

THE NORTHWEST LINGUIST



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LAP, LEP and 2176.... Oh My!

By Katrin Johnson

April 2, 2008 marked yet another milestone in the efforts to assure equal access for limited English proficiency (LEP) clients in the Washington courts. Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law HB 2176, which requires that (1) each court develop a written language assistance plan (LAP), (2) courts receiving state reimbursement for interpreter expenses provide the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with interpreter cost and needs assessment reports, and (3) the AOC reimburse courts for up to 50% of interpreter expenses, subject to available funding.

Upon arriving recently in Washington, I immediately started hearing a lot about “LAPs.” I was puzzled as to whether this was a new acronym, or people were referring to “LEPs” and I had yet to ac-custom myself to the Pacific Northwest pronunciations. Soon I learned that LAPs and LEP Plans were essentially similar, though their origins differ. As is commonly known among LEP service providers, all entities receiving federal funding are required to develop Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plans, detailing the linguistic needs of their customer base and identifying strategies for responding to those needs. However, many of Washington’s courts are funded solely by local city or county dollars, thereby

relieving them of the federal requirement to develop LEP Plans. In July 2007, the AOC developed an LEP Plan in collaboration with the Interpreter Commission, Northwest Justice Project, and Columbia Legal Services. As part of that process, LAP templates were designed for local courts to evaluate services and identify strategies for implementing improvements for non-English speakers. Returning to the significance of the governor’s April 2nd signature—now, by state law, all courts are required to develop LAPs. So while courts receiving federal funding are accountable to the federal government to create LEP Plans, *all* Washington courts will be accountable to the state to create LAPs.

At this time, however, ninety-five courts have already developed LAPs—almost half of all Superior, Municipal and District Courts. Most were created as part of a state funding application process, which takes us back to the second and third items in HB 2176. As described in the summer issue of *The Northwest Linguist*, in 2007 the Legislature allocated \$2 million to the AOC to improve interpreter services. Approximately \$1.5 million of that amount was designated to reimburse interpreter expenses in state fiscal years 2008 and 2009, with preference given to multiple-court collaborations.

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Our voicemail telephone number is (206) 382-5690. WITS has a Web page which can be visited at www.witsnet.org.

NOTIS Notes

New Members

Jesse Acosta	Spanish
Adriana Franco-Erickson	Spanish
Marina Delahunt	Russian
Maria Colson	Polish Russian
Dulce Bustamante	Spanish
Angelina Vallejo Cormier	Spanish
Nancy Leveson	Spanish
Susana Saravia-Anibarro	Spanish
Taous M. Sawyer	Spanish
Mariana H. Sparkman	Spanish

Joke Box

“What is more difficult than translating a joke?”

“Translating two jokes!”

WITS Notes

New Members

Patsy Brown	Spanish
G. Daniel Bugel-Shunra	Dutch Hebrew German
Dena Bugel-Shunra	Hebrew
Dulce Bustamante	Spanish
Maria Colson	Polish Russian
Dorene Cornwell	Russian
Marina Delahunt	Russian
Lindsay E. Herbst	Spanish
Dieu-Hien Hoang	
Christine Johnson	German
Nancy Leveson	Spanish

Rejoining Members

Angelina Vallejo Cormier	Spanish
Adriana Franco-Erickson	Spanish
Almira Safarova-Downey	Russian
Jesse Acosta	Spanish
Mario Flores	Spanish
Phoenix Mei-Fung Fu	Mandarin Cantonese
Karen Horn	Spanish
Margaret Hopstein	Russian
Sandra Contreras	Spanish
Taous M. Sawyer	Spanish
Mariana H. Sparkman	Spanish

Letter from the WITS President

by Kenneth Barger

It gives me pleasure to report that the votes are in, and the WITS Board of Directors has two new members. Welcome to Mandarin interpreter Barbara Hua Robinson, who has been proving her mettle as Programs Co-Chair and has now agreed to lend her talents and energy to the Board. Welcome also to Marta Reyes, a Spanish interpreter living in Spokane, who brings her business know-how and strengthens our presence in Eastern Washington. Secretary Jesse Acosta, Director Ferdinand Velez, and I were also reelected to the Board, and we thank you for allowing us to continue to serve.

In this twentieth year of WITS's existence, we have an opportunity to make our organization larger, stronger, and more visible, with the corresponding effect on the profession in general. Chief among the reasons for this are the new credentials available for court interpreters; closer collaboration with our partners and allies; and Governor Gregoire's signing of House Bill 2176. One of the ways we are seeking to take advantage of current opportunities is by reaching out to candidates for registered or certified interpreter status.

On Saturday, March 29, WITS Programs held an event that was rather different from what we've done in the recent past. The workshop *How to Succeed at the Written Exam for Court Interpreters* was held at the Puget



WITS leadership and AOC representatives pose with newly certified and registered court interpreters after the 2008 swearing-in ceremony

Sound Skills Center in Burien, and the turnout was much larger than we expected—so much so that we weren't sure everyone would fit. A few of the attendees were WITS members, but the vast majority of them were not, which is terrific, because it means we reached a new audience. I enjoyed very much seeing old friends and meeting new ones, and I found it particularly stimulating to serve as group leader for one of the two Spanish translation groups. See Irina Neufeld's article in this issue for a more in-depth review.

I want to give a warm welcome to another first-time contributor to *The Northwest Linguist*. Katrin Johnson has recently taken the position of Court Interpreter Program Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts, after holding the same position in Minnesota. Katrin is a former practicing attorney, having worked for three years as a public defender. She spent three years living and working in Madrid and is bilingual in Spanish. While she doesn't consider herself trilingual, her mother is from Sweden and she is a heritage speaker of conversational Swedish as well. She is a strong believer in interpreters and professional organizations, and it has become clear in a very short time that we have a strong ally in Katrin.

In this issue, she writes about House Bill 2176, recently signed into law. You may recall that last year WITS, with the support of NOTIS and NAJIT, lobbied the Washington State Legislature to pass this measure, which didn't make it to the finish line that time. This session it made it. This marks a major step forward for court interpreters in Washington, and if we remain vigilant, there are several potential effects that are desirable for court interpreters. Courts will move towards more consistent use of properly credentialed interpreters, pay rates will improve, and non-English-speaking litigants will enjoy greater language access.

We are aware that some courts are acting in bad faith and worsening conditions for interpreters rather than improving them. Interpreters who were working for those courts are making a strong show of unity. We wish them strength and know they will prevail. In the end, market conditions will require that language professionals be properly compensated.

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Professionalism: a laudable goal

By Chintana "Jinny" Apinantpreeda

When we talk about professional or professionalism, we always come up with the following words:

- Standards
- Quality control
- Qualifications
- Expertise
- Skills
- Ambition
- Industriousness
- Monitoring
- Ethics

I believe that "professionalism" has a deeper meaning than "professional." Professionalism is the core of the concept of having a fulfilling career, business and even way of life.

Why is the word professional or professionalism relevant to my story?

My name is Chintana Barden. My friend calls me Jinny. I was born and raised in Thailand. I moved to America in December 2001. Living permanently in America is harder than living in my homeland. The culture, attitude, way of life and language barrier are all quite different from my prior background. I still remember before I moved from Bangkok, I asked myself "What career should I do to earn a living and how can I live in this country having so many time zones?"

My previous business backgrounds—advertising, retail business and construction—may not fit well with the American consumer. I know that I have to start over not only with a new career, but also with relearning and re-experiencing a new country. I sometimes wonder—is speaking in English too difficult for me? How can I communicate with people without using my native language?

Moving to a new culture around middle age like me is not fun at all. I have to face a new identity. At the same time, I am still preserving a sense of my home culture, adapting and molding various cultures to the new environment.

That's why I have to force, adjust, and compete with myself by learning something new every day.

I always tried hard to be a professional in my career in Thailand. I have to try harder to maintain, upgrade, and improve my English, and to obtain new knowledge in medical, social services, legal, court and business terminology. I must learn, figure out and find the way to go through the acculturation process. "The process of adapting to a different culture requires an individual to change

habits of thinking and interacting." Dr. Janen Bauer also said (my favorite quote):

"Culture provides people with a sense of self and places necessary to situate themselves meaningfully in the world."

I will try to translate this sentence into the Thai language:

“วัฒนธรรม ทำให้มนุษย์มีสำนึกสำนึกในตนเอง
และคาดคะเนสถานะภาพที่จำเป็น เพื่อวางตำแหน่งต
นเองได้อย่างเหมาะสมและมีความหมายต่อโลก”

I am still in the process of transforming to dual cultural behavior and maintaining a sense of professionalism. The concept of professionalism is the navigator that leads me forward in my working career and allows me to live in the multicultural country that America has become.

Sometimes I walk, jog, run and even get lost on the professional path. The one thing I do believe is this:

It doesn't matter where I live; Thailand or America, I will continue the pursuit of achieving diverse success by using the idea of professionalism as the navigator of my life.

Some day in the near future, I believe that I can be confident enough to call myself a professional. Would you like to join me on the path of the professional? It is not too difficult if we try hard by reading, speaking, listening, writing, watching, observing, remembering, improving and adjusting in order to interpret from English to our target language.

"Be the best you can"

Don't forget to immerse and establish yourself in the new cultures and identities. Yes, it's tough. I know the feeling of insecurity. I understand that we often have doubts; let them come and let them go. Find your way to hold on. This perseverance will add to your professionalism. ❖

Jinny Apinantpreeda has a bachelor's degree from Thammasat University in Bangkok. She interprets in Thai and Laotian in legal, medical and social services environments. She is a member of WITS, NOTIS and NAJIT.

WITS Workshop: How to Succeed at the Written Exam for Court Interpreters

By Irina Neufeld

WITS had an exciting opportunity to present a workshop Saturday, March 29, on written test preparation for all who wish to take the court interpreter test. The workshop's goal was to provide a sense of what the written exam entails, how to prepare for it, what materials may be helpful, and to provide the opportunity to network and exchange skills and knowledge. About 80 attendees representing approximately two dozen languages attended the workshop. The organizers and workshop presenters worked diligently to facilitate the event and to address specific aspects of the written exam.

The morning section of this two-part workshop consisted of the English-language portion and ethics topics for all registered and certified languages. The second part of the event was designed for certified languages only. Overall, the event presented an opportunity for interpreters to have a better sense and understanding of the fundamentals needed to pass the written test for certified and registered languages for the courts.

In the morning, after WITS President Kenneth Barger welcomed everyone to the workshop and introduced the agenda, Sarah Timbrook-Nugent facilitated the English-language portion fundamentals. Susana Stettri Sawrey followed, instructing on ethics and protocol. Both instructors encouraged the attendees to actively participate during the workshop. The audience had a chance to interact by asking questions, sharing their experiences, discussing issues and concerns, and, of course, practice, practice, practice, using the samples provided. After the morning portion of the workshop, lunch was provided with great food and refreshments. People interacted in the conference room and the hallway while enjoying their meal and exchanging different cultural experiences.

The afternoon portion of the workshop had a different structure entirely. Speakers of certified languages went to separate rooms for their respective languages, and each language group had a group leader. Groups practiced and discussed translation skills, working on a set of sentences that were rife with pitfalls. Attendees had a unique opportunity to work on sample translations while brainstorming and discussing possible alternatives for the most accurate translations. In the Russian group in which I participated, our group leader encouraged the participants to come up with their own versions of trans-

lations first. After allowing time to discuss words and phrases among interpreters, she followed up with her own answers to illustrate how the experts would approach such translations. Finally, the group would come to a consensus. The group leaders were the following: for Russian, Emma Garkavi; Arabic, Walid Farhoud; Laotian, Samuel Mattix; Korean, Vania Haam; Vietnamese, Joseph Pham; Spanish, Susana Stettri Sawrey and Kenneth Barger; Chinese, Barbara Hua Robinson; and Somali, Abdulrahim Abdi.

The event was well-organized and the atmosphere was cordial. In addition, the participants had a chance to provide suggestions on evaluation sheets, which were supplied at the end of the event. The workshop would not have been possible without the involvement of Barbara Hua Robinson and Alicia Lanzner, Program Co-Chairs; Nicole Lee, Hospitality Chair; and Lisa Sturgeon, Translation and Interpretation instructor at the Puget Sound Skills Center, who assisted WITS in getting the facility and setting it up.

Ultimately, with an array of languages and dialects, a structured exam preparation approach facilitates the overcoming of challenges that may arise as a result of different cultural experiences—be it test-taking strategies or legal knowledge of courts and criminal justice systems of foreign cultures. The language workshop's main goal was to successfully help interpreters pass the court written examination. Another purpose of this event was to show that a uniform approach is possible to assist speakers of many languages in preparing for each individual language while mutually working in a group setting to achieve the same goal of passing the exam successfully.

WITS members were pleased to see the number of attendees exceeded preliminary expectations, showing a great demand and interest in the importance of providing such workshops. "We felt that with the new credentials available, now was the time to do this event. Turns out the demand was greater than we imagined," president Barger explained. "This is part of an historic moment for court interpreting in Washington State."

WITS is planning to put on the same type of workshop around the same time next year, but longer in duration this time. In addition, a workshop for the oral exam is under consideration. ❖

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All courts applying for the funding were required to develop LAPs. As a result, ten "initial implementation sites" were awarded funding. Those ten sites represent fifty-six separate courts in the following counties: Benton, Franklin, Chelan, Douglas, Clark, Kitsap, Okanogan, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Yakima and King. The participating courts now receive 50% reimbursement for interpreter expenses when they use certified, registered, and qualified interpreters. As a condition, they must pay certified and registered interpreters \$50 per hour, implement at least a one-hour minimum, and pay either mileage or travel time. They must also submit detailed interpreter cost and usage data to the AOC, so that we can finally accumulate broad-based statistics reflecting interpreter usage in Washington courts. This data will help us to better determine the amount of funding needed in the future to sustain and expand the reimbursement of interpreter expenses. To further enhance that information, HB 2176 requires those implementation sites to provide the AOC with reports by November 15, 2009 that (a) assess the need for interpreter services for participants in court-mandated classes or programs, and the resources required to provide such interpreter services; and (b) include the amount spent on interpreter services for fiscal years 2005 to 2009.

Finally, HB 2176 creates the statutory framework for the AOC to continue supporting local interpreter costs with state money. Correspondingly, with state funding as leverage, the AOC can continue to support and require "best practices" in the hiring and payment of interpreters. The AOC will return to the Legislature in 2009 (together with trial court representatives, interpreters, language access advocates and other stakeholders), with data in hand, to request the funds to support this effort.

As a newcomer to the Washington court interpreter scene, I take no credit for these fantastic achievements. I applaud the efforts of everyone who collaborated on this effort to improve language access in the courts, and to formally recognize the invaluable contribution of skilled and experienced interpreters. I look forward to the great work we have ahead of us. ❖

Katrin Johnson
Court Interpreter Program Coordinator
WA State Administrative Office of the Courts

Cultural Corner

By Laura A. Wideburg

Is it just Ballard? A "Chinese smorgasbord" (from Swedish *smörgåsbord* which is a table of delicacies served on festive occasions) can be had! This turned my thoughts to meatballs and all the various kinds of meatballs we can have in these United States. The problem we encounter is that we have to differentiate the meatballs somehow, so we have Italian meatballs, Swedish meatballs, Chinese meatballs...though not necessarily on the same smorgasbord! Interestingly enough, in spite of the large Swedish immigration to the United States (one in four Swedes left Sweden between 1860-1910), there have been very few Swedish words that have entered American English. Another one is ombudsman, which perhaps should now be ombudsperson, or to keep it entirely Swedish, ombudsmanniska (*människa* = *human being*, but takes the feminine grammatical gender). A *budskap* is a message, so the ombudsman is the person who takes a message from one person and gives it to another. Unlike smorgasbord, however, this word was borrowed into American English in the late 1960's, as the concept of ombudsman entered American culture from Sweden as a way to deal with volatile political issues on college campuses.

DVD announcement

The DVD-ROM of 48th ATA Conference is available. As a NOTIS member you can view it for free! (Pretty much.)

NOTIS is lending the DVD-ROM of the 2007 ATA conference in San Francisco to its members. Members can borrow the DVD for a one-week period. The DVD contains many of the preconference seminars and almost all of the myriad educational sessions. The format combines an audio track with viewable presentation slides. ATA-certified translators can earn continuing education credits by viewing the DVD. (Check with the ATA for number of credits available and work required for obtaining credit.). DVDs of the 46th (2005) and 47th (2006) ATA conferences are also available.

To ensure that the DVD is returned in a timely manner a deposit equal to the purchase price is required. The DVD costs \$149.00, and a fully refundable deposit of \$150.00 is required to borrow the DVD. Borrowers can obtain the DVD by mail or directly from Ken Wagner. Make your reservation to view the DVD today! Contact:

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Tips for those Seeking to take the Washington State Oral Certification Exam

*compiled by Katrin Johnson
AOC Interpreter Coordinator*

Many people contact the Court Interpreter Program asking, "What can I do to prepare for and pass the oral certification exam?" There is no one-size-fits-all scientific approach because an interpreter's likelihood of passing depends on his/her experience, aptitude, language skills, interpreting skills, vocabulary, knowledge, test anxiety levels, etc.

We contacted Washington Court Certified interpreters and asked them what they recommend people do to prepare for the oral certification exam. While everyone responded with different advice, the most common message was you must take a lot of time and effort to prepare for this exam. No matter how perfectly bilingual you are, that's only the starting point. Here's what they had to say:

Interpreting Classes - A Must!

- No matter how well you know both languages, take a class for the oral examination. It provides tips about the test, exercises, and tapes with "legalese" and at different speeds to help candidates be better prepared for the demands of the challenge.
- At a multi-day training we spent time interpreting everything from People's Court TV to multiple-count indictments recorded in federal courts to testimony by an accident reconstruction engineer, complete with ball-bank indicators, high-speed cameras, and terms such as the gee and yaw of a turning car! We were asked to interpret into a personal recorder, and then play it in front of the whole class! A little daunting, to say the least, but all feedback was constructive. We spent the end of each day discussing terminology, and the instructors sent us home with glossaries for all classes. We finished the class with one-on-one conversations and personal recommendations from each of the two instructors.
- I found the experience in attending the Institute for Court Interpretation (now renamed the Agnese Haury Institute) at the University of Arizona was most helpful. I was even able to pass the written portion of the federal court interpreter exam.
- At least 3-4 days of training with instructors.

- Our instructors gave us an intensive 20-hour-a-week study plan to take home to prepare for the test. This included shadowing news programs (on TV), multi-tasking while shadowing, reading legal text in the source and target language and several other useful techniques.

Self Study Resources

- One of the practice aids which helped me very much was securing a series of the tapes available to the National Shorthand Court Reporters Association so I could practice shadowing and simultaneously interpreting. Some are very challenging but they do force you to improve.
- I purchased crime magazines in Spanish as they contain a lot of contemporary slang and street level usage we are not usually exposed to in polite society.
- I took a practice test for the Federal Court Interpreters.
- Purchase bilingual and monolingual dictionaries as well as specific subject dictionaries (i.e., technical, medical, pictorial).
- Acebo's "The Interpreter's Edge" - this text and the accompanying cassettes were a great help to me to practice at home.

Training Techniques

- A technique used to build short-term memory for the consecutive portion of the exam: The instructor would have a list of 10 one-syllable words. She would read through the list, and we would repeat each word after her. She then read the first word, we said nothing, she read the second word, we would say the first word, and so on. Then she would advance ahead of us two and then three words at a time, asking us each time repeat the first word, and so on. We then did the same exercise using two- and three-syllable words.
- You have to have a technique for coping when you just plain don't know. For this, you can either just say the word in the original language and keep going, just leave it out entirely, or give it your best guess, but the key is to not get hung up and then lose the next ten words.

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- Find a same-language study partner so you can practice consecutive interpretation. It's hard to practice consecutive alone.
- For consecutive interpretation, always have a pad of paper and a pen so you can take notes. A lot of interpreters don't do this, which is a problem, because there is no way you can do top-quality consecutive without notes.
- Regarding sight translation, just grab an assortment of court forms next time you go to court and sit and practice with them. You can practice with practically anything else too. Because you will have to go both ways, you might get a novel in Spanish and sit around reading it out loud in English. Just the act of doing it will make it much smoother each time.
- Role play in all 3 forms of interpretation.
- Study, study, study general subject matter and practice, practice, practice all modes of interpreting.

Try These. They're Free!!

- Observe in court.
- One of the best techniques that helped me personally to "come up to speed" for the oral exam, and one I used successfully to help a friend and colleague (with whom I now work regularly) to pass the oral portion (after failing at least twice), was listening to the evening news, both local and national, and shadowing the commentator, staying three to six words behind him/her; not interpreting, mind you, but simply shadowing in the same language. The diversity in subject matter and vocabulary really kicks your mind into high gear for the simultaneous portion.
- I seek every opportunity to converse in my second language and try to watch news programs as well to continue to maintain my comprehension of emerging issues and terminology.
- Even though most of us have basic language skills, most of us lack the ear and speed. I acquired both by watching Univision, Spanish Television, Spanish and English News, for high level grammar, and popular shows, such as Sabado Gigante, to pick-up the South American slang - one hour of daily listening and translating for two or three months on a real live scenario will totally prepare anybody. Listening to real people

using extensive vocabularies is much better than the canned prepared tapes.

- Listen to the radio in the car and interpret simultaneously into Spanish as you drive. Be careful—not everyone can multitask this way, so if you think it's going to be dangerous, forget it. I recommend National Public Radio, because the range of topics is just amazing. They talk about everything from politics to art to gardening, and this will help you to identify holes in your vocabulary. If you miss something, who cares, just keep going. You can jot down the hard words you weren't able to get when you park your car. The idea is to get your speed up and learn ways to cope with weird vocabulary.
- Read material in both languages. Get on the Internet and download pages from newspapers from Mexico or Latin/South America. Find publications that produce translated materials that are of excellent quality and do a comparison with the English version.
- Make glossaries according to subject matter (i.e., legal, medical, etc.). Break these general headings into subheadings (i.e., terminology for an IME or truancy court, etc.). When on assignment always jot down unfamiliar terms and look them up, then add synonyms and antonyms to the glossary next to the original word. Add acronyms to list along with definition and translation. Take advantage of glossaries that different agencies already have, some with translations (i.e., IRS, DSHS).
- Practice "shadowing" news broadcasts on public radio and TV. Have a notebook and pen handy to jot down up-to-date terms to add to glossaries.
- Use new vocabulary in everyday conversations.

Knowledge & Experience

- Don't discount the value of a broad education. Interpreters must be familiar with various registers and with terminology from many fields.
- One thing I have noted is that many interpreters, even those with extensive experience have very strong accents in their second language. Perhaps it would help them to be paired with a native speaker of the other language and converse for periods of time to improve pronunciation.
- Vocabulary in general is super important, so don't go thinking you have to focus only on court terms and

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Meeting Our Members

By Katrin Rippel

Every issue Katrin Rippel interviews a WITS or NOTIS member. Maybe next issue it could be you!

"Children of the Tide" - meeting Andrea Brugman

Children of the Tide is the title of an educational video that documents the early, microscopic development of common seashore invertebrates such as sea urchins, sand dollars, and sea stars. It was Andrea's excursion in the world of documentary filmmaking. Yet during my conversation with Andrea, this film title called forth in me also the image of us translators and interpreters who often were born, raised, relocated—in short swept back and forth—between two cultures and who are able to experience a recurring "tide" of having to balance life in and love for both of those cultures.

Andrea Brugman was born in Regensburg, Germany. She holds an M.A. in Education and in English and German Linguistics and Literature from the University of Regensburg and a Translators Certificate for English and German from the state of Bavaria. With that foundation, she felt well prepared for going overseas. Not that this was her main intent, yet in 1995 she met her future husband, David Brugman, who studied in Paris and Belfast and who was of American origin.

After visiting him in Seattle in 1997, she decided to relocate to the U.S. The tide swept her as an Intern to the International Customer Service Group at Amazon.com. She worked the nightshift to accommodate the time difference between customers and colleagues in Germany and the UK. She really enjoyed the atmosphere in an American company with its team spirit and less restraining hierarchical structures, yet she couldn't tell her parents and friends in Germany about the (by German office standards "awkward") work environment in a basement office with no windows. Andrea became the first in-house translator at Amazon.com. As German Translation Specialist and Technical Program Manager, she initiated translation and localization processes for Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk and Amazon.de, advised on cultural differences and their implementation, established Amazon-specific terminology and created glossaries—to name just a few accomplishments in her working field.

Yet Andrea's dream was becoming a freelance translator. In 2001, Amazon.com shut down the American office of its International Customer Group and, like so

many others, Andrea was laid off. This was her opportunity, and she started her freelance work. "It was hard. I often worked evenings and weekends. But I enjoyed the freedom of being independent and the comfort of working from home."

There is still another current that flows through Andrea's life since University: teaching and tutoring children, adolescents, and adults in German and English. She did this as part of her teacher training in Regensburg, as well as for Amazon.com employees, and at the German Language School and the Washington Academy of Languages in Seattle.

That stream also led her to join her husband at D&A Productions, where he produced videos supporting educators, scientists, green businesses, and artists in promoting sustainable living and a healthy planet. Together, they co-produced *Children of the Tide*, which is now part of the educational library at the University of Washington. "I really enjoyed this kind of work, something I had never done. But after we completed the documentary, I also was happy to come back to my own work—to what I knew and liked to do."

In 2004, Andrea started to work part-time at Getty Images in the Localization department. "Getty Images has a fresh, innovative spirit in all they are doing," she said enthusiastically. Eventually, her linguistic tasks developed again into a full-time position, which she accepted.

Andrea serves as a director for NOTIS. She is co-chair of the program committee, where she helps organize educational presentations and workshops. Since the beginning of 2007, she has also served as the organization's vice-president.

Andrea, where do you feel at home? "I feel like having two homes," she says. "One here in Seattle with my husband and Audrey, our daughter which we are expecting in June; and one in Regensburg in Germany, where my parents and family live." Regularly as the tide, at least once a year, she travels to Germany.

"Our dream is to live for one year in Regensburg. I also find it important for my linguistic and translation work as a language changes and evolves constantly, and my husband would love the experience of immersing himself into the other culture. We want our daughter to grow up bilingual; therefore, one year in kindergarten or school overseas would be very helpful." And so, with Audrey, the next generation of "Children of the Tide" is born. ❖

Continued from page 4 ○○○

Another area in which WITS has been active is outreach. WITS Outreach Chair Julie Bryan worked hard all last year to make our profession and organization more visible, and her efforts have borne fruit. This year, we have a packed schedule of presentations and events. I will mention a few of them briefly.

On February 29, an orientation and swear-in ceremony was held for newly certified court interpreters and the first-ever group of registered court interpreters. Veteran presenters Martha Cohen and Susana Stettri-Sawrey shared their profound knowledge. Then I had the privilege of sharing a panel presentation with Linda Noble and Julie Bryan. When the orientation was over, Judge Ron Mamiya made remarks and swore in each of the newly credentialed interpreters. I was moved and honored to be there. Have a look at the group photo that appears in this issue. Congratulations to all these interpreters for their accomplishment.

On Friday, March 14, Amy Andrews, Claudia A'Zar, and I made a presentation to students of the Translation and Interpretation Program at the Puget Sound Skills Center. This was the same day that the Interpreter Commission, presided by Justice Susan Owens, held a meeting at the Skills Center. This was a fantastic opportunity for all three groups—WITS, the Commission, and the youths—to come together and get to know each other.

This presentation, along with the test prep event mentioned above, are just two elements of a broader collaboration between WITS and the program at the Skills Center. Other WITS members, such as Lilly May Bayley, Mario Flores, and Verla Viera, have made individual or team presentations to students of the Translation and Interpretation Program. These presentations have been well received and will certainly continue in the future, as will our partnership with this fine program.

We are looking forward to several more outreach opportunities in coming months. On April 30, Justice Owens and several WITS members will present to the Minority and Justice Commission in Seattle. In May, Outreach will travel to Ephrata and Wenatchee to present to courts on the proper use of interpreters. And on June 2, we will present to the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association. Look for a detailed Outreach report in a future issue of *The Northwest Linguist*.

I have mentioned many people by name in this letter, but I have left many more out. Despite our relatively small size as an organization, WITS enjoys an excellent level of participation by members who make contributions both large and small. We have also strengthened our ties with other organizations such as NOTIS, WASCLA, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Interpreter Commission, and the Puget Sound Skills Center. If we keep it up, we have a real shot at making things better for court interpreters. Stay strong. ❖

Continued from page 9 ○○○

crime stuff. Yes, you have to know the names of drugs and paraphernalia, weapons, court words, etc., but the test is not limited to that. For vocabulary building, I just read books and jot down words I don't know. Then I look them up at the end of each chapter or every few chapters. That way, if they come up again in the same book, I can see them in context, which makes them stick better. Pick books that are interesting enough that you want to read them, but about topics you're not really so familiar with. I remember I read a bunch of John Grisham legal dramas when I was getting ready for the exam.

- Keep an open mind, be willing to accept new terms and new ways of saying things. Get away from the idea that if good language skills are used that the general public to whom you are interpreting for "won't understand anyway." If Spanish or Russian is the only language the person speaks, they will most likely have a better command of the language than those of us who were born in the US and are influenced by the English language!

And Finally...

- In the event that you don't pass on your first try, don't take it personally. All of us have failed some test or another in our time as interpreters. Just cry a few tears, stand up and get ready to try again. Because whether you get it the first time or the fifth, you will eventually get it, and it will be a tremendously valuable credential that will serve you for many years.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
January to June 2008	TIP-Lab 17th Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop	www.tip-lab.org or e-mail Alicia Marshall at aliciamarshall@comcast.net	Distance Translation Revision Workshop
May 16-18, 2008	NAJIT 29th Annual Conference	www.najit.org	Omni William Penn Hotel Pittsburgh, PA
May 31, 2008	Colorado Translators Association (CTA) Computer Tools and Methods for Great Translation Performance	http://www.ctaseminar531. eventbrite.com/	Denver, CO
May 31, 2008	NETA Annual Conference	http://netaweb.org/	Boston, MA
May 31-June 2, 2008	21st CATS Congress "Translation Theories and Practices: East Meets West"	http://www.uottawa.ca/ associations/act-cats/English/ Congress/annual_congress.htm	Vancouver, BC Canada
June 1-4, 2008	Society for Technical Communication (STC) 55th Annual Conference and Expo	http://www.stc.org /55thConf/	Philadelphia, PA
June 5-6, 2008	National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) 2nd Annual NCIHC Membership Mtg.	http://www.ncihc.org/mc/pa ge.do?sitePageId=61820 &orgId=ncihc	Atlanta, GA
June 7, 2008	T&I Institute Workshop: Wordfast I with Jamie Lucero	10am - 5pm http://www. notisnet.org/program/notiscal.asp	BCC North Campus, Bellevue, WA
June 6-7, 2008	Consortium of Healthcare Associations in the Southeast 1st Annual Southeast Regional Medical Interpreter Conference The Future of Medical Interpreting: Facing Challenges in Areas of New Growth	http://www.atanet.org/calendar/	Atlanta, GA
June 9-11, 2008	Localization World Berlin 2008	http://www.localizationworld.com/	Berlin, Germany
June 10-14, 2008	The 34th LACUS Forum: Language and Linguistics in North America 1608-2008 Diversity and Convergence	http://homepages.utoledo.edu/ dcolema/lacus/conferences.html	Laval University, Quebec, Canada
June 21, 2008	WITS Annual Meeting	TBA	TBA
June 21-22, 2008	ATA/MATI Court Interpreting Seminal Professional Development for Translators and Interpreters	http://www.atanet.org/conferences andseminars/pd.php	Embassy Suites O'Hare, Chicago, IL
June 23-27, 2008	LISA Forum USA: Building a Globally Integrated Organization Reducing the Learning Curve	http://www.lisa.org/ events/2008sfo/	Foster City, CA

Events Calendar (continued)

Date	Event	Details	Location
June 29-July 2, 2008	Swedish Writers' Union (SFF) Writers' and Literary Translators' International Congress (WALTIC) The Value of Words	http://www.waltic.com/	Stockholm, Sweden
July 17-20, 2008	Translation Company Division 9th Annual Conference	http://www.ata-divisions.org/TCD/	The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center Englewood, CO
July 26, 2008	WITS/NOTIS Picnic	TBA	TBA
August 4-7, 2008	International Federation of Translators (FIT) XVIII World Congress	http://www.fit2008.org/	Shanghai, China

For more international, national, and local events, please see: www.notisnet.org, www.witsnet.org, www.atanet.org

THE ENGLISH CICERO KNEW

Cicero died many centuries before English existed but if he came back to life he would be surprised about how much of his beloved Latin is part of our language; in our courts he would recognize entire phrases like **res ipsa loquitur**, **in flagrante delicto**, **quid pro quo** and many others that frequently puzzle us. About half of our words came from Latin and legal terminology is as much as 60% of Latin origin.

This workshop is based on the concept that we remember better new words when we learn as much as possible about them. This workshop covers about 200 words and phrases that you are likely to encounter in your job. This workshop will make you a Latin lover by, paraphrasing Cicero, "**amusing your mind with the remembrance of old words and the portrait of ancient manners.**"

APPROVED for SIX CREDITS BY O.A.C.

Keo Capestany, certified in State and Federal courts, endured 12 years of Catholic education when that included daily Mass in Latin. He then took two years of Roman Law at the University of Havana. In 25 years as independent claims adjuster in Seattle he learned many words used in Torts. *He does not know Latin, just about Latin words.*

Saturday May 31, 2008 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Kittitas Valley Unitarian Congregation
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Ellensburg, WA

\$80.00 if registration is paid before May 1st \$100 afterwards. Lunch not included.

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NOTIS / WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
WITS	April 30, 2008	By phone	(206) 382-5690
NOTIS	May 28, 2008, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	June 21, 2008, 12:00 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	August 7, 2008, 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org

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

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