

THE NORTHWEST LINGVIST



Volume 19 No. 3, Summer 2006

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THE FIT [Fédération internationale des traducteurs]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATORS DAY

Proclamation by the International Federation of Translators

International Translation Day 2006

Many Languages - One Profession

From Abenaki to Zulu...there are some 6,800 languages in the world and roughly a third of them have writing systems. The translation profession – in both its oral and written form – is almost as old as the most ancient of languages: As soon as there was interaction beyond one's immediate community, there was a need for an interpreter and later, in many cases, a translator, too. In today's global village, how would the world manage without the services of these language professionals?

Language professionals play an essential role in all aspects of life. Everything from commerce, trade, diplomacy and international cooperation to science, education and all aspects of written or spoken culture – even globalization; all these human activities require the sure touch of the expert. What would the fate of these activities be without language professionals?

Yet how often are people working in the language field regarded as professionals? All too often it is assumed that anyone with a knowledge of two languages is able to interpret or translate successfully. This

is a long way from the truth. While bilingual people may be able to translate the words, they are often unable to convey the whole message successfully and without it smacking of translation.

Translators and interpreters are facilitators of communication. Their job is to enable people speaking the many different languages around the world to interact with one another on an equal basis. They level the playing field by making it possible for both parties to communicate effectively without struggling in a language within which they perhaps are not completely comfortable.

The requirements that language professionals need to meet are the same, no matter what languages are involved. What can clients expect from professional translators and interpreters?

- An in-depth knowledge of both languages, which means that they are able to put across the full message, with all its nuances.

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Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society

A chapter of the
American Translators Association

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Vice-President	Marylise Benyakar
Treasurer	Cristina Paget
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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Chinese SIG	Michelle LeSourd (206) 764-8909
Medical SIG	Renee Palermo
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Email: info@notisnet.org
Website: www.notisnet.org

For information on the ATA contact
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: (703) 683-6100 Fax: (703) 683-6122
Email: ata@atanet.org Website: www.atanet.org

WITS Board of Directors/Chairs

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KennethBarger@cs.com

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Northwesttranslation@nctv.com

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ferdinandv@spokanefalls.edu,
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dianameredith@cs.com

Sheila Harrington, Webmaestra
Webmaster@witsnet.org, sheharr@aol.com

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Julie.bryan@seattle.gov

Keo Capestany, Programs Co-Chair
bilingualpower@hotmail.com

Christina Zubelli, Office Manager
tripura@earthlink.net

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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

Matilde Banez	Tagalog ⇄ English Ilocano ⇄ English
Leuth Bartels	Japanese ⇄ English
Lynda Cosentino	Spanish ⇄ English
Leonida Crisostomo	Tagalog ⇄ English Ilocano ⇄ English
James Heng	Cambodian ⇄ English Chou Jou ⇄ English
Nancy Leveson	Spanish ⇄ English
Karen Christensen Montes	Spanish ⇄ English
Lynne Muncaster	Spanish ⇄ English
Cathy Nguyen	Vietnamese ⇄ English
Thu-Van Nguyen	French ⇄ English French ⇄ Vietnamese
Rita Pavone	Italian ⇄ English French ⇄ English Spanish ⇄ English Portuguese ⇄ English
Manuela Slye	Spanish ⇄ English
Leng Taing	Chinese ⇄ English
Jackie Tseng	Chinese ⇄ English

Rejoining Members

Marc Holbrook	Spanish ⇄ English Portuguese ⇄ English
Toby Kawahigashi	Japanese ⇄ English
James Kuhn	Spanish ⇄ English

WITS Notes

New Members

Julia Davidov	Russian
Chungan Lee	Korean

Rejoining Members

Kelly Stevens	Russian
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Corporate Members

Spokane International Translation (Perciba)

NEWSLETTER UPGRADE IN THE MAKING

By Laura A. Wideburg

I took over the editorship of the Northwest Linguist a short six months ago, and have been receiving many a suggestion for improvements of the newsletter. The hard-working newsletter committee and I will be meeting in a few months, probably January, in order to discuss where to take the newsletter in the future.

We thank those NOTIS members who took time to make suggestions, and we hope to continue bringing you what you need as translation professionals. Feel free to make suggestions, but be aware that since we are all volunteers, change will not be immediate; however, by 2007 you should begin to see a transformation.

Letter from the WITS President

By Kenneth Barger

The WITS Annual Meeting was held on June 10th at Seattle City Hall. We had a terrific turnout of around 55 people, some of whom I had not seen in ages. It was, as always, a joy to get together with colleagues.

I had the pleasure of introducing several WITS Officers, who gave their respective reports. Treasurer Ginger Wang reported on our financial status, followed by Eugenia Munday, who gave the Membership report; Emma Garkavi, who reported on the Washington State Court Interpreter Commission; and Julie Bryan, who reported on Outreach. We were also joined by Leticia Camacho of the Northwest Justice Project, who informed us about the Washington State Coalition for Language Access, or WASCLA. Visit www.wascla.org and see future issues of *The Northwest Linguist* for more information on this organization, with which WITS intends to collaborate in the future.

WITS also recognized members who have recently made extraordinary contributions to our organization. Gifts and recognition were given to former President Sam Mattix; former Board Members Amy Andrews, Claudia A'Zar, and Paul Tu; outgoing Programs Chair Emma Garkavi; and our presenters for the Translation and Transcription Workshop held on March 18, Glenna White, Sam Mattix, and Claudia A'Zar.

Emma's retirement as Programs Chair left a vacuum that I feared would be hard to fill, but Keo Capestany and Vania Haam have stepped up to the plate and will serve as Programs Co-Chairs. I couldn't have asked for a better

team to head up this committee, and WITS is grateful to Keo and Vania for offering their talents and expertise.

During the Annual Meeting, I announced WITS Walks, a weekly stroll around Seward Park. We meet every Saturday at 9:00 in the morning to walk the loop, which takes about 45 minutes depending on one's pace. We have done several walks already, and all are welcome. Come on down and stretch your legs a bit. Seward Park is located at 5902 Lake Washington Blvd. S., and we meet at the covered picnic tables by the left-hand parking lot near the entrance. You can contact me directly for further information if you like. My telephone number is (206) 778-1055, and my e-mail is kennethbarger@cs.com

The Annual Meeting was followed by an informative educational session on post-sentencing services, presented by Larry Rimple and David Alber, from the Department of Corrections and King County Probation, respectively. Larry and David gave us the insider's perspective on these services. The two-hour presentation was followed by the always-productive language-specific vocabulary study groups.

This was my first Annual Meeting as President, and I owe many thanks to the WITS Board and Officers for their staunch support and hard work. Enjoy this issue's photos of the event, taken by Julie Bryan. I hope to see you at the next WITS event!

NOTIS / WITS Summer Picnic

August 12, 2006, 11am to 4pm

This year's picnic will be at Lincoln Park on the waterfront. Please join us as we come together to socialize, network with colleagues and celebrate summer. All NOTIS and WITS members and their families are welcome.

Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided. Also, feel free to bring your lawn games (such as croquet, bocce/pétanque, volleyball) and a musical instrument.

We have picnic tables #51-58 reserved, which are located between picnic shelters #3 and #4. For more information on the park, including directions, please go to:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/Lincoln.htm>

You can view a detailed map of our picnic spot by clicking on "5 Picnic Shelters" and choosing "Picnic shelter #3 & #4 location map".

Please email program@notisnet.org or call (206) 722-1613 (Andrea Brugman) if you have any questions.



***WITS
Annual
Meeting***



The ATA Spanish/Portuguese Language Division Conference

Report from the Conference

By Kathryn German

Kathryn German is employed full-time in Spanish translations at Quorum Review IRB in Seattle, WA., is a former coordinator and student of the Translation & Interpretation Institute at Bellevue Community College, a former Hispanic Marketing Mgr for AT&T Wireless, and holds a M.A. and B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature.

Spanish and Portuguese Translators: Don't miss the next ATA Spanish/Portuguese Language Division Conference! This year's conference was held on the weekend of April 28-30 in Las Vegas, Nevada and the information offered was both interesting and extremely practical. The presenters were impressive, both in their credentials and in the quality of their offerings.

In my own translation career, I have often turned to the website of Xosé Castro, for its excellent links and resources. Xosé Castro is a renowned translator, interpreter, editor, and author in Spain and has worked extensively in film, television, computer programming, and other multimedia projects. He is known as well for his work in creating the first two editions of the *Diccionario de la Real Academia*, and the *Libro de Estilo de El País*, and he is an advisor for the Spanish *Centro Virtual* as well as co-host of the educational program, *Palabra por palabra*, on Spanish television. He is also a member of the editorial staff of *Panacea*, the periodical for medical translators. At the Spanish/Portuguese division workshop, Xosé Castro taught a workshop entitled "Technical Orthography for Translators", which he designed following the realization that translators on email consultation lists were repeatedly asking the same questions. The questions they posed were not the easy ones, the ones easily resolved with the aid of a textbook on orthography or a dictionary of usage. These were the more complex, puzzling, and controversial inquiries and those for which there seemed to be no unanimous agreement of opinion. He then set out to summarize these key points and offer answers that translators could depend upon for their work. Some of the topics covered in this discourse were: the proper use of the period, ellipsis, comma, semi-colon, colon, single and double quotation marks, dashes, hyphens, minus signs, slashes, parentheses, capital letters, italics, bold type, acronyms, initials, abbreviations, numbers and number symbols.

The orthographical differences between Spanish and English were addressed also in great detail by Jorge de

Buena, author of *El Manual de diseño editorial*, and the founder of Imprimatvr (<http://imprimatvr.com/>), an international corporation that serves translators, editors, proofreaders and others working with the written word. He has taught at the Intercontinental and Iberoamericano Universities in Mexico.

There were many other excellent instructors at the conference, too many to mention, and certainly, not enough hours to take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities for learning. One of the other talks I was able to attend was given by Alicia Agnese, a Spanish translator with more than 20 years experience in legal, scientific, technical and business work, as well as a *M.S. in Applied Linguistics and Certificate of Proficiency in Translation for English-Spanish* from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., In her "Demystifying Cognates" course, Alice reviewed a number of false cognates that continually create confusion for Spanish translators, analyzing the same in terms of their semantic subtleties.

I also attended Julia Andreotti's seminar. Julia has been an interpreter and translator in California for the past 14 years, with certifications in interpretation from the state of California and from the U.S. Federal Courts. She has a BA from Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, a Certificate in Legal Interpretation and Translation from Cal State LA, and an MA in Linguistics from Cal State Northridge, where she currently teaches Interpreting in Civil and Administrative Hearing Proceedings. Julie's seminar was entitled "Making the Leap from Translation to Interpreting" and she outlined in detail the differences between the two careers, the semantic issues involved, as well as the skills, requirements, and training needed to make the change from one field to the other.

For the medical translator, there were sessions in "Medical Writing: Abbreviations, Symbols, and Units of Measure" and in "Good Translation Practices in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing". The first course was given by Michael Blumenthal, the co-founder and director of M&M Translations, Inc. as well as full-time Spanish>English translator with 12 years of experience working with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services: Disability Determination Services. His medical writing seminar reviewed the difficulties of deciphering handwritten records,

difficult symbols and abbreviations and offered a number of solutions and enough translations of the most onerous of these to create a small glossary. Anne Jones, a translator working in the pharmaceutical industry in Puerto Rico, reviewed her experiences with pharmaceutical terminology, problem-solving techniques in dealing with the same, and the responsibility of the translator to ensure accuracy, especially when dealing with governmental controls.

There were many other wonderful offerings at the ATA's Spanish/Portuguese Language Division conference including, among others: "Handling Source Texts from Hell". "Getting Up and Running with Multi-Term", "Global Spanish in U.S. Hispanic Media", "Translating Capital Markets from Spanish into English". "Objective Self-Analysis: Using the MRC Approach for Maintaining and Improving Translation and Interpretation Skills", Vital Transla-

tions of Certificates, Transcripts, Diplomas and Forms", "Getting Up and Running with Workbench" and many other topics.

The lectures were fascinating, but it was, just as importantly, a great opportunity to meet other active Spanish and Portuguese translators, learn from them, and get to know them better. It was too short, too swift, and very fun, and I encourage all Northwest Spanish and Portuguese translators to attend the next division conference. There were a few wishes expressed that the upcoming conference be held next spring in Puerto Rico. But wherever, and whenever it is held, go! It is a mini-university weekend for the mind and worth every penny!

Meeting our Members

Katrin Rippel will continue to interview NOTIS and WITS members for her regular column. This quarter, she meets member Michiru Suzuki.

Living Cultural Diversity

By Katrin Rippel

In 1984, companies in conservative Japan never would have considered sending a young woman to manage a Japanese company division in the United States. However, after the best professionals in sales, management and office were not succeeding due to missing proficiency of the English language and a lack of communication, the steel manufacturer in Osaka, Japan, decided to send Michiru Suzuki, their youngest office manager, oversees.

Michiru (Micki) completed her B.A. in English at the Kansai University of Foreign Studies in Osaka, Japan. She was an exchange student at Washington State University, and attended formal interpreter training and courses in practical English communication. The focus of her studies concentrated on linguistics and cultural anthropology, which is the study of cultural variation among human beings. Micki's fascination for that subject would be a major thread throughout her life.

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and attended formal interpreter training and courses in practical English communication. The focus of her studies concentrated on linguistics and cultural anthropology, which is the study of cultural variation among human beings. Micki's fascination for that subject would be a major thread throughout her life.

Micki arrived in Houston, Texas, in 1984. At that time, Houston was culture shock for her. Despite that difficult time, which she nevertheless would not have missed for the world, she successfully managed the Houston company division of the Japanese steel manufacturer.

In 1986, Micki joined Bank of America in Seattle, Washington. In 1990, she took the position of managing the relationships with the bank's Japanese corporate accounts, correspondent banks and private banking clients, and shortly after got promoted to Vice President of the bank's International Division. She worked on various bank projects, including the implementation of their multilingual customer service.

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- The ability to craft their text, which means that the translation sounds like an original and can be readily understood.

- A pride in their work, which means that they will do the best possible job, on time and at an equitable rate.

- A strong sense of ethics, which means that they will not knowingly accept work that is beyond their abilities and will keep the content of their work confidential where appropriate.

- High standards, which means that they will keep abreast of developments in their languages and the fields in which they work, continually striving to better themselves and their work.

- Multi-channel content delivery (to Web sites, printers, mobile devices), which demands more flexibility, shorter messages and built-in systems to send content to different devices

- An awareness of the importance of accuracy and correctness, which means that they will do the necessary research in fields in which they do not specialize.

- An acceptance that they do not know everything, which means that they will put effort into continuing to learn and develop themselves.

The International Federation of Translators' choice of **Many Languages—One Profession** as the theme for International Translation Day 2006 is intended to draw attention to the professional nature of this occupation. Translation and interpreting are important activities, and if they are worth doing they are worth doing well. By using a professional, one can be assured of putting across one's message in full, no matter what language one uses.

The International Federation of Translators is a world federation of professional associations bringing together translators, interpreters and terminologists. It has 115 members in over 50 countries and thus represents over 60,000 professionals.

Local International Translators Day

A local event will be held in conjunction with FIT's International Translators Day.

It will be held at the:

Everett Performing Arts Center
2710 Westmore Ave
Everett, WA 98201

Date: September 30th

Time: from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

There will be speakers and events of interest to translators and interpreters.

FOOD WILL BE SERVED.

NOTIS HOSTS TABLE FOR ALTA CONFERENCE

By Laura A. Wideburg

NOTIS will be having a table at the American Literary Translators Association Conference which will be held at the Bellevue Hilton the weekend of October 18-21. The NOTIS table will be present on Thursday, October 18th. NOTIS will have information on restaurants, sights and experiences that can be found in Bellevue and the surrounding area. Showing such hospitality to visitors from all over the world, will raise NOTIS' profile, and our Pacific Northwest will be presented in a friendly light. As host committee chair for ALTA, I am grateful to the NOTIS board for offering this service of friendship to fellow translators. Thank you!

Washington State Court Interpreter Commission

By Steve Muzik, WITS Vice-President

Two WITS members, Emma Garkavi and Steve Muzik, have recently been appointed as interpreter representatives to the Washington State Court Interpreter Commission. The Commission was created to fulfill two primary duties in accordance with General Rule 11.1: Develop policies for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Interpreter Program and participate in three standing committees (Issues, Discipline, and Education). Members are selected by the Supreme Court to represent court and interpreter communities. The Commission is chaired by Justice Susan Owens, and administered by Regina McDougall (AOC). Rule 11.1 and the rules for AOC administration of interpreters (RCW 2.43) are detailed on the AOC website, which can in turn be accessed from the WITS website. Commission minutes are posted there.

Other members include Judge Dennis Yule (Benton Superior Court), Jeff Hall (AOC Legislative Liaison), Frank Maiocco (Kitsap Superior Court Manager), Judge Ron Mamiya (Seattle Municipal Court), Commissioner Virginia Rockwood (Spokane District Court), Salah Dandan (Attorneys), Ann Macfarlane (Public), and Regina McDougall (AOC). The Ethnic Commissions position is currently vacant. Each member is expected to share current information with the groups they represent and to bring current issues to the Commission for consideration.

The Commission meets quarterly to consider interpreter practices related to policies, exams, compliance, recruitment, administration, budget, and projects. The Issues, Discipline, and Education sub-committees meet more frequently.

At its meeting on March 10, 2006, the Commission considered a variety of testing issues, including make-up oral exams (who is eligible, logistics), orientations, the written exam, pre-oral exam workshops, and rescore requests. The status of the Khmer and Laotian exams was also discussed, as were the following projects: the Registered category, Limited English Proficient (LEP) federal

mandates, and policy updates. A data collection system has been proposed to establish levels of need and current access to the courts by non-English speaking litigants.

The AOC has presented a proposal to the Commission to comply with the 2005 legislative action which created the Registered Interpreter category. The Registered status would be open to all languages where certification is not available. A registered status would not be available in languages for which court certification is available. Candidates for registered interpreter status would be tested on their knowledge of English, legal terminology, and ethics. Testing could begin as early as this year, possibly in cooperation with local community colleges. To maintain their registered status, interpreters would comply with the same continuing education requirements as certified interpreters. WITS has expressed its general support of a Registered category, but communicated its concern that, absent any measure of target language proficiency, anyone who can pass the English written test can declare themselves "registered" in the language of their choice. The registered interpreter issue is not yet fully resolved. At the following Commission meeting on June 16th, after urging by the WITS representatives, the Commission approved a motion to require an oral proficiency exam in the target language for the registered category.

Emma and Steve reported on Commission progress to the WITS Board meeting on March 30th, 2006. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 8th, 2006. We invite interpreters to contact the WITS Board, Emma (egarkavi@comcast.net), or Steve (northwesttranslation@nctv.com) with any comments and concerns they would like to share.

HUAN YING! VÄLKOMMEN! WELCOME TO SCANDINAVIA MEETS ASIA IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST!

By Laura A. Wideburg

The ALTA annual conference is approaching! *Scandinavia meets Asia in the Pacific Northwest* is the theme and our keynote speakers, Göran Malmqvist, a member of the Swedish Academy and a translator from Chinese to Swedish, and Ch'oe Yun, a fiction author and translator from French into Korean, reflect the interaction between Scandinavians and Asians that has been taking place in the Pacific Northwest for over a hundred years.

The program has been set and can be found at www.literarytranslators.org. There are 35 panels covering a wide range of languages, as well as numerous bilingual reading sessions. Languages represented in these panels include all the Scandinavian languages, including Finnish and Icelandic, as well as Chinese, Korean, Iranian, Bengali, Turkish, Hebrew, Yiddish and Spanish. The meeting is taking place at the Hilton in Bellevue, right off highway 405. (The hotel used to be the Doubletree, but has been remodeled and renamed).

The program begins Wednesday night with a special presentation of Swedish vocal music and a poetry performance by Olivia Sears.

Registration forms can be found at www.literarytranslators.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

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When her son was born, she left the corporate life and started International Business Services in 1998. "I became an independent consultant in International Business and Cross-Cultural Business Relations with a specific focus on US-Japan business relationships." Her services include translation, simultaneous and consecutive interpretation, multi-media localization, and marketing strategy and client relations consulting.

"Whenever I am hired as an interpreter, I follow the interpreter's code of conduct and give an accurate, unbiased account of what was said in one language to those speaking the other language. As a consultant, I make the client aware of cultural issues and differences in behavior in addition to straight interpreting. I give advice in strategy and help resolve company conflicts."

The difference between an interpreter and a consultant, is the role an interpreter plays in the American culture (neutral interpreter) versus their role in the Japanese culture (consulting interpreter). Combined and

refined, Micki's services are crucial for today's globalized world.

Micki also facilitated *Nihongo Benkyokai*, an advanced Japanese language and cross-cultural communication study group for professionals in Seattle. She is a member of the Japan-America Society, Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association, and the founding member of the Nichibei Women's Network.

From linguistics and cultural anthropology to the business world – that's quite a journey, isn't it? "Yes and No," Micki says. "Linguistics and cultural studies are very applicable in the business world. Cultural understanding –not only the language– is essential for a company who wants to enter a foreign market."

We both agree that a greater understanding, interest and education about all the cultures in the world would eliminate certain judgments, and help us appreciate the differences essential for creating greater peace in the world.

Calendar

Date	Event	Details	Location
August 12, 2006	NOTIS Potluck Picnic	11 a.m. - 4 p.m., All members and their families welcome! +1(206) 382-5642 or info@notisnet.org	Lincoln Park, Seattle, WA
August 26, 2006	ATA Medical Interpreting Seminar	Information: www.atanet.org/pd/medical interpreting	Hilton President, Kansas City, MO
September 13-16, 2006	International Translation Conference and Expo	www.witsnet.org/programs/ VeracruzMexico.htm	Veracruz, Mexico
September 21-23, 2006	Ruusbroec in Babel?: Translation and Appropriation of Medieval Mystical Texts from the Middle Ages to the Present	www.monabaker.com/tsreso urces/cediary.php	Antwerp, Belgium
September 30, 2006	International Translators Day Program	+1(206) 382-5642 or e-mail info@notisnet.org	Everett Performing Arts Center Everett, WA
October 13-14, 2006	1 st Athens International Conference on Translation and Interpretation	http://translation.hau.gr	Athens, Greece
October 18-21, 2006	29 th Annual American Literary Translators Association Conference	www.literarytranslators.org/	Hilton Hotel Bellevue, WA
October 25-27, 2006	Languages & The Media	www.languagesmedia.com Contact: Mrs. Astrid Mendoza, e-mail: info@languagesmedia.com	Berlin, Germany
November 1-4, 2006	ATA 47 th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association	conference@atanet.org	Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans, LA

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

Calendar (cont. from page 11)

Date	Event	Details	Location
November 8-10, 2006	International Symposium, Training the Translators of the Future	Contact: Malcolm Williams e-mail: malcwilliams@wanadoo.net.ma	Tangier, Morocco
November 17, 2006	AOC sponsored workshop on Domestic Violence and Ethics	Tina Williamson at 360.705.5279 or tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov	TBD
November 18, 2006	ATA NOTIS Annual Meeting and ATA Recap	+1(206) 382-5654 or e-mail: info@notisnet.org	TBD
December 2, 2006	Joint Holiday Party NOTIS-WITS	+1(206) 382-5654 or e-mail: info@notisnet.org	Waterfront Activities Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

NOTIS/WITS Board Meetings:

Organization	Date & Time	Location	Contact
NOTIS	August 08, 2006 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
WITS	August 31, 2006 7:30 p.m.	Teleconference	info@witsnet.org
NOTIS	September 21, 2006 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	October 24, 2006 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org
NOTIS	December 13, 2006 6:30 p.m.	TBD	info@notisnet.org

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