization for the associations in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Yukon and Nunavut. CTTIC is a member of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs (FIT).

Explore their website at: www.stibc.org and their Facebook page: Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia.

I love British Columbia and it has been a pleasure to have an excuse to travel north and get to know this friendly group of dedicated professionals.



The Translator and the Internet

This was the title of a recent STIBC seminar held in Vancouver B.C. and taught by Susanne Hempel and Tony Auth. Designed for both experienced users of Computer Assisted Translation (CAT) tools and those who are considering purchasing one, it was an interactive introduction to several different CAT tools and their basic features.

Susanne Hempel is a German language specialist, reviewer, and terminologist for the enterprise software company headquartered in Germany, SAP. For the last 7 years she has supported agencies around the world who translate user interface texts, documentation, and corporate materials, and she has extensive experience with CAT tool use.

Tony Auth is a localization expert, linguist and interpreter, intercultural skills coach, and owner of the company ICTAC (Intercultural Training and Consulting). He works as a consultant in Europe and North America and holds regular workshops in British Columbia on Subtitling, Script Translation, CAT Tools, and other topics related to translation, languages, and cultures.

Tony and Susanne introduced the attendees to the features typical of all Computer Assisted Translation Tools, and the ways in which these tools can enhance translation workflow. They also presented summaries of four tools currently on the market: SDL Trados Studio, Wordfast, MemoQ, and OmegaT. The basic concept of translation memory was explained: how it is constructed, what it actually looks like, and why it benefits the translator (consistency, time-saving, cost reduction, and the ability to focus on the actual translation, rather than on formatting). Terms such as “100% matches,” “fuzzy matches,” “context matches,” and “repetitions,” were defined, and the role they play in analyzing and

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A FAREWELL TO KATRIN JOHNSON OF AOC (cont. from page 1)

By Lorane West

An excerpt from the Washington State Judicial Branch 2013-2015 budget request has Katrin written all over it: "The administration of justice requires clear communication in the courtroom, and using properly credentialed interpreters is imperative in cases involving people who are hearing impaired or have limited English proficiency [...] the Administrative Office of the Courts developed an effective program to improve the quality of interpreting, reduce costs at the local level, and improve state and federal compliance for 52 superior, district and municipal courts. This request is to expand upon the success of that limited program and expand it to all trial courts." The interpreter reimbursement budget request is for nearly two million dollars a year.

In addition to leveraging funding, Katrin was central in updating our vital database, open and free to the public and courts. Searches can be made by language, location, and other requirements. Every registered and certified interpreter in the state can be found with a click of the mouse. Even more importantly, the information on it is now accurate and can be updated by interpreters themselves. A perfect example of Katrin's style is that, as part of her reprogramming of the database, she stopped having interpreters fixed in alphabetical order, leading to very uneven cold calls. Now it is a lovely and equitable randomized display that those of us at the end of the alphabet love. A minor detail to some, but another mark of her thoughtful oversight, and quite typical of the way Katrin does business. She helped design another online database for interpreters to self-report their biannual compliance. Beyond technical advances, Katrin was in constant correspondence with interpreters throughout the state, whether they were inquiring about how to become certified/registered or already credentialed and coming to her for advice on ethical and other matters. The thoughtfulness of the discussions and the number of correspondents were unprecedented.

In expanding the list of registered and certified languages, Katrin was also instrumental in improving and expanding both training and testing. She initiated the English oral skills testing for registered interpreters. She reached out into communities and set up targeted

interpreter trainings for languages in desperate need of certified/registered interpreters. She expanded the number of certified languages by partnering with the National Consortium for Language Access in the Courts. She made orientation and training a mandatory requirement for accreditation. She set up the renewable oath for reporting periods, increasing respect for interpreters as professionals.

Back in the dark ages when courts considered interpreters a local issue, the pay and conditions were hit-and-miss, and untrained bilinguals were not uncommonly found sitting in our chairs in the courtroom. Many of us in and out of AOC have worked together to try to change this over the years. But Katrin truly transformed the system. She oversaw the implementation of the reimbursement plan, evaluating applications and distributing funds to compliant courts. In the process, she was able to reach out with her expertise and bring a heightened awareness to every corner of the state as to the relevance and constitutional importance of interpreter services as a fundamental right. She became a familiar face and a safe point of contact for court personnel. Her magic was not only in helping courts to understand what they needed, but helping them to set and reach their own goals, in accordance with state and federal law. Having the reimbursement program was an incredible tool that Katrin leveraged to help courts define and create their own workable systems with the support and criteria of the state-provided funds.

Katrin would recognize the common words of the traditional Swedish farewell song: Who can sail without wind? Who can row without oars? Who can part from a beloved friend, without shedding tears? Katrin has been a friend to interpreters and the court system indeed. If the true gratitude, affection and regard of those she leaves behind stay with her, she will never be alone. Farewell, Katrin.

Lorane West is a Washington State Certified Spanish Interpreter and the author of COLOR: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest ©WSU Press

THE WITS/NOTIS HOLIDAY PARTY

WITS and NOTIS enjoyed good company, foods from around the world, and a lively and funny White Elephant gift exchange... starring some highly popular hats!



THE WITS/NOTIS HOLIDAY PARTY



ZULEMA BORGES: A LIFE WELL LIVED

By Ira SenGupta, Cristina Paget, and Lisa Jaffee

Zulema, Borges, one of the Founding Members of the Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI) left us on December 28, 2012. We honor you, Zulema, for your accomplishments and dedication. You will be missed!

It is an honor to remember Zulema Borges. Her contributions to her professional and cultural communities are immeasurable and far reaching. December 28, 2012, marked her last day on earth and opened our awareness of her lasting legacy of hope, friendship, energy and vision within all the communities her life has touched. She gave equally to every cause that benefited from her intellect, her positive spirit, and quiet persuasion. For the readers of this newsletter it may be of interest to recount briefly her dedication to one such cause.



With characteristic humility she acknowledged the work of all others, especially individual medical interpreters. Now is our time to acknowledge this true leader. And so it is with deep gratitude that I join the thousands whose lives have been uplifted by Zulema, and thank her. Her legacy will live on and will most certainly grow a thousandfold.

Ira SenGupta
Executive Director
Cross Cultural Health Care
Program (CCHCP)

In the early 90's, the Pacific Northwest saw remarkable growth in our refugee and immigrant communities. With this growth, the need for effective cross-cultural communication in the medical encounter became an imperative. The Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP) was founded and with that the efforts to train, grow and professionalize medical interpreters took center stage. This is when the Society of Medical Interpreters (SOMI) emerged, thanks to a group of dedicated individuals. Zulema was one of them.

We were entering into uncharted waters with trepidation, and this is when we encountered Zulema's unflinching confidence that it could be done. Within two weeks we had the mission, the by-laws, and the logo ready and we were registered as a non-profit. SOMI then set out to meet its mission of uniting the voice of medical interpreters and to collectively expand the importance and visibility of the profession of medical interpreting. Through the years, Zulema served SOMI in many different capacities, including taking the helm as President of SOMI for two terms.

During one of our last encounters, we looked back at what was accomplished and how Medical Interpreting had emerged as a strong and powerful force in language access. We celebrated that it was now fully supported by legislation, accreditation requirements, training and national certification.



I first met Zulema in September 1992, while we were preparing for the oral exam to obtain our certification as court interpreters. Zulema was most friendly and helpful, and we soon became friends. A few years later, in 1996, I ran into Zulema at one of the Interpreters' Forums held at PacMed's brick building on Beacon Hill. She had just been elected President of SOMI (Society of Medical Interpreters), an organization she helped found. She immediately convinced me to get involved with the Membership Committee.

Zulema was an extremely dedicated leader, assertive and dynamic. She worked diligently to turn her ideas into reality. She had many friends and contacts, and she knew exactly who to ask for help to work on any given project. An example of this was her idea of having the **First Regional Conference for Medical Interpreters**. She contacted individuals who had knowledge and experience in leadership and organization. In no time she had Cindy Roat and ThuVan Nguyen involved as Co-Chairs of the Conference Planning Committee, delineating a timeline and all that needed to be done.

Zulema's energy was contagious, and the people on the

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ZULEMA BORGES: A LIFE WELL LIVED

By Ira SenGupta, Cristina Paget, and Lisa Jaffee

Planning Committee worked very hard under her leadership. She was the main gear that kept the whole operation moving. SOMI's brochure was created then thanks to Zulema and artistic friends just in time for the conference. The First Regional Conference, An Emerging Profession, was successfully held on September 13, 1997, at the Shoreline Community Center. Thanks to Zulema's charismatic ways, Berlitz was one of the main conference sponsors, and they donated a useful canvas bag to each one of the conference attendees.

Zulema was SOMI President from 1996 to 1998. Before and after her term, she not only volunteered to help the interpreter community, but the community in general. Her generosity in giving her time and talent in order to help people in need, was not only local but international. She strived to help people in her native Honduras and Venezuela, where her two sons were born. Zulema was a true angel on earth. Her memory will live on in the hearts of the people that were touched by her generosity and great personality.

Cristina Paget



On the afternoon of Sunday, January 6th, at the "Tropicos Breeze" restaurant in north Seattle, nearly one hundred of Zulema's friends and family members gathered to remember and celebrate her and speak about the countless ways in which she touched our lives, guided and taught us, inspired and challenged us, solved our problems and healed our pain. A "Celebration of Life" was held to honor Zulema and her legacy, her limitless energy, her kind and generous spirit, her myriad professional accomplishments and good works, her solid devotion to raising a healthy and culturally-competent family, and her life-long commitment to helping others in need from many different communities and walks of life. There was also an ongoing digital photo display of several great moments in Zulema's professional, personal and family life.

Among those present were long-time friends and distinguished Interpreter/Translator colleagues from her years working with SOMI and with the King County Superior Courts (Cindy Roat, Ira SenGupta, Martine Pierre-Louis, Cristina Paget, Fernando Mayorga, Elmer Martinez, and others). There were several speakers who knew and admired Zulema's great work coordinating the city's Hispanic Seafair activities and various disaster relief benefits for Central and South America, including Jaime Mendez from Univisión Seattle and Omar Vizquel from the Seattle Mariners.

Nélida Mendoza, director of the Centro Cultural Hispano-Americano and a close friend, was a dynamic and well-loved speaker at the event, and she recited a very moving poem and a beautiful dedication written by Zulema's husband, Geoff Snow. Geoff quoted Zulema as once having said, "There are no strangers. After I talk with someone for just 15 seconds we are friends!"

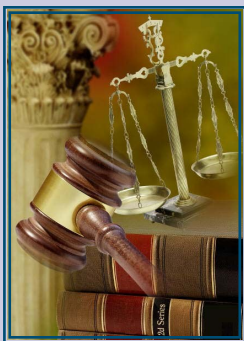
The last part of the Celebration was a lively and spontaneous musical feast, offered by a variety of local musicians: Wesley Anderson Dyring (viola player with the Seattle Symphony) and his very talented son, the Latin American folk group Los Flacos, and the Latino-Asian fusion sounds of the Miho Takekawa & Diego Coy Duo (marimba, Andean flutes and hand percussion), accompanied by the rhythmic melodies of Fucho Aparicio (Venezuelan Cuatro player, guitarist and percussionist), and guitarist Yusuf Kilgore. Well-known salsa musician Eddie Quintero also put in an energetic appearance. The music compelled everyone to get up and dance, honoring Zulema's vibrant spirit with a genuinely joyful expression of life.

Lisa Jaffee

(Additional photos available in the online version of this newsletter)

"I join the thousands whose lives have been uplifted by Zulema, and thank her. Her legacy will live on..."

*Your safety
net is the
living,
breathing,
bilingual
partner
sitting ready
to catch
you if
you fall.*



TEAM PLAYERS

By Lorane West

My husband was once called into his supervisor's office and accused of not being a team player. His boss wanted to use a sports metaphor, and he asked him: "So did you play soccer, or what?" My husband sullenly replied: "I swam!" I sympathize with my husband because I am not naturally a team player. I am more of a loner. Where a normal person might invite ten friends over to make a huge batch of tamales, I will more often spend a 15-hour day and make them myself. It is just part of my lone wolf personality. I am terribly shy of human contact. I often find social interactions painful and tend to overanalyze things. Thus, I work best alone. Or at least I used to think so.

When I started interpreting in courts and discovered I would be expected to do team interpreting, my first reaction was gut-wrenching horror and slight nausea. I consider myself language gifted, and I do believe I do a good job of interpreting, but I just wanted to do my job without anyone ever hearing me, except for the person I was interpreting for. I had visions of someone grabbing my elbow at every sentence, barking out corrections, laughing snidely, rolling their eyes, or worse yet, jumping up to say on the record: "Your Honor, this interpreter wishes to state that that interpreter is saying everything wrong!" Or just pulling the headset off my head and interpreting themselves, after patronizingly suggesting that perhaps I should just observe for now (or seek employment elsewhere).

I was wrong. In spite of my fears, in spite of my natural shyness, in spite of my horror of being observed, judged, possibly found lacking in every way, stripped of my certification, and banished from court, I not only got used to team interpreting, but I have learned to love it. I learned to love it by learning to love and rely upon and completely trust my partner in this amazing balancing act called court interpreting.

A prosecutor starts whispering but you don't want to interrupt her. That's okay. You can move away from the defendant's table to get closer, because your partner is still there if the attorney wants an aside with the client. You know you know it, but the word for fishnet stocking eludes you. Or maybe you never knew it. That is okay, because your partner used to wear them and she writes it down a split second after she sees the panic in your eyes. You have a coughing fit, but that's okay too – you hand over the headset and cough to your heart's content, while getting a drink of water. You find yourself falling a few sentences behind, or a particular individual is just hard for you to understand. Your safety net is the living, breathing, bilingual partner sitting ready to catch you if you fall.

As partners interpret, they listen intensely to each other, both learning and correcting as needed. Words are jotted down for further research, word choices are offered on paper, sometimes with question marks. Partners often jot down numbers, names, addresses, dates, to assist the active interpreter. Partners learn from each other new and better ways to say certain phrases and words, new styles and tools. And yes, your partner hears you when you make a mistake or misinterpret what was said.

The first time I was listened to so intensely, I felt like I might just start crying out of sheer nervousness. At the height of my anxiety, I felt like I was as likely to vomit on the table as I was to choke out another miraculously correct phrase minute after agonizing minute. The last time 15 minutes had lasted so long, I was about to give birth – without anesthetic. This seemed harder. Because deep down, I didn't believe that my interpreting could stand the light of day.

TEAM PLAYERS (cont.)

Every word choice, every hurried stumbling over someone else's awkward phrasing, seemed like a moment of truth. I secretly feared that my partner would judge me harshly and then tell all the others that I was incompetent. And yet, at the end of my first jury trial, my partner hugged me and told me that it had been an honor to team interpret with me. She mentioned several things I had done that she had learned from, and talked about how the flow of my language was so natural, so easy to understand! I looked at her in disbelief. It didn't seem possible that she could feel about me the same way I felt about her! I was so impressed with her and felt I was learning so much every time she opened her mouth. This experience has happened to me over and over again with different partners. Team players I was afraid of became my trusted supports and dearest colleagues.

Are there people I am still afraid to team interpret with? Yes, of course, as in everyone I have not yet done it with. I still worry about being judged and being found lacking. Every day. But until someone really catches me and makes me leave, I am going to keep on interpreting to the best of my ability, and so far, with the help of my partners, I have been able to help people understand each other in court. And so far, my partners and I have continued to learn from and support each other, giving the courts a true rendition of what is said, making the promise of due process and civil rights come alive every time we sit beside each other and perform this linguistic miracle.

Lorane West is a Washington State Certified Spanish Interpreter and the author of COLOR: Latino Voices in the Pacific Northwest ©WSU Press

A MESSAGE FROM THE WITS PRESIDENT (cont.)

By Nancy Leveson

the great work of the past, while also forging new and exciting opportunities and traditions for the future. I hope you will all join in with us as you are able throughout the year.

Speaking of joining in, those of you who didn't join us for the holiday party in December really missed out! Along with the traditional potluck at the Waterfront Activities Center, we also had a new activity—a white elephant gift exchange. As you'll see from the pictures here in the newsletter, the gifts included some very elegant hats, and they were quite a hot item. (I'm still waiting to spot an interpreter sporting one of them in a courtroom!) It was a fun activity and gave us all a chance to mix and get to know everyone a bit better. Both the idea and the implementation were the work of Alicia Lanzner, and I applaud her creativity and willingness to try something new. That's the kind of thinking that helps us keep improving and growing!

Here's to a 2013 filled with even more creative and exciting happenings here in our local professional community!

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

THE ANNUAL NOTIS MEETING

By Kathryn German

The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society held their annual meeting, election and ATA Conference Recap at North Seattle Community College on November 17th. Several of our current board members completed their terms this year: Louise Morehead, our talented Program Committee and MedSIG Chair, Faiza Sultan, our President, and Katrin Rippel, our Outreach Chair and Webmistress. We are thankful for all of their contributions over the past few years: Louise Morehead provided us with fabulous opportunities to improve our skills as translators and interpreters, and she will continue to serve all of us as an active member of the WITS Board. Faiza Sultan is now a member of the ATA Board of Directors and head of the long-awaited ATA Arabic Division, and Katrin Rippel will continue to offer her talents to NOTIS as our Webmistress. Thanks to Faiza and Katrin, NOTIS now has a wonderful new website, a Facebook page, and Twitter!

The newly elected NOTIS Board is made up of many talented individuals, representing the fields of translation and interpretation equally and a total of over 8 different languages. The newly elected officers are Kathryn German, President; Toby Kawahigashi, Vice President; Manbir (Manu) Kaur, Secretary; and Renata Akalin, Treasurer. We have two new members from Oregon: Edgard García-Ramírez, our new Program Committee Chair, and Fahmi Slail, who will also be serving on our Programs Committee. Cindy Roat, renowned for her work in language access and interpreter training in health care settings, will head our MedSIG programs, with a Medical Terminology course already scheduled for January 26th at Children's Hospital. Paul Natkin will also continue to serve the board of directors as a member of the financial committee.

The annual meeting was attended by many concerned members of both WITS and NOTIS, among them the founders of both organizations. NOTIS had recently voted to discontinue the discount for members of WITS, and many were worried about what this meant in terms of the relationship between the two groups. It is heartwarming to see the dedication and caring for our two organizations. At the NOTIS Board meeting immediately following the annual meeting, there was an attempt to repeal the earlier decision to remove this discount, but the motion failed. Nevertheless, NOTIS has every intention of working together with WITS in a spirit of cooperation and with the hope that the two organizations become closer... not farther apart. The request to eliminate the discount was made simply on the basis of bookkeeping difficulties, but it may possibly be readdressed at some future moment. We are here to listen to our membership and meet their needs. As a member of NOTIS, WITS, and the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia, I value all of these organizations and their dedication to the translation and interpretation community and to their goals of providing language access to all.

New NOTIS Board, upper row: Toby Kawahigashi, Renata Akalin, Paul Natkin; lower row: Kathryn German, Manu Kaur, Cindy Roat.
Absent from picture: Fahmi Slail and Edgard García-Ramírez.

Prior NOTIS Board, from left: Toby Kawahigashi, Louise Morehead, Paul Natkin, Kathryn German, Faiza Sultan, Katrin Rippel



STIBC: The Translator and the Internet

By Kathryn German

quoting new projects using CAT tools. Susanne showed different ways to analyze a project and the length of time needed to complete that project. Attendees were then asked to determine what information they might glean from these sample analyses.

According to these experienced presenters, MemoQ is available for a 45 day free trial, and a number of introductory videos on the tool, its features, and problem-solving are available on YouTube. New features in MemoQ 6.2 include predictive typing, automatic pretranslation, improved search features, warning systems when new translations differ from prior ones, and expanded compatibility with SDL Trados.

Wordfast has a number of versions available to translators: Professional, Classic, Wordfast Server, and Wordfast Anywhere, all with different capabilities. The Wordfast website also has an extensive number of training videos on their website, making learning the various systems a breeze. Prices are very competitive.

OmegaT is an open source application and, therefore, free of cost. A 27 page PDF called OmegaT for Beginner is available on the OmegaT website to help new users become familiar with the tool, but it does require attention to detail and study to become adept at its use. According to Susanne, those averse to reading manuals may experience some frustration. OmegaT, however, contains features that are not always available in other CAT tools, such as the simultaneous translation of multiple file formats, powerful searches of both translation memories and reference files, tag validation services, and the capability to insert machine translations from Apertium, Belazar, and Google Translate.

SDL Trados Studio provides a 30 day free trial, and prices range anywhere between \$800 (Freelance version) and \$3,000 (full feature version). The newest version allows tracked changes to be used for proofreading, and other quality control features have also been enhanced. Auto-Suggest can be utilized, and a PDF converter is built in allowing users to translate most PDF documents. Translators can view their translation as a real-time preview as well, to check formatting and appearance. The SDL Trados

Studio website has numerous training videos to aid in the learning process.

Susanne and Tony ended their seminar with a discussion of the criteria for choosing and purchasing a CAT tool, which included: price, the quality and availability of technical support and ability to test the product prior to making this decision, types of files supported, what kind of other add-in's are available such as predictive typing, auto-propagation, and integration of the terminology management system. It is an unending process to keep up with the world of translation technology, but Susanne and Tony both made that process a little easier for those attending their workshop!

NOTIS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual:	\$45.00
Student (without directory listing):	\$15.00
Institutional:	\$50.00
Corporate:	\$75.00

For membership information send an email to:

info@notisnet.org or call NOTIS Voice Mail (206) 701-9183.

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

Website: www.notisnet.org

For information on the American Translators Association (ATA), Contact: 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel.: (703) 683-6100 Fax: (703) 683-6122

www.atanet.org



FACEBOOK

Remember to check the Facebook and LinkedIn pages for NOTIS and the ATA on a regular basis to keep up with national news in the fields of translation and interpreting, and with all the latest events and opportunities for training.

NOTIS AND WITS EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
Ongoing	Oregon Ethics Webinars: Enigmatic Ethical Issues and Perplexing Protocol Predicaments, Part II and Values Shared: Ethics and Codes of Professional Responsibility	www.witsnet.org/programs/WebinarOrderForm	Online
January 26, 2013	WITS Court Interpreter Workshop and Preparation for the Court Interpreter Written Exam	www.witsnet.org	Puget Sound Skills Center Burien, Washington
January 26, 2013	NOTIS and Children's Hospital Medical Terminology for Medical Interpreters and Translators	www.notisnet.org	Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, Washington
January 31-February 1, 2013	Basic Training for Interpreters in Health Care	http://mdtranslation.com/training.html	Emmett, Idaho
February 20, 2013	ATA Continuing Education Webinar: Translating Financial Statements from Spanish into English	www.atanet.org/calendar/index.php	Online
March 1, 2013	WASCLA Second Annual Health Literacy Conference: Towards a Culture of Clarity	http://www.legacyhealth.org/en/our-legacy/legacy-values/health-literacy/making-it-clear-conference.aspx	Governor Hotel, Portland, Oregon
March 4-9, 2013	Medical Interpreter Professional Development Training Retreat (Spanish-specific)	http://mdtranslation.com/training.html	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
March 4-31, 2013	Monterey Institute of International Studies: Editing and Revision for Translators: All requirements for production of final English drafts of deliverable quality.	http://www.miiis.edu/academics/short/translation-interpretation/editing	Online
March 6-8, 2013	Indo-Hispanic Dialogue: Bridging the Cultural Gap	http://www.hispanicindia.org/web/newsarticle/international-conference_indo_hispanic_dialogue_bridging_the_cultural_gap_university_of_hyderabad.html	Hyderabad, India
March 11-14, 2013	Diversity Rx Conference: Quality Healthcare for Culturally Diverse Populations	www.diversityrx.org/diversityrx-2013-conference	Oakland, California
March 17-20, 2013	GALA 2013: The Language of Business: The Business of Language	http://www.gala-global.org/language-business-conferences	Miami, Florida

NOTIS AND WITS EVENTS CALENDAR

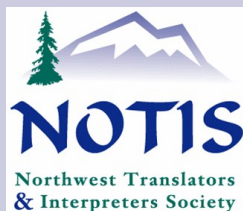
DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	LOCATION
April 4-16, 2013	The Challenges to Professional Translation and Interpreting in the Justice Sector	www.apciinterpreters.org.uk	London, England
April 12-14, 2013	Monterey Institute of International Studies: Conference Terminology and Procedures	http://www.miis.edu/academics/short/translation-interpretation/conference-	Monterey, California
May 15-18, 2013	Association of Language Companies (ALC) 2013 Annual Conference	www.alcus.org/about/calendar.cfm	Boston, Massachusetts
May 17-19, 2013	NAJIT Annual Conference	www.najit.org	St. Louis, Missouri
May 28-June 1, 2013	Monterey Institute of International Studies: Advanced Techniques for Court Interpreters	http://www.miis.edu/academics/short/translation-interpretation/advanced-techniques?	Monterey, California
June 7-8, 2013	7th Annual National Council on Interpreting in Healthcare Membership Meeting	http://www.ncihc.org/2007-membership-meeting	Seattle, Washington
July 29-August 2, 2013	Monterey Institute of International Studies: Training of Trainers for the Healthcare Interpreting Profession	http://www.miis.edu/academics/short/translation-interpretation/training?	Monterey, California
November 6-9, 2013	ATA Annual Conference	www.atanet.org	San Antonio, Texas

NOTIS AND WITS BOARD MEETINGS

Friday, February 1, 2013 7:00 p.m.	NOTIS Board Meeting	www.notisnet.org	Online—contact translationskg@comcast.net for more details.
Friday, February 8, 2013 6:00 p.m.	WITS Board Meeting	www.witsnet.org	Home of Christina Woelz
Friday, March 1, 2013 7:00 p.m.	NOTIS Board Meeting	www.notisnet.org	Online—contact translationskg@comcast.net for more details.

ZULEMA BORGES: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE!





The Northwest Linguist is a quarterly publication published jointly by NOTIS and WITS.

The Northwest Linguist is published in February, May, August, and November. Have you written an article, a review, a poem, or a letter that you would like to share with the Translation and Interpretation community of the Pacific Northwest? Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Articles are limited to **1,000 words**.

Please send submissions to Kathryn German, Editor, at: translationskg@comcast.net. Please note that all submissions become the property of *The Northwest Linguist* and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Societies, or their Boards.

The Northwest Linguist also accepts advertising. Detailed advertising rates are available at: www.notisnet.org/nwl/Northwest_Linguist_Advertising_Rates.pdf

Deadline for Spring Issue of The Northwest Linguist: **April 7, 2013**
Submissions to: **Kathryn German, Editor**, translationskg@comcast.net

NOTIS and Seattle Children's Hospital present

Medical Terminology for Medical Interpreters and Translators

What is this?

This is a 6-hour workshop on medical terminology, covering terms related to anatomy, physiology, pathology, treatment, providers and acronyms. This is an excellent workshop for all healthcare interpreters and for translators new to the healthcare arena.

Who is teaching?

Linda Golley holds a Masters of Organization Management from the University of Phoenix and a BA in Political Economy from Berkeley. Ms. Golley currently manages Interpreter Services at the University of Washington Medical Center, where she has become an experienced trainer of nurses and healthcare interpreters.

When?

Saturday, January 26th
Class from 9:30 – 4:00, with a half hour for lunch.
Check-in at 9:00 a.m. **PLEASE ARRIVE AT 9:00 to receive your handouts.**

Where?

Wright Auditorium, Seattle Children's Hospital
4800 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

Cost? \$40

\$40 NOTIS & WITS members, regular registration
\$50 Non-members, regular registration

Registration?

Via the web

Register online on the NOTIS website (www.notisnet.org). Look under "Events" and then click on this workshop. A separate registration must be completed for each person attending. There will be no on-site registration for this event. Residents outside of the U.S. should register online only,

For more information

Contact Cindy Roat at cindy.roat@alumni.williams.edu or 206-546-1194