

NEW ENGLAND
neta **news**
TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

Volume III, No. 10

Spring 2002

A quarterly publication of the New England Translators Association

IN THIS ISSUE

All about the NETA Fair!

NETA Programs

Upcoming Events

Computer Corner

Language Laughs

Feature Articles

and more!

The Emergency Room Interpreter Bill

By John Nickrosz, MMIA

The Emergency Room Interpreter Bill was signed into law by former Governor Weld in April of 2000 and became effective July 1, 2001. It took a very long time and several modifications in the text of the bill to get it through the Massachusetts legislature.

A great debt of gratitude is owed to its author, Tony Winsor, Esq. who, after 15 years of struggle, finally triumphed with the help of a dynamic coalition spearheaded by State Representative Jarrett Barrios. This coalition, which included many health care institutions, and private and government agencies from around the state, not only lobbied the legislature time and again, but also led an aggressive and effective public relations campaign in the media and the community.

continued on page 9

neta fair

6th Annual Conference

Saturday, April 27, 2002

9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Networking reception 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Bentley College, Waltham, MA

Contact: info@netaweb.org

Tentative Schedule:

9:30 - 11:00

The Language Professional, by Rudy Heller

9:30 - 12:45

Consecutive Interpreting Workshop, by Sylvia Zetterstrand

11:15 - 12:45

Software Localization, by Stephanie Livermore

2:00-3:30

Illuminated Letters, or Why I Don't Do Prose, by Jim Kates

2:00-3:30

Creating Glossaries with Tools, by Rocío Chavariaga-Doak

3:45 - 5:15

The Challenge of Testing International Software,
by Gabriella Spatolisano

3:45 - 5:15

Panel Discussion on Current Issues in Interpreting,
led by Eduardo Berinstein

continued on page 8

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NETA Programs

For the latest update, visit our website: NETAweb.org

March 4

Presentation by Blanca Rey at Boston College.
 Contact Julia Bartlett for details.

April 27th

NETA Fair
 Bentley College, Waltham MA
See details on page 1 and page 4.

May 13th

Meeting
Details to be announced.

Meetings usually start at 7 p.m.
 They are held at Boston College in Chestnut Hill,
 McGuinn Hall, fifth floor faculty lounge, Room 521.
 For directions and a map, go to <http://www.bc.edu/about/maps>
 or call 617-552-8000.

NETA News

Volume III, No.10
 Spring 2002

NETA News is a quarterly publication of the New England Translators Association. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of NETA. We reserve the right to refuse submissions.

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Submissions

Submissions are welcomed. Articles are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, and space limitations; a proof will be sent to you for review. Suggested maximum length: articles, 500 words; reviews, 250 words; letters, 100 words.

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Please submit to NetaEditor@yahoo.com.

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Change of Address:

If you find that the information on the mailing labels is inaccurate or you just moved, please send updates to juliruge@yahoo.com.

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NETA Forum:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NETA/>
 To post messages to the entire group:
NETA@yahoogroups.com

Membership information: NETA accepts individual members only. A one-year membership costs \$30 and runs September 1– August 31. Contact Jill Orenstein: juliruge@yahoo.com for a membership application form. Subscription to this newsletter is included with membership.

Board of Directors Notes

- * The updated bylaws will soon be put to a vote by the full membership.
- * The next election for Board members will be held in May, 2002. Three positions will be voted on, each for a two-year term. The four remaining seats will be voted on the following year.
- * The agenda of all Board of Directors meetings is sent to the membership prior to each meeting. Any members who would like additional items discussed should contact Laura Nakazawa at nakazawa@mediaone.net at least one week prior to the meeting date.
- * The Board held a meeting on March 9. For information contact Diana Rhudick at drhudick@attbi.com.

A New Face for the NETA Website

The NETA website is getting a make-over! It is not too late to join us in this exciting project. We would be very happy to hear your ideas and suggestions for improving our website. We hope to host our first meeting in March and will try to work together via e-mail. It will require just a few minutes of your time, but hopefully the benefits of having a more user-friendly site will be enormous for all of us.

For more information, please contact
Julia M. Bartlett:

JuliaMB@MontaniTranslations.com

or call 978-535-0977.

We would love to hear from you!

Letter from the President

Terry Coe, President

Dear NETANs,

Planning is well underway for our 2002 Conference, to be held on April 27 at Bentley College in Waltham, MA. There will be some changes from last year's event. The most significant one is that we are scaling back the exhibit area. Instead of having a large exhibit area on the third floor, we will have a small exhibit area on the first floor, with booksellers who have attended in the past and several other vendors. There are several reasons for this change. First, we found it extremely difficult over the past two years to deal with the timing conflicts between exhibits and sessions in a one-day event. The result was that the exhibit area was often not well attended, and some exhibitors felt that they were not getting sufficient visitor traffic to justify their presence. Another factor is that translation agencies in general seem to be receiving plenty of applications and resumes via e-mail these days, and are not as interested in recruiting face-to-face as they may have been before the "e-mail era."

So, rather than expend our efforts fruitlessly trying to recruit exhibitors for the event, we decided to dedicate our energies to expanding and improving the sessions. We feel that the result will be a more coherent set of presentations that better address the day-to-day needs of translators and interpreters; in other words, practical sessions to give you concrete, useful information.

Based upon members' feedback, we are actively engaged in lining up speakers on the following topics: Consecutive Interpreting, Software Localization, Getting Started as a Translator or Interpreter, Literary Translation, Terminology, Interpreting Panel Discussion, Ergonomics, International Software QA, Intercultural Communications. If there's anyone you think would be a suitable speaker for one of these topics, or if you have a topic you'd like to propose, please contact me at NETA@coetrans.com.

Another idea that we are discussing for the event is a networking session in the evening to give translators, interpreters, and agency representatives a chance to get to know one another in a casual setting. This is in the proposal stage, and we would welcome your feedback as to whether you would be interested in attending such a session, which would take place at the end of the day (5:30 to 7:30 pm).

In other news, we are still in the process of incorporating (the wheels of bureaucracy turn very slowly in Massachusetts, as everywhere else). We have filed our articles of incorporation, received a tax identification number, and are currently waiting for confirmation of the articles of incorporation from the state of Massachusetts in order to file the Form 1023 for nonprofit status (501(c)3).

On the cyberspace front, we all know that the Internet is constantly changing and growing. One result of this is that our website is past due for an overhaul and update. Julia Bartlett has volunteered to chair a Website Design Committee. She's looking for

continued on page 6

NETA Special Presentations

By Laura Nakazawa

On Monday, January 7th, NETA held its first meeting of 2002. The guest speaker was Mike Klinger, Senior Recruiter with Winter Wyman, a national placement company. Mike talked about how he developed his love of languages working as a young college student for the Peace Corps in Africa. He found this experience to be highly satisfying, and upon his return to the States, he continued his studies to become a school counselor. Later on, confronted with the challenge of starting a family, he realized that he needed to redirect his efforts to a more lucrative activity. He obtained his MBA and tried to combine his love of languages with his newly acquired skills, thus becoming the Program Manager of a translation agency.

Mike stressed the importance of taking stock of one's interests and passions and not succumbing to merely expeditious or economic goals. He mentioned that it is very important for anyone considering a change in direction, as well as for someone who is just entering the labor market, to do an honest evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses, and to try to identify their preferred modalities of work, i.e., in interactive groups versus independent freelancers, hierarchical settings versus more horizontal organizations, etc.

There was a lively Q&A segment at the end of his presentation that gave all participants a chance to share their specific experiences and needs. Thank you, Mike!

On Monday, February 4th, Dr. Anne Auerbach, Relocation Coach and head of Auerbach Coaching & Consulting, Ltd., joined NETA members to help identify the major problems confronted by freelancers, especially during the winter months. A large group attended this session, clearly illustrating the need of the lone translator to establish lively, direct interactions with colleagues. Everyone agreed with Anne that the lack of sunlight was a major contributing factor to winter blues. Other factors identified were the need to create a routine or work schedule, establish a professional demeanor even though the work is performed in a home office, participate in activities that force us to be outdoors, such as walking, dancing, singing, playing an instrument in a group, gardening, as well as joining professional organizations, doing volunteer work, or mentoring. Several members contributed their own personal experiences and preferences for balancing work and relaxation. The talk was very interactive and Anne was able to aptly elicit everybody's participation.

The gathering concluded with a brainstorming session on possible groups that could meet more regularly, forging a deeper sense of community. We invite any of you with ideas for a specific group to take the initiative and invite your fellow NETAns to join in. You can use our existing members' list to post possible ideas for groups. This is the time to let our creative juices flow and come up with new and interesting suggestions. Thank you, Anne, for a wonderful presentation.

Testing the waters

By Rudy Heller

As we prepare for our sixth (can you believe it is actually six years that we've been doing this?) NETA Fair, I feel compelled to tell you about another event in which I was lucky enough to participate.

The Spanish Division of the ATA had been talking about a conference for several years, and it needed to happen. So we batted around some ideas and ended up purloining one from the very avant-garde Portuguese group: Have the conference on a cruise ship.

As part of the organizing committee, I can tell you that we had our moments of panic (a month before the departure date, we were still working out the details), but we persevered

and our weekend cruise to Nassau departed Miami on Friday, January 25, 2002.

In three short days of Caribbean sun and surf, we managed to squeeze in 8 seminars by 7 excellent speakers. We also held a sitting of an ATA Accreditation exam. And that was just the conference part. I leave the cruise to your imagination! Suffice it to say that I enjoyed the midnight buffets and the beautiful tropical weather immensely.

How could we miss? We had excellent speakers and a captive audience. Who knows, an April cruise off the Maine coast or sailing out of Boston Harbor might not be a bad venue to congregate NETAns for a weekend of fun, learning and, of course, eating. Think about it. Suggest it to next year's organizers...

If you are interested in hearing the seminars, a CD is for sale. Details on the Spanish Division website: <http://www.ata-spd.org>.

The Thirty-nine Steps

Questions you need to ask to yourself when undertaking a translation job
 Reprinted with permission from the Institute of Translation & Interpreting (<http://www.iti.org.uk>).

1. **Into what variant language is the translation to be made?**
 eg. Castilian Spanish, Mexican Spanish...
2. **What is the purpose of the translation?**
 e.g. information, publication, use in court, training...
3. **What is the target readership of the translation?**
 e.g. literacy, specialist...
4. **What is the intended quality level for the translation?**
 e.g. draft, revision, third party revised...
5. **Does the style or terminology used in the translation have to conform to any specific requirements?**
 e.g. consistency with ISO document, house style, pharmacopoeia...
6. **Can any reference/background material be provided?**
 e.g. prior correspondence, reports, glossaries, specifications...
7. **Who is the contact for queries?**
 Keep records of the contact person details: name, e-mail, telephone...
8. **Is the layout of the translation to comply with any particular requirements?**
 e.g. facsimile of the original, page for page...
9. **Are tables and graphical material to be incorporated with the text?**
 e.g. figures, diagrams, equations, flow charts...
10. **Which particular word processing software requires the translation?**
 e.g. MSWord, Macintosh, QuarkXpress...
11. **In which format is the translation to be provided?**
 e.g. paper, diskette, electronic file...
12. **When is the translation to be delivered?**
 Don't forget there is always a deadline for the submission of translations.
13. **How is the translation to be delivered?**
 e.g. fax, modem, internet...
14. **Where is the translation to be delivered?**
 e.g. client's address, intermediary, both, internet address...
15. **Is any non-standard form of delivery required?**
 e.g. courier, express post, recorded/special delivery...
16. **Before delivering: has the translation been properly checked?**
 e.g. correct terminology, spell-check, structure and syntax...
17. **Does the target text read like a piece of original text in that language?**
18. **Is the source text, reference material, to be returned?**
19. **Does the translation have to be certified?**
 e.g. official documents. An ITI official translator can certify documents. If not, you have to go to a notary public, solicitor or registrar.
20. **On what basis will the translation be charged?**
 e.g. target text length, source text length, time, lump sum...
21. **What rate will be applied?**
 Some publications like the ITI Rates & Salaries survey will give you all the details about charges taking into account all the below specifications.
22. **Will there be an additional charge for urgency?**
 e.g. unsociable hours, weekend working (see step 20)
23. **Will there be an additional charge for complex layout?**
 e.g. multiple font changes, complex tables...
24. **Will there be an additional charge for unusual difficulties?**
 e.g. poorly legible text, contact with foreign informants...

The Thirty-nine Steps

continued from page 5

25. **Will there be an additional charge for special presentations**
e.g. bromides
26. **Will there be an additional charge for research?**
e.g. pertinent legislation, specialist terminology, prior documentation
27. **Will there be an additional charge for attendance?**
e.g. for certifying a translation, travel to a collection point...
28. **Will any other additional services be required?**
e.g. post-editing, proof-reading...
29. **Will VAT apply to these charges?**
Refer to step 20
30. **How is payment to be made?**
e.g. single payment, advance + installments...
31. **When is payment to be made?**
e.g. on delivery, 30 days
32. **What method of payment is to be used?**
e.g. bank transfer, check, eurocheck, banker's draft...
33. **Does foreign payment convey any charge?**
e.g. foreign checks, bank transfers...
34. **Is copyright to be retained or transferred?**
e.g. by assignment, license...
35. **To whom and under what conditions?**
See ITI Model Terms for Business
36. **Is the subject matter of the translation under confidentiality restrictions?**
Refer to the previous step.
37. **Is there any source of possible consequential liability of which the translator should be aware?**
e.g. printing of documentation...
38. **Is there any likelihood of a possible liability, which might exceed the normal level of insurance cover?**
39. **What compensation should be agreed when a job is cancelled after work has begun?**
See step 35.

Letter from the President

continued from page 3

people who are interested in honing their HTML editing skills and design savvy to make the NETA website even more attractive and useful. Please contact her at JuliaMB@aol.com if you'd like to help.

As always, we are looking for people to help organize all of our various activities. We have very enthusiastic committee members, but more hands make less work! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Laurie Hartzel for taking over as Editor of this newsletter, and Rudy and Sarah Heller, for taking over the layout and production edit. It's a big job, and their efforts are enormously appreciated. Thanks also to Christian Wellhoff for joining the Fair Committee this year.

Upcoming events include a Star Transit workshop in March (date to be announced), and the ATA accreditation examination on April 28 (for more information on the exam, please contact Heidemarie Nelson at heidemarienelson@attglobal.net). And of course, our monthly meetings. Please come and enjoy the benefits of membership!

Terry Coe, NETA President

AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION EXAM

To be held on **Sunday, April 28, 9:00 - 12:00 a.m.**
Room #141, Adamian Center, Bentley College
Proctor: Heidemarie Nelson - (603) 598-0079

Interested candidates should contact ATA Accreditation Manager Terry Hanlen at ATA Headquarters, (703) 683-6100 or Terry@atanet.org. Directions, hotel recommendations, campus map, and guidelines for successful participation in the exam will be sent to each registered candidate with the exam instructions.

Upcoming Events

Series

The Theory and Practice of Literary Translation

At Boston University

All seminars are free and open to the public.

April 5

The Rhythm of Cesare Pavese's Imagination (Italian to English)

By Geoffrey Brock, Visiting Professor, University of Texas at Dallas

April 12

Translating in Concert (Swedish)

By Göran Sonnevi, Poet and Translator and Rika Lesser, Poet and Translator

April 19

Kusunsuaa Unsukkapiq, Translating the Inuit

By Lawrence Millman, Traveler and Writer

April 26

Transatlantic Translations

Transatlantiques:

French and American Cinematic "Remakes"

By T. Jefferson Kline, Professor of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, Boston University

For more information, visit

<http://www.bu.edu/uni>.

Global Business Alliance of New England

All events organized by British-American Business Council of New England (BABCNE)

April 10

US/EU BUSINESS FORUM

"COMMON CURRENCY - WHAT IS IN STORE?"

In collaboration with the French, German, and Netherlands American Chambers of Commerce

Registration, Reception & Luncheon: 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.

May 15

US/EU BUSINESS FORUM

"THE FOUR CEOs" Doing business in the US from the European perspective

In collaboration with the French, German, and Netherlands American Chambers of Commerce

Registration & Reception: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Interactive seminar: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

June 6

INTERACTIVE MONEY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

"FINANCIAL & ESTATE PLANNING FOR NON-CITIZENS"

Sponsored and presented by: Baystate Financial

A BABCNE Sponsor member

Registration: 5:45 -6:00 p.m. Interactive seminar: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Networking reception to follow seminar.

For more information contact babncne@msn.com or call 617-720-3622.

Spanish Book Discussion Group

At Schoenhof's. Professor Francisca González Arias of Merrimack College will lead these informal discussions:

April 4

Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, by Marcela Serrano

May 2

No pasó nada, by Antonio Skármeta

For more information contact marketing@schoenhofs.com.

| WHAT | WHEN | WHERE | CONTACT INFORMATION |
|--|-------------|------------------------|---|
| Canadian Association for Translation Studies | May 25-27 | Toronto, Canada | Dr. Anne Malena: amalena@ualberta.ca |
| STC's 49th Annual Conference | May 5-8 | Nashville, TN | http://www.stc.org/49thConf/index.html |
| Brave New Worlds: Translation and the New Economy | May 8-11 | Dublin, Ireland | translation.conference@dcu.ie |
| NAJIT's (Judicial Interpreters) Annual Educational Conference | May 17-19 | Phoenix, AZ | http://www.najit.org/ |
| XVI World Congress of the International Federation of Translators | Aug. 7-10 | Vancouver, Canada | http://www.fit2002.org/ |
| Refresher course for professional conference interpreters | Aug. 18-31 | Cambridge, England | Christopher Guichot de Fortis: defortis@belgacom.net |
| Colloque "Les femmes et la traduction du Moyen Âge au XVIIIe siècle" | Sept. 20-21 | Université de Montréal | beaulij@etfra.umontreal.ca |
| American Literary Translators Association (ALTA) | Oct. 17-19 | Chicago, IL | http://www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/alta.htm |
| 43rd Annual Conference of the American Translators Association | Nov. 6-9 | Atlanta, GA | conference@atanet.org |

6th Annual NETA Conference

continued from page 1

Sessions and Speakers

The Language Professional by Rudy Heller

Rudy will speak about the business of translation. With the assistance of his partner, Sarah, he will share what has worked and what has not worked for them over the years. Discussion on how to make this craft a sustainable business venture. Will include tips for both beginners and veterans.

Rudy Heller, ATA-accredited translator and state and federally-certified interpreter, arrived in the Boston area in the mid 70's to work at a translation agency where he learned how NOT to run a translation business. Since then he and his partner and wife, Sarah, have grown their business from a mom-and-pop shop to a five-person operation. Rudy is presently the Administrator of the ATA's Spanish Language Division, and a member of the ATA's English-into-Spanish Workgroup.

Consecutive Interpreting by Sylvia Zetterstrand

The workshop is intended as a general introduction to the mode of consecutive interpretation (CI). It combines lecturing on the theoretical aspects of CI with practical exercises. All materials to be used are derived from local criminal and civil proceedings.

Sylvia Zetterstrand, Ph.D. in linguistics, is a state and federally certified Spanish interpreter, currently working in the MA courts and in the private market. She was awarded a certificate in consecutive interpretation by Harry Obst, ex-director of the US State Department Office of Language Services. Ms. Zetterstrand intends to teach a course in court interpreting at the Harvard Extension School next year, and serve as a scorer and standard-setter of the NAJIT Spanish Certification Examination.

Software Localization by Stephanie Livermore

Illuminated Letters, or Why I Don't do Prose by Jim Kates

This session provides an exploration of the different challenges literary translation poses: those of literal or informational translation, with particular application to the questions raised in translating poetry, as well as similarities and cross-fertilization.

Jim Kates is a poet and literary translator who lives in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. He is the author of *Mappemonde* (Oyster River Press, 2001), co-translator with Stephen A. Sadow of Ricardo Feierstein's *We, the Generation in the Wilderness* (Ford-Brown, 1989) and Isaac Goldemberg's *Self-Portraits and Masks* (Cross-Cultural Communications, 2002); and editor of *In the Grip of Strange Thoughts: Russian Poetry in a new Era* (Zephyr, 1999). Jim is co-director of Zephyr Press.

Creating Glossaries with Tools by Rocío Chavarriaga-Doak

Tailored to all language combinations and intended for an audience with a basic to intermediate level of expertise in translation, this seminar covers: Principles and benefits of glossary building, the process for manual creation of glossaries, context-based, culturally-biased glossaries, analysis of a specialized text in English, and creation of a glossary, and CAT-built glossaries.

Rocío Chavarriaga is an ATA-accredited English into Spanish translator who specializes in technical translation and software localization. She holds a Master's Degree from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and has been active in the field of translation since 1989. She has lectured previously at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Florida International University, the University of North London, and California State University at Los Angeles, among others.

The Challenge of Testing International Software by Gabriella Spatolisano

International software testing presents several challenges for both quality assurance engineers with no language knowledge and language-skilled people with little technical knowledge. The goal of this talk is to give a basic understanding of what these challenges are and how they can be overcome.

Gabriella Spatolisano is a Globalization Manager with ATG. She has 11 years of Software Quality Assurance experience and in the past 6 years she has been focusing on internationalization and localization quality assurance. She worked in Digital Rome, France and USA. She published an article in multilingual magazine on "Testing Multilingual E-Commerce Applications."

Panel Discussion on Current Issues in Interpreting led by Eduardo Berinstein

The Emergency Room Interpreter Bill

continued from page 1

The law mandates the use of “competent interpreter services”¹ in emergency rooms and in acute psychiatric settings, and provides for legal recourse if someone is harmed because of lack of or inadequate interpreting. It is a rather timid law, since it applies only to emergency rooms and acute mental health care. The original bill was broader and extended to other areas of life. The idea this time was to get a law on the books that would, with time, become generalized throughout health care services, similarly to what happened with the law that mandated interpreters in the courts of Essex County.

Through an initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), a committee made up of many of the members of the original broad coalition and representatives from other organizations drew up regulations and an extensive best practices document that is available for download on the DPH website (<http://www.state.ma.us/dph/dphhome.htm>).

The Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health (DMA), Health Care for All, the Massachusetts Hospital Association, and some community-based organizations and individuals have been outreaching to health care institutions throughout the state to assist them in implementing the law.

Since the law mandates the use of competent and trained interpreters, efforts are under way to provide learning opportunities for interpreters who wish to enhance their skills and knowledge.

At the request of, and with funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association (MMIA) has been offering a 60-hour Emergency Room and

Acute Mental Health Medical Interpreter Training for medical interpreters. This course has already been offered twice in the Boston area and will be offered in the Worcester area starting in April, and later in the Brockton area starting in the fall.

Thanks to funding from Massachusetts DMA, the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) have been offering medical interpreter training courses throughout the state, in an effort to expand the corps of trained medical interpreters.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care also runs a medical interpreter training course that is quite popular and which has seen a surge in new applicants as the law is being implemented by health care institutions, who now require that the interpreters they hire or contract have prior training.

Twice a year, spring and fall, the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center in Worcester offers a 91-hour medical interpreter training course.

The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Office of Multicultural Affairs is also launching a new interpreter training curriculum for mental health interpreters. The first

session will be held in the Taunton area some time in the spring.

New England Medical Center in partnership with MMIA, the Statewide AHEC Medical Interpreter Training Program, and other health care institutions in Massachusetts, is planning to create a mentorship program as a way of contributing to these efforts. Many of the medical interpreter training programs are relatively short-term, averaging around 40 hours of class time. The proposed mentorship program would accept recently-trained interpreters to work and train with an experienced interpreter-mentor over a period of 6 to 12 months. During the first half of the program, the student would observe the experienced interpreter and continue to study under the mentor’s supervision. In the second half, the student would interpret under the mentor’s supervision.

As the medical interpreter profession continues to demand more knowledge and greater skills, college-based programs are being created. Both Bentley College and Cambridge College offer a medical interpreter training certificate program which many think will eventually develop into degree programs as the field continues to evolve and qualification requirements for medical interpreters increase.

The law mandates the use of “competent interpreter services” in emergency rooms and in acute psychiatric settings, and provides for legal recourse if someone is harmed because of lack of or inadequate interpreting.

continued on page 10

NETA would like to welcome our new members:

Dr. Aslan Aslanian

Armenian, Farsi, Daci, English < > Armenian Farsi, Daci, English

Ayfer Bektas

English, Russian > German

Ann-Marie Bissonette

Portuguese, Spanish > English

Simon Bravo

English > Spanish

Alfred A. Camino

Spanish < > English

Marie Anne de Warren

English > French

Helen Eby

Spanish < > English

Keiko Iijima

English < > Japanese

Alex Kent

Japanese > English

Virginia Lam

English > Cantonese, Mandarin, Chiu Chow

Judith S. Lyons

French > English

Eugene Mandelbraut

Russian, English > French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German

Diego A. Mansilla

Spanish < > English

Constance Marina

Spanish < > English

Jocelyn Moussavou

French

Urina Paramonova-Zadeh

Russian < > English

Marta Ruiz de la Prada

English > Spanish

Nehat Saliu

Albanian, Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian < > Albanian, Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian

Petra Louisa Starr

English < > Dutch

Antonia Donna Thomas

English < > Greek

Alexandra Tussing

Russian, English, Ukranian > English, Russian

The Interpreter Bill

continued from page 9

The MMIA was founded by Raquel Cashman in 1986 precisely towards the goal of professionalizing medical interpreting. With the Education Development Corporation (EDC), we have developed Standards of Practice which were published in 1995 and endorsed by the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care in 1998. Since then, the MMIA has been working on a certification process which, it is hoped, will help to standardize and improve the quality of medical interpreting. Recently, the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC), the California Health Interpreters Association (CHIA), and MMIA held a weekend-long meeting in Boston for the purpose of developing a working plan for collaboration in these efforts. As a starting point, MMIA and CHIA will pilot an evaluation instrument developed by MMIA.

Besides providing greater access to health care for limited-English speakers, the law is also serving as a catalyst to further professionalize interpreting in health care settings. The Government, hospitals, schools and community organizations have joined forces not only to increase adequate access to care for people who do not speak English but also to make it possible for medical interpreters to enhance their skills through greater learning opportunities.

(1) Competent interpreter services: Interpreter services performed by a person who is fluent in "English and the language of the non-English speaker, who is trained and proficient in the skill and ethics of interpreting and who is knowledgeable about the specialized terms and concepts that need to be interpreted for purposes of receiving emergency care or treatment."

Tax Season Reminder!

Freelance translators and interpreters are actually recognized as professionals by the IRS!

When filling out Schedule C, write code # 541930 in box B.

Drastic Cuts for Judicial Interpreters

By Jaime Fatás, Judicial Interpreter

A few months ago, the Legislature approved a substantial increase of about \$600,000 in the administrative budget for the Office of Court Interpreter Services (OCIS.) Part of the money was earmarked for creating new positions (both for interpreters and OCIS administrative staff) and for new office space, including a resource center for interpreters. It reflected the commitment of the Trial Courts (TC) towards linguistic services and cultural diversity, as well as recognition of the essential nature of the function interpreters serve in the Trial Courts. It seemed a good omen for the new Director, Ms. Gaye Gentes, who has had a few busy months taking the helm of her pivotal appointment and learning her many responsibilities: serving the TC, managing her staff and the rank and file, administrating, coordinating, and, together with the new

training director, Ms. Leonor Figueroa, developing training and informational activities.

Unfortunately, the fiscal crisis and the budget shortage cast a very dark shadow over these promising developments. The TC has announced drastic cuts that will take a heavy toll on OCIS. It is to be hoped that some amendments will be made because, if approved, the planned cuts could effectively bring interpreter services to a halt in the Trial Courts of Massachusetts.

According to Gentes, the operational budget for OCIS (the actual moneys used to pay interpreters) will be reduced by 75%. In a document that records the TC deficit allocation by department, of a total budget deficit of \$2.5 million, OCIS' administrative budget takes also a staggering \$611,247 cut. This *de facto* eliminates last year's increase.

The vast majority of judicial interpreters have not had a raise since 1998, and have no benefits, job security, or direct representation at the bargaining table or anywhere else in the TC. The aforementioned budget cuts, if carried out, may stop the service.

The unions that represent the TC employees have accepted 8-day furloughs that amount to a 3/3.5% reduction of salaries (deferred pay or vacation at time and a half is an option). Judges and Magistrates not represented by unions are debating now whether they endorse the agreement.

Unfortunately, about 250 layoffs will take place, equitably apportioned among the different departments. Most departments will suffer a few layoffs (about 250 according to current estimates). Interpreter services, not represented in the negotiations, receive crushing cuts which do not amount to an equitable distribution of resources and layoffs. OCIS will take a disproportionate share of this recession. If these measures are enacted, OCIS will not have enough resources to operate. For many courts, it would be impossible to function adequately without interpreters. Victims and defendants with limited English proficiency will not have equal access to justice. And for many—most—of the judicial interpreters, it will mean lack of work.

Let's hope that last minute changes bring relief to these gloomy prospects.

Spanish Dialectology Project

Do you know anyone (including yourself) from any of the following four countries?

The Dominican Republic
Honduras
Costa Rica
Panama

ATA and SPD member Andre Moskowitz are conducting a study to be presented at next year's ATA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on how Spanish vocabulary varies among different Spanish-speaking countries. He would like to contact people from the four countries listed above from which he is having difficulty obtaining sufficient data.

If you know people who were born and raised in any of the four above-referenced countries that you could refer him to, please contact Andre at:

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Computer Corner

The Open Source Concept

Lionbridge has made available their translation memory software for free as an open source product. To use their own words...

“Lionbridge has released ForeignDesk to the open source development community, giving developers everywhere the opportunity to use, enhance, modify and imbed a stable, proven and full-featured computer-aided translation product.”

They also claim...

“By releasing ForeignDesk source code to the developer community, Lionbridge seeks to speed up the pace at which translation memory functionality is added to a wide range of enterprise applications.”

You can download the translation memory software for free at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/foreigndesk/>.

The basic idea behind open source is that programmers can read, redistribute, and modify the source code for a piece of software to improve it, adapt it, and fix bugs. To learn more about this concept, visit The Open Source Initiative at <http://www.opensource.org/>.

Changing File Extension Types on PCs

Your client sends you a bunch of files. You look at the file extensions and find one that does not look familiar to you (.XYZ).

We all know that Notepad is a safe place to start. However, later on, we discover we could also have used “ACME software” to open up that file. But it is too late now: every time you click on the .XYZ file, Notepad opens it up.

How do you change the File Type Association in your PC?

1. From My Computer or Windows Explorer, select View > Folder Options.
2. Select the File Types tab.
3. In the list of file types, click the one you want to change.
4. Click Edit.
5. In Actions, click Open.
6. Click Edit.
7. In Application used to perform action, enter the program you want to use to open files that have this extension.
8. Click OK.

Note: The settings for selected file types are shown in File Type details.

PS: Do you know how to do this in a Mac?
Contact us to share your knowledge.

Wrapping Text in Microsoft Excel Worksheet Cells

This feature allows you to display multiple lines of text inside one same cell. This is how you do it:

1. Highlight the cells containing the text you want to wrap.
2. Click the Format menu and select Cells from the menu that appears.
3. Click the Alignment tab.
4. Click the Wrap text check box.
5. There will now be a check displayed in the check box.
6. Click the OK button.

Tip: To unwrap text, follow Steps 1-3 and uncheck (by clicking) the Wrap text check box.

It Pays To Belong...

The following is an e-mail message posted on NETA's forum
by Ken Kronenberg, NETA BOD member and NETA Forum Moderator

*Dear NETAns,
I received the letter below from a former BC student who helped us at the Fair 2 years ago. I asked her if I could forward it to the members, because it seemed to me that it illustrates the effect that we "old hands" can have on young people –sometimes without even being aware of it. If I may put in a plug: This is the sort of thing that can happen when we participate in an organization like NETA and events like the Fair.
–Ken*

Hello Ken,

I don't know if you remember me, the French student from Boston College who attended several NETA events two years ago?

Last we spoke, I believe I was off to France for a year working for an oil company in the South... well that very educational year is now over, and since September I've been here at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where I'm pursuing my masters in Translation and Interpretation! And what a wonderfully challenging, enriching, and enjoyable education it has been so far...

I have been meaning to contact you and let you know — being in contact with NETA my senior year played a fairly important role in my final decision to go into the profession, and I wanted to let you know how grateful I was of your kindness, as well as of your colleagues — you were my first real contacts with the translation profession.

I saw on the website that you have finished your term as President, and that there are many exciting developments underway for NETA. I plan to re-join, but will wait until August, when new subscriptions will be taken.

In any case, I just wanted to say hello and that I will hopefully be in touch with NETA again soon — settling in New England is definitely part of my long- (and maybe short-) term plans, and being able to actively participate in NETA will be something to look forward to.

All the best to you in this New Year,

Kelly Moudy

MATI Candidate, 2003

Monterey Institute of International Studies

Benefits of NETA Membership:

- Your listing in our Web directory
- Online community with NETA's e-groups mailing list; includes job listings
- Discounted admission to annual conference
- Participation in NETA programs for professional enrichment
- Quarterly newsletter
- Association and interchange with colleagues
- Membership in GBANE, umbrella group for many international trade organizations

Language Laughs

Reprinted from the 2000 issue of The Guide to Translation and Localization, by Lingo Systems, with their kind permission.

An American T-shirt maker in Miami printed shirts for the Spanish market which promoted the Pope's visit. Instead of "I saw the Pope" (el Papa), the shirts read "I saw the potato" (la papa).

From a letter in response to an inquiry about Chinese lodging:
"Dear Madam: I am honorable to accept your impossible request. Unhappy it is, I have not bedroom with bath. A bathroom with bed I have. I can though give you a washing, with pleasure, in a most clean spring with no one to see. I insist that you will like this."

NETA

c/o Laura Nakazawa

8 Oakland St.

Wellesley Hills, MA 02481