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NAJIT

PROTEUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

Interpretation after Nuremberg: International War Crimes Trials

Marijana Nikolic

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Note: The views expressed herein are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Tribunal or the United Nations in general.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was established in 1993 by the United Nations Security Council acting under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter as a measure for restoring and maintaining peace and stability in the region.

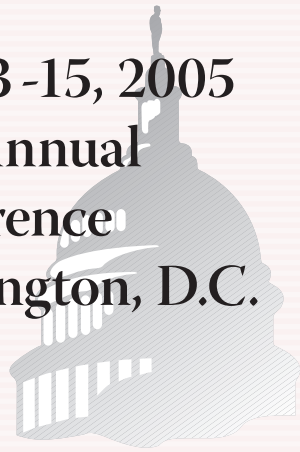
When the ICTY was first established, war was still raging in the former Yugoslavia and three years of diplomatic efforts, including ultimatums and sanctions, did not yield any meaningful results. It seems unlikely in retrospect that anyone believed that high-ranking officials and military commanders responsible for the atrocities would ever be brought to justice. At best, it was hoped that the threat of prosecution would serve as a deterrent and bring the belligerent parties to the negotiating table or significantly reduce the occurrence of war crimes. Over the years, however, by putting one foot in front of the other, the "Hague Tribunal" started to have a life of its own and today serves as a blueprint for establishing other international courts and tribunals under the auspices of the U.N.

ICTY is a criminal court of law with jurisdiction over natural persons. It is an *ad hoc* legal institution which will complete its work by the end of year 2010, but which already serves as a valuable source of case law and a model for similar institutions such as the Sierra Leone and East Timor tribunals and the International Criminal Court, which recently began its work in The Hague. Its mandate is to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law, such as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, violations of laws and customs of war, genocide and crimes against humanity. Several of its features have had a special impact on translation and interpretation policies of its language department, as well as on the everyday working life of its translators and interpreters.

> *continued on page 6*

May 13 -15, 2005
26th Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.

see page 12



NAJIT Proclamation

see page 13

2005 THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES

Proteus

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Message from the Chair

Plans are well advanced for our 26th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. I hope to see many of you there at the Hotel Washington, a remarkable and historic venue right across the street from the White House. One new feature of this event will be our "NAJIT Scholars." The Student Outreach Committee has been hard at work making all the arrangements needed to invite 12 students of translation and interpreting to participate in our conference. See page 11 for the announcement, and be sure to welcome the Scholars at the conference.

As you know, outreach to students is very close to my heart. I am happy to report that in December of 2004, 64 of my students from the University of California at Los Angeles and California State University Long Beach journeyed north to Santa Barbara to take part in a charitable telethon. Carlos Cerrecedo, a well-known media figure in our part of the world and the former president of the California Court Interpreters Association, arranged this amazing opportunity for the students. They had the opportunity to provide real-time simultaneous interpreting in Spanish, and to do good in the process. It was an inspirational and successful event.

In recognition of the importance of the next generation, and wishing to continue to impetus of our outreach this year, the NAJIT board passed this motion on December 14, 2004:

> ***Resolved, that NAJIT observe the year 2006 as the "Year of the Student" and establish a scholarship fund for students in connection with the observance of that year.***

Please share with us your ideas and thoughts about this new initiative with us as we take the long view and work to promote professionalism and dedication in future translators and interpreters.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that NAJIT Director Isabel Framer has been appointed as a member of the Public Relations Committee of the American Translators Association. Isa is tireless in her pursuit of professionalism for interpreting and equal access to justice for those who do not speak English. (In fact, on the NAJIT Advocacy Committee her nickname is "I-squared" for "indispensable Isa!") I know that she will bring a great deal to the ATA PR committee, which has made fantastic strides in bringing translating and interpreting before the American public over the last 18 months—more about this on page 10. From an organizational point of view, NAJIT and ATA can accomplish much more working together than either could achieve simply on its own. NAJIT is continuing to develop and strengthen its partnerships. I'll keep you informed as we move ahead.

Alexander Raïnof, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

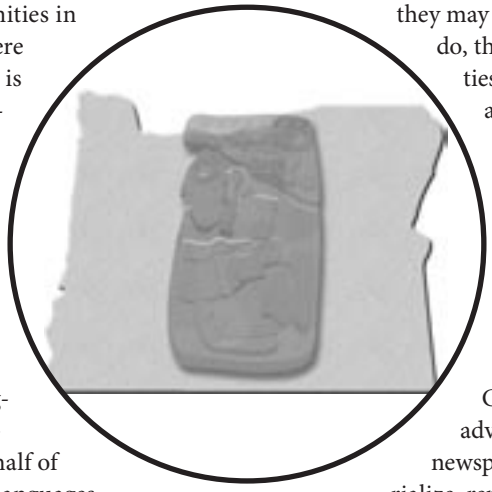
NAJIT occasionally makes its member information available to organizations or persons offering information, products, or services of potential interest to members. Each decision is carefully reviewed and authorization is given with discretion. If you do not wish to have your contact information given out for this purpose, please let headquarters know and we will adjust our records accordingly.

Improving Access to the Oregon Courts for Speakers of Indigenous Languages

Lois M. Feuerle

Approximately 30,000 to 40,000 speakers of indigenous languages from Mexico and Guatemala are currently living and working in Oregon, according to some estimates. While it is hard to determine exactly how many indigenous speakers are here, one thing is clear — many members of this group do not speak a second language. While some are bilingual, it is usually in Spanish and English. However, even indigenous speakers who do speak English do not yet speak it well enough to function comfortably in a courtroom setting.

This influx of immigrants is the result of a variety of factors — economic, social and ecological. That economic factors play a role is not surprising. Subsistence farming is increasingly difficult; there are few employment opportunities in remote rural regions. In the social realm, there are few services in these areas, potable water is scarce and prejudice against indigenous peoples is widespread. Finally, environmental factors include deforestation, erosion and the loss of land to forestry, mining and larger scale agriculture.



The growing need for interpreters of indigenous languages each year in the Oregon courts is seen in the number of cases requiring interpreting in these languages, the ever-increasing variety of languages and dialects needed, and the speakers' geographical spread. Between 1999 and the first half of 2004, the need for interpreters of indigenous languages skyrocketed by nearly 800%. It is true that the absolute numbers are still quite small, but as a statistical trend this is nonetheless startling. From July 2003 to July 2004, the Oregon courts needed interpreting services in Kanjobal, Mam, Mixe, Mixteco, Maya, Nahuatl, Quiche, P'urepecha and Triqui, as well as various dialects of these languages, e.g. Mixteco alto and Mixteco bajo.

The problems in providing interpreting services in these and other indigenous languages are varied and can perhaps be broken down into four main categories: linguistic, logistical, personal and systems-related.

The immediate linguistic problem is correctly identifying the particular language needed. The person on the front line here is often the Spanish interpreter who must be able to identify that the individual does not speak Spanish as a native language. Sometimes this is very obvious, other times less so. But this is only a small part of the task. Then it is necessary to identify the indigenous language, which variant of the language is being spoken, and to pinpoint precisely where the indigenous speaker comes from. This is very important since the inter-intelligibility rate between variants of the same language can differ widely. Related to this is the small number of speakers of some of these languages.

Other problems are more complex: for example, the fact that the linguistic universe of each of these languages is very different. Not only do these languages lack the legal concepts characteristic of the U.S. court system, but they also lack linguistic matches on other levels — in vocabulary and terminology, as well as in grammatical and conceptual structures (e.g. different kinship distinctions, pronoun distinctions that do not exist either in English or Spanish).

As if that were not enough, logistics are often cumbersome. If we locate nearby speakers of the required indigenous language, they may not have the right to work in the U.S., or if they do, they may have a conflict because these communities tend to be small and close-knit. If no one is available locally, it might then become necessary to import an interpreter from some other part of the U.S., or even from Mexico. If the only interpreter found is domiciled abroad, this can mean a drawn-out process involving the immigration authorities, since it is necessary to establish that no local interpreter of this language is available. Oregon's experience obtaining a visa for a speaker of San Juan Copala Triqui took several months. It required advertising in both English-language and Spanish newspapers, waiting for responses that did not materialize, repeated phone calls and letters to the I.N.S., obtaining both a visa and a Mexican passport at the eleventh hour for someone who had never applied for a passport before, and the intervention of an Oregon senator to finally break the log-jam. But success crowned our efforts — the Triqui interpreter flew from Mexico to Oregon to interpret for a plea!

Often the individuals who are called upon to interpret in court have had scant formal education. They come to the courts not knowing about court protocol and are unfamiliar with the modes of interpreting. Even if they have some experience interpreting informally, they find the use of the first person counterintuitive. Unfortunately, there is rarely enough work in their language for them to aspire to being a professional interpreter, so they do not get the opportunities needed to hone their skills. And finally, because of multiple dislocations during their lifetimes, they may not possess full skills in their second language, which is typically Spanish.

Finally, the expectations of judges and court personnel may cause difficulties. These players in the courtroom drama have often come to expect well-trained, certified Spanish interpreters, and it

> continued on page 8

Survival Skills for Conference Interpreters

Kathleen M. Orozco

An agency calls you for a bilingual translating job for which they have been asked to provide a Spanish-speaking translator. They mean interpreting job, of course. You inquire about the place, date, and time, conference agenda, subject matter, numbers, profession and language dominance of your listeners, whether the interpreter is expected to go from the "B" to the "A" language, vice-versa, or to perform roughly equal amounts of "B" to "A" and "A" to "B" work, whether the set-up is a booth or wireless headsets and transmitter, but little information is forthcoming. "Sound equipment?" or "Do you really think this is needed?" should make you even more cautious. Neophyte agencies simply do not understand the importance of consulting with their client to establish these important parameters before the interpreting team is hired. However, if your potential client is amenable to obtaining all this vital information in a reasonable time period (at least a week before the actual conference, depending on topic and difficulty level), then actually follows through and gets back to you, you might have a basis for bidding for the job.

Some agency clients are highly informed and capable, others are trainable (with a few invaluable clients, like you, who tactfully offer to assist them) and still others are hopeless and will probably not stay in business, unless they can quickly learn the logistical details. As the language professional, you have an opportunity to assist "trainable" but neophyte agencies in their conference planning, while making clear to them the need to communicate to the interpreter vital information about what, how long, where, and for whom the language services will be needed. However, if the agency doesn't seem amenable to this type of consultation, your time would be better spent educating agencies that do advance planning and communicate well with prospective interpreters.

The Bargain Basement Scenario

Let's assume that your prospective client has communicated the essentials to your satisfaction. The subject matter is not unfamiliar, or you're reasonably sure you can become proficient in it before the conference, having been promised an advance speaker agenda and support materials (e.g., preliminary drafts of speeches). Let's further assume that you have the time and facilities to do independent research on your subject, in a library or on the Internet.

The agency contact person then offers a ridiculously low fee for your services, compared to market rates. This low rate, they tell you, has already been agreed upon between the agency and their client. You have two choices here. Neither is correct or incorrect, but should satisfy your sense of fairness, considering the amount of advance preparation required to do a good job.

Choice #1: Negotiate with the agency by suggesting a half-day or full-day fee. (This will depend on the time frame for which the interpreter is needed.) The negotiated rate should be financially fair to you, although slightly lower than the figure you originally quoted them. Don't go below this last offer, though. Whatever the ultimate rate you quote for your fee, it is totally separate from any agency fee that the client pays the agency for your services. When your client is the interpreting agency, your fee negotiations take place only with the agency, never with their client. Commissions paid to the agency by the party requesting service constitute privileged information. Such commission agreements with their clients are their business, not yours, and an interpreter should show no curiosity or interest in the subject. The interpreter need only be concerned about negotiating a fair fee with the agency for language services.

Choice #2: If offered a rate which you consider too low, politely state that although you would love to assist them, you simply cannot work for less than your established fee for this type of job, considering your experience level, their demands (technical, time commitment, need for adequate study/preparation, your federal or other certification/training) and other factors associated with the job. The agency client may well agree to pay you your suggested fee, or one very close to it. Or you may find they are unresponsive and will try to find another "bilingual translator" for a bargain basement rate.

If you can negotiate a mutually satisfactory fee, the agency may call you for future jobs at your preferred rate. If such negotiation is not possible, you saved aggravation and effort, and avoided inadequate compensation. Don't be tempted to compromise: be polite but firm. Most experienced agencies are familiar with prevailing conference rates in your area.

The Flying Solo Scenario

Less experienced interpreting agencies sometimes attempt to cut costs by convincing you to work a conference job without a partner. Such "offers" should be avoided like the plague, and politely but firmly refused. There is no room for compromise. Even a client's offer of "almost double your daily rate" in exchange for working solo is just not worth ruining your voice and concentration, or placing your physical and mental endurance at risk. Flying solo is unprofessional, extremely risky, and a disservice to you, the agency, and your listeners. You will have no back-up if a coughing or sneezing fit strikes, if there are equipment problems, or if you draw a mental blank on some technical word or key phrase. You will have no helpful partner to suggest alternative translations of terms, or to look them up for you, since you can't stop interpreting long enough to look them up yourself.

The Undefined Sound Scenario

If the agency has subcontracted booth installations and/or wireless set-ups before, this part of the negotiation will go very

smoothly. If the agency doesn't mention the subject at all, it's likely they have never worked with an interpreter before, or are trying to cut costs in a smaller meeting where "probably only a few conference participants" will need the service and so are trying to get you to agree to using whisper mode. Not a good idea for you or their client. Ultimately, it will be up to the agency to decide which type of equipment to rent, taking into account the cost of the equipment rental, the projected numbers of participants who will listen to the interpretation, the size of the conference room, seating arrangements, quality of sound transmission channels available in the conference room, and other factors.

The Sound Technician

Wireless equipment works best in small to medium-sized conference rooms. Some wireless transmitter/receiver sets are extremely easy for interpreters to use, distribute, and handle at smaller business-type meetings with few participants, and may not require the use and added expense by the agency of an on-site sound technician. Such equipment is battery-operated, and some models need to be charged overnight before the conference event and charged again between consecutive days of longer events. Do not assume that your prospective agency knows this — it's good to inquire whether their rented equipment pak includes a battery charger strip. If not, chances are that the equipment is of the newer variety, requiring only replacement of fresh batteries in receiver headsets as the signal starts to fade.

Large-scale conference held in hotel ballroom-type settings (in my experience, the majority of such conferences) do require that the agency contract the services of an on-site sound technician. The larger the room, the better the sound transmission will be with an interpreter booth. The availability of an experienced, on-site sound technician to set up, monitor, and trouble-shoot the sound transmission is indispensable for booth interpreters, or for larger events utilizing many headsets in the wireless mode. Some sound equipment companies hire their own interpreters for such events. Sound technicians are also valuable contacts for future jobs, since these professionals appreciate proficient interpreters. Make sure that the sound technician does an equipment check prior to the start of the conference and explains the booth controls.

The Mutual Aid Society

Members of a two-person conference team should relieve each other in half-hour stretches (whenever a natural pause or transition to new presenter occurs), in order to alleviate physical and mental fatigue. Doing so helps each interpreter to rest, recover, drink a glass of water, visit the restroom, etc. During off-mike periods, you should be generally available to assist your partner in communicating with the sound technician, looking up terms, and for general support. He or she will be grateful, and will return the favor when you need it. It's never professional to leave the booth without informing your partner where you are going, and how long you will be absent. A sense of trust and agreed-upon responsibilities should quickly develop between team members for mutual benefit and support. Always be open to the possibility of learning a better turn of phrase, new skill, or smoother technique from a colleague, even if less experienced than you.

Conference Interpreter Tips

When negotiating fees and working conditions, be aware of who your potential client is. Negotiate directly with the agency or direct client spokesperson only. This is the person that you should bill for the service. Never steal an agency's client, even if that client asks you to work directly for them in the future, to "avoid the middleman."

A short written contract which you volunteer to draft is often a good idea with agencies or clients you have not worked with in the past. A few will provide their own, which of course can be reviewed and modified. As time goes on and you continue to provide services to the same client, it may no longer be necessary, if an informal understanding has arisen regarding your utilization, pay, and work conditions. NAJIT and other professional associations provide models of simple draft contracts that conference interpreters can offer to their clients to establish working conditions.

Unlike in courtroom settings, the conference interpreter usually does not provide a strict verbatim rendering of presentations, except at highly technical and scientific conferences. In marketing, training, and business settings, you are free to omit excessively repetitive, incoherent or incomplete statements, substituting more comprehensible expressions to express the same idea. Don't go too far afield, though, and always use proper terminology or company-preferred jargon for concepts or products unique to them, striving always to conserve the original "flavor" and essential ideas of the presentation.

Prepare, prepare, prepare. When researching basic concepts and vocabulary for a subject that is new to you, your best friend is a well-stocked public or university library. To maximize preparation time, try to limit background reading to topics mentioned specifically in the conference agenda. While reading, start a glossary of often-repeated terms (you will later copy these in more organized fashion on your computer). Key terms not found in any dictionaries may be revealed by reading source material in both languages, becoming apparent through context. Background articles too lengthy or numerous to absorb during your library visit can be xeroxed for later reference.

Don't neglect the next step: transfer your handwritten (or electronic translator) glossary to your computer conference file. Why bother to do this? In my experience, the simple act of re-typing vocabulary terms and their translations actually jump-starts and strongly reinforces the memorization process. Make two copies of your typed glossary, one for yourself and one for your booth-mate. It will be much appreciated, and you'll both be referring to the same list. Together you can modify or find alternatives and write them in. Shared knowledge is a powerful tool. Double or triple space between glossary terms, leaving room to insert new terms encountered.

During idle moments, review your glossary terms and test yourself by covering up the translations of the terms found. Ask a colleague or friend to read out your source language glossary entries, and test you on the target language translations. Red-flag those you can't think of right away for more intensive study.

The day after the conference ends, incorporate all new terms

> continued on page 19

INTERPRETATION AFTER NUREMBERG *continued from front page*

ICTY is a multilingual institution whose employees come from 80 different countries. Its official languages are English and French, but the language of the accused and that of the majority of witnesses is either Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (commonly referred to as B/C/S) or Albanian. The crimes for which it was given jurisdiction were committed in an East European country whose history, culture and social system all played a part in the nature of the conflict—that nature having often been the subject of many a legal debate and decisions of the court.

Very few of the ICTY investigators and lawyers had more than a basic knowledge of the area prior to coming to the Tribunal and only a handful possessed rudimentary notions of B/C/S. Therefore, from the very beginning they had to rely on translators' and interpreters' linguistic skills and knowledge of the region.

The law applied at the Tribunal is a unique mixture of common law and civil law. While it is the former that dominates the procedures adopted by the judges, it is the latter that has always been the legal tradition of the countries of the former Yugoslavia, where many of the defence counsel involved in trials come from.

The Tribunal's proceedings are broadcast live from all three interpretation booths (French, English, B/C/S) over the Internet and often feature in various broadcast programmes devoted to the work of the Tribunal, in particular in the former Yugoslavia. The war being examined daily in its most graphic details at the ICTY happened not so long ago in the country which once was home for most of the ICTY translators and interpreters. In other words, it happened to us.

Tribunal proceedings are broadcast live over the Internet.

The Statute of the Tribunal was adopted in May 1993, and by using the standard criteria of the U.N. for administrative services, its authors envisaged the creation of a Conference and Language Services Section (CLSS). The CLSS was established within the Registry, which is one of the three organs of the Tribunal, the other two being the Office of the Prosecutor and Judges' Chambers. The Registry is in charge of the administration and servicing of the whole of the Tribunal and the CLSS is responsible for offering language services to all organs of the Tribunal.

The Section provides translation, interpretation and court reporting services in all stages of the proceedings; from field interpretation at witness and suspect interviews to simultaneous interpretation in court, and from sight-, summary- or full translation of evidence material to official translation of indictments, decisions and judgments issued by both trial and appeals chambers of the ICTY. The Section is divided into four units: English Unit, French Unit, Interpretation Unit and Reference, Terminology and Document Processing Unit.

Out of approximately 1400 staff members of the Tribunal, about 10% are employees of CLSS, either translators or administrative staff. Over the past year, translators have translated over 60,000 pages of documents, and all the official translations have been gone over by the section's revisers. Interpreters have spent hundreds of hours working in the booth or reading relevant case law and other material to prepare for the sessions.

Who are the Tribunal's translators and interpreters? They are professionals working at the same administrative level as lawyers or investigators; all have a university degree, most of them in linguistics or modern languages, and several or more years of related work experience. The revisers are native speakers of the target language. All are hard-nosed practitioners and have worked assiduously to earn the professional respect they now enjoy from judges, prosecution and defence counsel, and from numerous other users of their services.

To focus on translation services: requests for translation include witness statements, military documents (orders, instructions, war diaries, technical descriptions of equipment, which sometimes necessitate time-consuming terminology research or a painstaking process of decoding abbreviations, insiders' shorthand or somebody's handwriting), legal writing (both statutory law from the former Yugoslavia and case law of the Tribunal, in particular its judgments, some of which run to 400 pages, with over 1,000 footnotes replete with references and quotations), medical documentation (such as technical and graphic post mortem or exhumation reports), press articles, video and audio footage, etc.

The inherent difficulty of translating legal texts is here compounded by the difference in legal systems and the fact that international criminal law is nascent and its terminology in a constant process of evolution. Bilingual dictionaries, as we know, are of little help in these largely uncharted waters. What is of great help, though, is the institution itself. CLSS translators have the advantage of working in the immediate vicinity of their translation readers, and both ICTY lawyers and lawyers from the former Yugoslavia have been forthcoming and helpful. They, too, have found themselves in a new professional environment and have had to deal with alien legal concepts and interact with colleagues from different legal backgrounds, all of which has given them a high level of awareness and understanding of the problems with which the translators are faced. Also, translators' curiosity and willingness to ask questions have only contributed to others' appreciation of their work.

Good will and understanding, however, can only go so far and the difficulties of ICTY translators remain essentially the same as those of other legal translators. There are no equivalents in either French or B/C/S for concepts such as **rebuttal, rejoinder, status conference, affidavit, cross-examination, miscarriage of justice**, or **due process**. And, just as other legal translators, ICTY translators are often faced with a dilemma: to neologize or to paraphrase? It is sometimes difficult to control the urge to neologize in an environment that has become so used to it. Most B/C/S-speaking lawyers have no problem with freely using English terms whenever they need them, and the Tribunal's interpreters will do so in the booth, albeit with more restraint. In written translation, however, they usually opt for paraphrase or even explanation (**affidavit** thus becomes a sworn statement given before a judge, or a certificate, depending on the context; **rebuttal** — prosecutor's or defence evidence presented in response).

The second problem concerns a set of concepts whose seman-

tic fields do not exactly overlap, such as **case, crime, evidence**, or **testimony**. They are the most likely to cause confusion or misunderstanding. The best way of handling them is contextualization or expansion with additional information (e.g. **testimony** — giving evidence before the court).

The third category of difficulties is the Tribunal's "legalese." This difficulty concerns interpreters mostly, and can sometimes be resolved with some creative audacity. For example, ICTY's Rules of Procedure and Evidence are periodically amended by the judges and the new rules are marked with *bis, ter,* etc. Rule 92*bis,* which deals with the presentation of evidence other than oral testimony, was introduced for reasons of judicial economy. Essentially, it provides for the possibility of introducing a witness statement without necessarily calling the witness to testify. Such witnesses are referred to as 92*bis* witnesses (already awkward to translate). In the courtroom situation, a counsel at one point started making references to witnesses who have or have not been "*bissed*." After the initial shock, interpreters felt free to experiment morphologically in the target language and the result was both amusing and "accurate" (in B/C/S, the witnesses were "*bisirani*"). Such solutions must be used sparingly as they tend to confuse the audience outside the courtroom, of whose presence the source language speakers are often oblivious.

The fourth difficulty with translating legal texts has to do with a particular style of legal writing in Anglo-Saxon countries, which to a large extent results from precedents serving as the basis of common law. When translated into B/C/S, sentences such as "…but, wide as it is, the power to remit is not at large. It does not embrace a case which, as I opine, the only reason for remitting is an erroneous assumption that the Appeals Chamber is itself not competent to convict" or expressions such as "the hydra-headed elusiveness of human conduct" do not sound suitable for a court judgment. Here, however, there is not much that the Tribunal's translators can do but to follow the style and register of the original. This is exactly what global culture does to us on a more general level: it exposes us to ways of thinking and to expressions which are recognizable but that we don't necessarily identify with. For the process to be truly enriching, due respect and attention should be accorded to the target language, and by extension, the target culture.

The issue of language has always been, to a greater or lesser extent, political. In the former Yugoslavia, it has also been a sensitive political issue. With the arrival of the international community in the region and its increased influence over domestic legal issues, poor translations full of neologisms and foreign style can hurt local professional pride and be interpreted as yet another sign of a patronizing attitude by the "internationals" toward the local culture and its institutions.

Turning to court interpretation and the way it is practised at the Tribunal, the chosen mode for court proceedings is simultaneous. Consecutive interpretation services are offered for witness and suspect interviews and various other meetings. The reason why preference was given to the simultaneous mode was because of its timesaving nature and the fact that it would have been very difficult if not impossible to organise consecutive court interpretation in three languages. Interpreters normally work in one direction only, and in the case of the French booth, which has the most workload, the team always consists of three interpreters. All proceedings are transcribed and the English transcript appears simultaneously on all computer screens. There are two computer monitors in each booth and French and B/C/S interpreters can benefit from the English transcript to catch up if they have lagged behind or to check a particular piece of information. However, they have to be careful enough not to turn it into sight translation.

The courtroom is the place where the abstract and the concrete meet in a most striking way. It is all about understanding, presenting and interpreting — even when the participants speak the same language. And if words are unreliable guides to the ideal, what about translated words? To extend this Platonistic query even further, does an international court arrive at the truth in spite of, through, or thanks to translation? Hard to say. What I do know, however, is that simultaneous interpretation is a workable solution to the communication gap in an international court if the following requirements are successfully met:

- **Interpreters:** must possess excellent linguistic and interpretation skills (target language competence and performance under pressure, sensitivity to different registers and non-linguistic forms of expression, ability to express them with reasonable amount of acting — especially important for witness testimony); must be adequately prepared and assisted throughout the proceedings (read, research, exchange information, improve constantly, keep abreast of case law; be assisted by their colleagues and beneficiaries of their services at all times); must not hesitate to correct themselves if necessary;
- **Users of interpretation services:** must be aware of the limitations of simultaneous interpretation and adjust their speed accordingly (also, try not to quote Shakespeare too often!); must provide interpreters with the texts they intend to read or quote, rather than expect miracles from back- translation (much to the dismay of the lawyers from the common law tradition, this is especially relevant during cross-examination, where questions such as "Did you not state, in the statement that you gave to the Office of the Prosecutor five years ago, that you believed that you had seen him and not that you had seen him in the camp?" must be avoided).

The most common difficulty faced by interpreters at ICTY is the complexity of courtroom discourse, often consisting of highly abstract legal arguments, in particular during appellate proceedings where submissions usually revolve around an interpretation of one interpretation of another interpretation of the facts. It is worth noting in this context that crimes in the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, unlike ordinary crimes, require proof of a number of additional elements of the offence. For instance, for a murder to qualify as a war crime, the prosecution needs to establish the existence of an armed conflict and the proximity of the underlying offence (the actual murder) to that conflict. Everything is, therefore, at least twice removed from reality, which puts additional strain on the interpreter's ability to decode and analyse the message in the source language. The second most frequent difficulty concerns unintelligible witnesses. They are often poorly educated,

> continued on page 8

INTERPRETATION AFTER NUREMBERG *continued from page 7*

speak with strong regional dialects and display visible signs of stage fright or confusion. An accused testifying on his or her own behalf is another common source of additional stress.

In order to maintain the high standard of interpretation required in war crimes trials, apart from keeping abreast of the case law, interpreters strive to acquire in-depth knowledge of the cases — for which they need to be given enough out-of-booth working time and, of course, access to the material. In addition, a reasonable measure of emancipation (freedom to state something for the record or address the court directly, if necessary) will always be of assistance to the court. In this respect, just as in the case of translation, it was the international character of the Tribunal that helped ICTY interpreters sensitize the users of their services to the possibilities and limits of simultaneous interpretation.

There are no trials by jury at the ICTY and judges have much more freedom in the conduct of the proceedings, particularly during the evidentiary phase. Over the years, judges have realised that they only stand to benefit from interpreters' ability to intervene with comments such as "this word has two meanings in the source language" or "the original document is mistranslated," etc., in order to preserve the very high standard of accuracy required in court interpretation.

Having said that, I hasten to add that mistakes do, of course, occur. It is a well-established practice at the ICTY to hold an induction course for the participants of a trial before it starts. One of the subjects "taught" is simultaneous interpretation and what to expect from it. On this occasion, counsel are, among other things, encouraged to react as soon as they spot a mistake and to correct it for the record. However, they are at the same time reminded of the fact that not every single mistake is significant enough to warrant an interruption. They also know that a frivolous intervention will only antagonize the chamber. Provision has also been made for correcting mistakes retroactively.

Finally, it is true that many ICTY interpreters have cried during testimony or been depressed thereafter. But so have the judges and lawyers. Because the stories they heard were harrowing, because the witnesses they observed were true to life, and because the interpretation was faithful. The Tribunal's interpreters are not afraid of letting their humanity show, echoing that of the speakers they interpret for. What has saved them from cynicism is a warped sense of humor which they cultivate in the booth and an awareness that the work they are doing is deeply meaningful and serves a larger purpose. ▲

[The author is a graduate of the Zagreb University School of Philosophy with a double major in English and French, and holds an M.A. in translation from l'Université de Liège, Belgium. She was working as an interpreter for the ICTY when chosen to head the Interpretation Unit of the Conference and Language Services Section. This is an edited version of a paper presented at New York University's Second International Translation Conference, June 2004.]

IMPROVING ACCESS *continued from page 3*

is difficult for them to adjust their expectations to neophyte interpreters who out of sheer necessity are pressed into service.

Given the need for interpreters of the indigenous languages and all these challenges, the state of Oregon designed and implemented an ambitious multi-pronged approach for improving linguistic access to justice for the speakers of indigenous languages. The target groups for this effort include: (1) certified Spanish interpreters, (2) the speakers of indigenous languages, (3) judges and court staff, and (4) attorneys who work with speakers of indigenous languages as their clients.

Working with the Oregon Law Center, which sponsors "The Indigenous Farmworker Project," we set to work. The first training in the series was designed to prepare certified Spanish interpreters for relay interpreting situations. The Spanish interpreters were given some background on the indigenous communities, some guidance in identifying language needs and then demonstrations and hands-on exercises. Twenty-one interpreters took part in this training.

This was followed by a one-day pilot program for those speakers of indigenous languages who were Spanish-speaking. A brief introduction emphasized the interpreter code of professional responsibility and court protocols so that these potential interpreters would know the ground rules before they ever set foot in a courtroom. The different modes were demonstrated and a bare-bones glossary of 50 important legal terms was provided in Spanish, together with a succinct definition of each. Working in language groups, the participants discussed how best to express these concepts in their own languages. Seventeen speakers of eight indigenous languages took part; fortunately there were at least two speakers of each language in the class and only one student did not have a partner. This portion of the workshop proved so engrossing that our eager students did not want to break for lunch.

The success of this first training encouraged us to expand the one day into a two-day training approximately six months later. Almost the entire original group came back for more. For the second day, we began with an ethics review followed by role-plays. An expanded list of court terminology in Spanish formed the basis for more glossary building and the day ended with a mock trial. Once again the student evaluations were very positive. We will be holding our third training for speakers of indigenous languages in June 2005.

The final prong of our project, to be held in March 2005, will be to train attorneys whose clients are indigenous speakers. The session will open with an overview of the indigenous communities and an introduction to cultural issues. Training for judges is currently in the planning stages.

We hope that these training sessions will provide a solid foundation for the speakers of indigenous languages who are called upon to interpret in court. The other sessions for certified Spanish interpreters and attorneys will go a long way toward contributing to a smoother communication process for all parties involved. ▲

[The author is Coordinator of Court Interpreter Certification, Testing and Training for the state of Oregon. She is a NAJIT Director and Vice-President of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation.]

STATE ROUND-UP: KENTUCKY

PRESS RELEASE – December 2004
Kentucky Association of Judiciary Interpreters

Many non-English speaking and hearing-impaired defendants have been denied their right to an interpreter since December 1 when new rules concerning interpreter pay and appointment went into effect. Interpreters had alerted the Administrative Office of the Courts that this would happen but their warnings went unheeded. On Monday in Louisville, judges were reduced to writing notes with numbers and dates in an effort to communicate with defendants. The same situation can be found in courtrooms throughout Kentucky.

When a witness, victim, or defendant cannot communicate directly with the court, whether for reasons of hearing impairment or lack of proficiency in English, an interpreter must be appointed to assist that person. In the case of hearing-impaired or deaf persons, the interpreter communicates through a visual sign language, while a spoken language interpreter renders a translation orally, and both work in real time. A highly sophisticated knowledge of both languages (English and sign, or English and Bosnian, or Spanish) is required, as the pace of speech in a courtroom is rapid-fire, and the interpreter must render everything said, without omitting, altering, adding, or embellishing the original speech. Additionally, the interpreter must be thoroughly versed in interpreter ethics, courtroom protocol, and absolutely fluent in the complexities of legal language. Requirements for competency in this profession are so high that on average, nationwide, only eight to twelve percent of aspirants eventually pass a court interpreter certification exam.

The United States and Kentucky constitutions guarantee a criminal defendant the right to be linguistically present in court hearings and to participate in his or her defense. On occasion, the human drama supposes situations unimaginable to those of us who need no communicative assistance. Mabel Remon, the only official sign language interpreter in Argentina, reports that on jail visits to deaf Argentine inmates, "... most of them cry. Because in there [jail] they can't communicate with anyone, they can't participate in any conversation, or any fun. [...] It pulls at your heart to see grown persons break down in such fashion. Then you think about the importance that communication plays among human beings."

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) of Kentucky issued new rules for interpreters in October, but did so without advance notice or scheduling a public hearing at which interested parties—the public, attorneys, judges, interpreters—could express their views. These documents were sent to interpreters days after an effective date of implementation, and without advance notice or feedback from the Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for Deaf, The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), or the Kentucky Association for the Deaf as required by Kentucky statute

Many spoken language interpreters are members of The Kentucky Association of Judiciary Interpreters (KAJI), whose membership includes persons with federal certification, state certification, and Qualified Level "I" interpreters, the majority of whom have between five to fifteen years of courtroom experience. All have undergone rigorous training to acquire the necessary skills to become court interpreters. Nevertheless, the AOC seeks to oblige interpreters' compliance with these new rules by proposing to remove the names of those who disagree with parts of said rules from the AOC's directory, and to replace the experienced and certified interpreters with inexperienced ones.

KAJI suggested new rules to make the "qualifying process" more stringent. Currently, one only need attend an orientation workshop and score 70% on an all-English multiple choice test. This does not measure one's English or foreign language skills or ability as an interpreter and the term "qualified" therefore may be misleading to both bench and bar. The current process does not reliably assure the delivery of individuals who can perform at the high level required for court interpreting.

AOC has often pointed out the rising costs of interpreter services. This budgetary expense grew from $176,659 in 1996, to almost $634,000 in fiscal 2001, and in the fiscal year 2004, which ended June 30, the cost jumped to just under $1.2 million. Kentucky's 2000 census reflects a 173% increase (likely under-reported) in the Hispanic immigrant population from 1990 to 2000, and since the immigrant population has continued to swell since 2000, it is clear that numbers alone represent a significant reason for an increase in cost of provision of these services. The AOC's statistics on court-interpreted cases surely would reflect a comparable increase from 1996 to 2004 in the number of requests for spoken language interpreters.

The significance of immigrants to the local economy is reflected in the following data available from the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission: immigrants contributed $30 million in sales and excise tax alone in 2002. That figure has since increased, as the immigrant population has increased almost 200% in the last four to five years. Immigrants pay other taxes as well as significant sums in court costs, fines and fees. More and more affluent immigrants are relocating to Kentucky, opening businesses and creating jobs, not just filling the gaps of employment, but forming an intricate part of today's economy. The AOC has apparently failed to take these demographic factors into account.

Last but not least, past use of untrained bilinguals has resulted in costly appeals for the state based on performance of untrained or unqualified spoken language interpreters. In 2001, Santos Adonay Pagoada was granted a new trial for the murder of Jose Enrique Arambul. In issuing her opinion, the trial judge wrote: "all parties concerned made concerted efforts to provide Pagoada with adequate interpretation. Out of ignorance, all assumed that one who speaks Spanish or is born in a Spanish-speaking country can interpret. This case reveals that this is a false assumption." When Pagoada was subsequently retried, he was nearly acquitted. In another recent case, Jose Orazco Sanchez was acquitted of murder charges after the trial court ruled to suppress a police interrogation during which the ad hoc volunteer interpreter mangled the reading

> continued on page 18

NAJIT NEWS

Public Relations and Advocacy: NAJIT and ATA Join Forces

Lillian Clementi

At a time when language skills are more critical to our national security and economic success than ever before, teachers across the United States are discouraging students from studying foreign languages because "there aren't any jobs besides teaching." Many Americans are so unfamiliar with our profession that they don't even know the difference between translating and interpreting. NAJIT and the American Translators Association are joining forces to change things.

As NAJIT's Advocacy and Student Outreach Committees move ahead, representatives of both initiatives are working actively with their ATA counterparts to prevent duplication of effort and leverage results for both associations. NAJIT Advocacy Committee member Isabel Framer is already exchanging information with ATA's Public Relations Committee, on which she serves, and Student Outreach Program Chair Vanesa Ieraci is energetically exploring ways to cooperate with ATA in creating a searchable on-line database of translation and interpretation programs.

Attracting the Media

For the past several years ATA has provided information and commentary to print, radio and television, aiming to increase the visibility and authority of the translation and interpreting professions. Beginning with a series of high-profile panels at ATA's annual conferences, the effort has expanded to include exposure in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the LA Times, on National Public Radio, Fox TV and CNN, and a wide range of other media outlets. As ATA and NAJIT move toward closer collaboration, the two associations are actively exploring joint approaches to shaping, monitoring and responding to media coverage of translation and interpreting issues.

Speaking in Schools

In 2003, ATA began a concerted effort to raise awareness of translation and interpretation in schools across the U.S. by adding a school outreach resource center to its website (http://www.atanet.org/ata_school/welcome.htm). Free and available to the public, the center provides quick, convenient access to ready-made materials that translators and interpreters can present in local schools and universities with minimal effort and preparation time. The site is organized into four age-specific sections ranging from elementary to graduate school. For each age level there is advice on what to say and how to say it, together with sample presentations and support material contributed by ATA members.

While the obvious goal of school outreach is to educate the next generation of language professionals, it is equally important to reach

the future lawyers, politicians and business executives sitting next to them. The more these clients-to-be know about our work, the more likely they are to appreciate its importance and complexity — and market value.

ATA Contest Open to NAJIT Members

To encourage language professionals to use these new materials, ATA has launched a school outreach contest open to NAJIT and any member of any ATA-affiliated organization. (NAJIT and the ATA are organizational members of each other.) The winner will receive free registration for the 2005 ATA Annual Conference in Seattle — *see opposite.* Members of ATA and its British counterpart, the Institute of Translation & Interpreting, are already using the materials in schools, and Ieraci hopes NAJIT members will follow suit. "I encourage NAJIT members to visit the site," she urged. "It is vital for all translation and interpreting professionals to visit the resource center and get acquainted with this program and its importance in shaping the way consumers perceive our profession."

ATA organizers are now recruiting speakers and coordinators for a speakers' bureau designed to handle ever more frequent requests from schools around the country. Once the speakers' bureau—another fertile area for NAJIT/ATA cooperation—is in place, articles placed in publications targeting schoolteachers and guidance counselors will highlight our professions and encourage schools to request speakers. Future NAJIT Scholars may also be asked to give talks on careers in translation and interpreting to other students.

Using the materials on the ATA website, the task of preparing and delivering an effective school outreach presentation can take as little as three or four hours. Speakers' bureau coordinators will serve as relay points for requests from headquarters, with people needing to commit only an hour or two per month. If you're interested in volunteering as a speaker or coordinator, or if you have material you'd like to contribute to the website, contact Lillian Clementi at lillian@lingualegal.com.

Shared Purpose

Other potential areas of cooperation include a joint presentation on translation and interpretation careers at the 2005 conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and reciprocal links in key areas of the NAJIT and ATA websites. Promoting recognition of the profession is among the primary purposes of both ATA and NAJIT, and leaders on both sides see cooperation as an important step forward. "Our two associations have very similar messages to deliver; pooling our efforts and resources makes sense," said ATA President Scott Brennan. "It is my hope that this will be the first step in a close partnership with NAJIT on public relations and advocacy."

[A member of ATA's Public Relations Committee, Lillian Clementi has been involved in school outreach for over ten years. She translates from French and German into English, specializing in law and business.]

Sick of Clueless Clients?

Get in on the ground floor. Join the school outreach movement and start educating clients one classroom at a time.

It's easy! It's fun! It's free! … and it could win you free registration to the annual conference of the American Translators Association in Seattle, November 9-12, 2005.

Here's how:

1. Visit the ATA website at www.atanet.org.
2. Click on School Outreach
3. Pick the age level you like the best and click on it.
4. Download a presentation and deliver it at your local school or university.
5. Get someone to take a picture of you in the classroom.
6. Send it to the ATA Public Relations Committee at pr@atanet.org (subject line: School Outreach Contest) or at 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314. Include your name and contact information, the date, the school's name and location, and a brief description of the class. **The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2005.**

The best photograph wins free registration at next year's ATA conference in Seattle. The winner will be contacted by August 15, 2005. Members of NAJIT are eligible to enter.

Questions? Contact:

Amanda Ennis germantoenglish@earthlink.net
Lillian Clementi lillian@lingualegal.com

NAJIT Scholarships for 2005 Conference

The Student Outreach Program of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators is proud to announce that NAJIT will select twelve scholars to attend our 26th Annual Conference. The conference will be held from May 13-15, 2005 at the Hotel Washington, right across from the White House in Washington, D.C.

The Scholars will receive a waiver of registration fees, be able to attend sessions, and have the chance to meet and discuss translation and interpretation matters with students from all over the country. They will also receive a $100 dollar stipend and have a chance to learn about NAJIT and different career opportunities in the translation and interpretation profession.

Please spread the word and be ready to greet these wonderful students into our conference … and into our hearts!

Vanesa Ieraci
Chair, NAJIT Student Outreach Program

The contest deadline is February 28, 2005. *Details and application forms are available on the NAJIT website. If you would like to receive more information about the Student Outreach Program's activities or NAJIT's 2005 T&I Student Conference opportunity, please e-mail* studentoutreach@najit.org.

ATA 2005 Student Translation Award

The American Translators Association will award a grant-in-aid to a student for a literary or sci-tech translation or translation-related project. The award will be presented at ATA's annual conference in Seattle, Washington November 9-12 and is open to any graduate or undergraduate student, or group of students, attending an accredited college or university in the U.S. **The deadline is April 16, 2005.** Visit www.atanet.org for full details.

AFTI to Award JTG Scholarship

The American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation will award a scholarship for the 2005-06 academic year for students enrolled or planning to enroll in a degree program in scientific and technical translation or in interpreter training. The scholarship is sponsored by JTG Translations. **The application deadline is June 1, 2005.** Contact AFTI at Columbia Plaza, Suite 101, 350 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 or by email at aftiorg@aol.com for application form and full details.

> continued on page 14

NAJIT 26TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • NAJIT 26TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • NAJIT 26TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • NAJIT 26TH ANNUAL

NAJIT 26TH Annual Conference

Friday-Sunday, May 13-15, 2005

Hotel Washington
515 15th St. N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20004

► SPECIAL GUESTS

- **Robert Lowney**
  Chief, District Court
  Administration Division
  Administrative Office of the
  U.S. Courts

- **Honorable Rufus G. King III**
  Chief Judge, District of Columbia
  Superior Court

- **William Hewitt and Wanda Romberger**
  Consortium for State Court
  Interpreter Certification
  National Center for State Courts

► TOUR WDC SUPERIOR COURT!

SPECIAL TOUR
Friday, May 13, 2005 • 9 AM to 12:30 PM

- Meet with Chief Judge Rufus G. King III
- Dialogue on interpreter issues
- Visit courtrooms
- Discuss common concerns
- Preregistration required
- Space is limited

► NEW OPPORTUNITY!

Get your group together and save!
For the first time ever, NAJIT offers a special discount to groups of 10 people or more. Full details on the website. Deadline for receipt of registrations is April 1, 2005.

► MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

The Hotel Washington offers a limited number of rooms reserved at the special rate of $145 single/double plus tax (currently 14.5%) available until April 4, 2005.

Reservations: 800-424-9540
Website: www.hotelwashington.com

■ **Preconference Seminars**
Friday, May 13, 2005 – not to be missed!

■ **Great Educational Sessions!**
Check out the full program at www.najit.org and watch your mailbox for the details.

■ **Three Ways To Register**
- Online at www.najit.org.
- By mail to NAJIT headquarters
- By fax to 206-626-0392

We regret that telephone registrations cannot be accepted.

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
603 Stewart St., Suite 610 • Seattle, WA 98101-1275
Tel: 206-267-2300 • Fax: 206-626-0392
Email: headquarters@najit.org Website: www.najit.org

NAJIT extends its thanks to the National Capitol Area Chapter of the American Translators Association for help in arranging this conference

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS all nations in the modern world are interconnected and interdependent, and

WHEREAS commitment to learning world languages is the strong foundation for developing a society that is economically strong, socially just, and culturally inclusive, and

WHEREAS the study of world languages at all levels in the United States of America will lead to better understanding of other cultures and peoples, and

WHEREAS mastery of world languages is essential for individuals wishing to follow the career of judiciary interpreting and translation, and

WHEREAS the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators strongly supports the initiative taken by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages to declare 2005 the "Year of Languages,"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators encourages all its members

- *to promote 2005 as the Year of Languages,*
- *to distribute information about the initiative, and*
- *to seek ways to support teachers of world languages as they pursue their profession, so beneficial and necessary to our society.*

JANUARY 25, 2005

NAJIT NEWS *continued from page 11*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005, at the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. The terms of directors Isabel Framer and Judith Kenigson Kristy are expiring. Two directors will be elected for two-year terms.

Members of NAJIT as of the record date of **Friday, April 1, 2005**, will be eligible to vote by mail ballot or in person in this election. The Board of Directors welcomes the interest and participation of all members in the governance of the Association.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN NAJIT ELECTIONS?

All active members and life members with the rights of active membership may vote in NAJIT elections. Associate, corporate, honorary and organizational members do not have the right to vote. Since NAJIT's membership year runs by the calendar year, members must renew each year and pay their dues if they are to vote in that year's election. If members do not renew by February 28, they are considered to be in arrears. NAJIT will send a written notice at that time. If the member does not pay dues by March 31, he or she is then suspended from membership.

This means that all members who wish to vote on **Saturday, May 14, 2005** must have paid their dues no later than **Thursday, March 31, 2005**. The ballots will be sent out in early April to everyone who is a voting member in good standing. Members may vote by mail, or in person in Washington, D.C.

If you join NAJIT as an active member or renew your membership **after April 1, 2005,** you will not be eligible to vote in the Washington, D.C. election, but you are most welcome to attend the meeting and learn about the candidates and the issues.

This information can be found in Article Three, section 3 and Article Six of the NAJIT bylaws on the website — or contact headquarters for a paper copy.

MORE INFORMATION ON PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The Board of Directors recommends to the NAJIT membership that our Bylaws be amended as follows:

In Article Three, Section 1, Subsection B, to delete the word "full-time" and insert the word "academic," so that the sentence reads: "A Student Member shall be any person engaged in *academic* studies as defined by the Membership Committee."

Members will recall that the following amendment has also been approved for presentation to the members at the 2005 election:

Article Four, Board of Directors, Section I, Number and Terms, to have the following sentence added at its conclusion: No director shall serve more than six years in succession on the Board.

Bylaws amendments require that two-thirds of those voting should vote in favor if they are to be passed. The Bylaws Committee, consisting of Chair D. Hal Sillers, Cristina Helmerichs D., Steven Morrissey, and Anne Witt-Greenberg, is reviewing other aspects of the bylaws to see if further changes should be suggested to the membership.

COMMENDATION

WHEREAS NAJIT Director Isabel Framer displayed commendable zeal and outstanding professionalism in pursuing justice in the case of Petrona Tomás, and

WHEREAS this case required substantial time, energy and effort to provide information that was key to proper consideration, and

WHEREAS equal access to justice required linguistic access in this as in many other cases, and

WHEREAS the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators was able to assist in providing relevant input for this case thanks to Director Framer's efforts, and

WHEREAS Petrona Tomás is now pursuing a vibrant and hopeful life as a free teenager in her new country,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators hereby commends Director Isabel Framer for her commitment, dedication and passion in seeking and helping to secure a just resolution to the case of Petrona Tomás.

January 25, 2005

CERTIFICATION EXAM ANNOUNCEMENT

An examination leading to the credential of

NATIONALLY CERTIFIED JUDICIARY INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR: SPANISH

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, together with the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, are pleased to offer members and non-members the opportunity to register for the written component of the National Judiciary Interpreter and Translator Certification Examination.

The examination is being administered in Washington, D.C. before the 26th Annual NAJIT Conference.

DATES

Written Examination:
May 12, 2005

Oral Examination:
May 12 - 13, 2005

PLACE

Hotel Washington
515 15th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

For complete details and to register contact:
Donna Merritt
Measurement Incorporated

1-800-279-7647

or visit the NAJIT web site:

www.najit.org

NATIONAL JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS CERTIFICATION EXAM

MAY 12 - 13, 2005

Hotel Washington
515 15th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2005

YOU MAY REGISTER BY:

1) MAIL: Measurement Incorporated /attn: Donna Merritt
423 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina 27702

2) FAX: (credit card only) USING THIS FORM BELOW Fax to: 919-425-7717

3) PHONE: (credit card only) 1-800-279-7647

4) SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION: (credit card only) www.najit.org

REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. ( ) _____ Business Ph. ( ) _____ Fax ( ) _____

Pager ( ) _____ Cellular _____ E-Mail _____

FEE SCHEDULE

	Member	Non-Member
Written Examination	$125.00*	$150.00*

Cancellation Policy: A $35.00 service charge will be deducted from any refund. In order to receive a refund,* ***the cancellation request must be submitted in writing and received* *by Measurement Incorporated no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 2, 2005. Postmarks will not be accepted. Refunds will not be issued to candidates who do not appear on the day and time of their scheduled examination.*

PAYMENT METHOD

_____ Check or Money Order (payable to Measurement Incorporated) _____ VISA _____ MC

Card Number
Expiration Date _____/_____ Amount $ _____

Signature of cardholder _____
(REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT.)

A Special Note for the Disabled: NAJIT wishes to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently from other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If you need any of the aids or services identified in the American with Disabilities Act, please call Measurement Incorporated at 1-800-279-7647 by April 18, 2005.

MESSAGE FROM SSTI PRESIDENT

As my first official act in the position of President, it seems appropriate to update the NAJIT membership on the state and direction of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpreting (SSTI). I would like to review the history of the organization and also describe its current makeup and direction.

SSTI was organized by NAJIT in 1997 to create a certification examination that would be the product of members of our profession. Through the excellent work of the late Mirta Vidal Orrantia, Alexander Raïnof, Carmen Barros, and other NAJIT members, in tandem with Measurement Incorporated, extensive research, testing theory, and psychometrics were applied to produce a valid, reliable, and objective measurement tool for our profession, independent of government funding or oversight. The development of the NAJIT/SSTI certification in Spanish required not only hard work, dedication, and the knowledge of those directly involved, but also a great deal of courage on the part of the NAJIT membership for taking on such an ambitious project. Five states now accept the NAJIT/SSTI certification as a credential for employment, a clear indication that the members' faith was well placed. *(See Donna Merritt's article opposite for more details.)*

Advancing professionalism in interpreting requires more than the establishment of standards and credentials; training is also needed to ensure that interpreters can achieve those standards. Through the extraordinary efforts of Janis Palma, former president and current board member of SSTI, and Dr. Dagoberto Orrantia, the Mirta Vidal Orrantia Institute for Translation and Interpreting (MVOITI) was established as a project of SSTI. MVOITI, named in honor of the late Mirta Vidal Orrantia, founder and first president of SSTI, has developed a training program for interpreters, which is now accepted in several states for interpreter continuing education credit. Additionally, MVOITI's projects include the development of self-instruction materials on CD ROM, which are in the final testing and formatting stages and will be available soon. This success is the direct result of the extraordinary talent, drive, and dedication of Janis Palma. As MVOITI has taken on a life of its own, Janis has stepped down from her position as President of SSTI to focus on her duties as Director of MVOITI. SSTI is extremely grateful to Janis for her leadership, as well as her willingness to stay on as a board member through this transitional period.

Along with the success of the NAJIT certification program and MVOITI have come changes at SSTI, including the appointment of four board members. Now that NAJIT involves three interdependent organizations, the first priority of the new SSTI board has been to define and clarify its role relative to NAJIT and MVOITI. Working together, the boards have crafted a document describing the division of responsibilities among NAJIT, SSTI and MVOITI [see opposite]. In broad terms, SSTI is responsible for oversight of the certification program, research, and support for the training work performed by MVOITI. Other areas of responsibility marked out for SSTI include exploring credentialing and training in languages other than Spanish (LOTS), the possibility of a peer-reviewed journal, and development of funding sources for these and other NAJIT/SSTI/MVOITI projects.

I feel truly honored to work in the company of the professionals and scholars who comprise the SSTI board. The credentials and accomplishments of each of the board members are not only impressive, but also extremely well suited to the purposes of SSTI. In my opinion, this board possesses an ideal mix of academic excellence, administrative skills, and professional and practical knowledge.

Vice-President Lois M. Feuerle is the Coordinator of Court Interpreter Certification, Testing and Training for the state of Oregon. She served as the Coordinator of Court Interpreting Services for the New York State Unified Court System. Dr. Feuerle is also a grader for the New Jersey German Interpreter Examination, holds ATA certification and is an approved translator for the International Monetary Fund. She has taught at New York University, Marshall University, and Montclair State University. Her publications include textbooks published by McGraw-Hill and Schaum's and numerous translations and journal contributions. She is also, of course, a director of NAJIT.

Treasurer Michael Piper is a freelance interpreter for the United States District Court in Des Moines, Iowa, and Manager of Iowa Multilingual Solutions. He has taught Spanish, translation, and linguistics at universities and community colleges in the U.S, Mexico, and Venezuela. Mr. Piper received a Master of Linguistics degree from the Colegio de México in Mexico City, where he also pursued doctoral studies focused on comparative linguistics and the Zapotec language. He is President of the Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association and holds NAJIT and ATA certification.

Secretary Melinda González-Hibner is the Court Interpreter Program Administrator for the Colorado State Court Administrator's Office. She received a Master of Science degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. A federally certified court interpreter and rater for the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination, she is also an experienced interpreter trainer, teaching court interpreter ethics and skills-building, and medical interpreting courses in Colorado and Missouri. She is Co-chair of the Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters.

Director Janis Palma, current Executive Director of MVOITI, holds federal as well as NAJIT certification. Director Palma has been active as an interpreter and translator since 1981 and as a judiciary interpreting and translation instructor since 1986. During most of her professional life, she has worked freelance throughout the United States. In 2002, she joined the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico as a staff interpreter. A former President of NAJIT, she has written extensively about judiciary interpreting.

President Peter P. Lindquist. A few words about my own background. I received my Ph.D. in Translation and Interpreting at the *Universidad de Alicante* in Spain, and teach Spanish and translation at the University of Arizona in Tucson. I have worked

> continued on page 18

States Recognize NAJIT Certification

Donna L. Merritt

May 2000 does not seem that long ago. It was the year the development of the NAJIT certification examination started to become a reality. So much time and energy went into the creation of this exam that it is not possible to name everyone who has made it a success. It should come as no surprise that the hours of work of such dedicated and competent individuals, along with the assistance of Measurement Incorporated, has produced a credential that is on its way to becoming the benchmark for judiciary interpreter assessment. The NAJIT Certification is becoming known across the country as a credential that represents the highest standard of competence for those individuals who are awarded the certification.

States are becoming more informed about the quality and rigor of the assessment that leads to NAJIT certification. Because of this awareness, more states are beginning to accept the NAJIT certification examination as a valid and reliable measure of judiciary interpreter competence. The NAJIT examination is not meant to replace other examinations that are accepted within a state. The benefit of having the NAJIT examination recognized within a state is that it provides interpreters with another means of demonstrating the necessary skills to becoming a judiciary interpreter.

The list of states that recognize the NAJIT certification is beginning to grow. Currently, five states accept the NAJIT certification: Colorado, Iowa, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Texas. We hope to continue adding states to this roster. One way to achieve this is for NAJIT members actively to inform the individuals responsible for interpreter requirements within their state of the quality of the NAJIT certification, as, for example, the Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association, under the leadership of President Michael Piper, did for its state. While MI is responsible for the administration of the exam, MI has also traveled to various states to make presentations before court personnel when the exam is under consideration by that state. We will continue to provide this assistance in the future.

The vision of NAJIT and SSTI to create the benchmark examination for judiciary interpreting has become a reality. Who would have thought in May 2000 that SSTI and the NAJIT certification would be where they are today - recognition by five states and one federal office and the potential for those numbers to increase? This is just the beginning of the impact that NAJIT and SSTI are having and will continue to have on the interpreting community.

[The author is the NAJIT/SSTI Certification Examination Director for Measurement Incorporated.]

Division of Responsibilities among NAJIT, SSTI, and MVOITI

1. NAJIT has responsibility for the annual conference and two regional conferences, as the primary training, networking and outreach activities of the association.
2. NAJIT has responsibility for other training opportunities oriented towards its members, in all languages and at all levels, to be offered at the lowest feasible cost.
3. NAJIT has responsibility for the Student Outreach Program.
4. NAJIT has primary responsibility for relations with other translating, interpreting, testing and training organizations, in consultation with SSTI and MVOITI when such relationships involve the work of SSTI and/or MVOITI.
5. NAJIT has responsibility for outreach to bench, bar, and other professional organizations.
6. NAJIT has responsibility for publishing *Proteus*, its newsletter directed towards members and others interested in our profession.
7. SSTI has responsibility for the project of establishing a new peer-reviewed journal devoted to judiciary interpreting and translating.
8. SSTI has primary responsibility for the relationship with Measurement Incorporated.
9. SSTI has responsibility for overseeing the NAJIT/SSTI certification credential, including oversight of the continuing education requirement.
10. SSTI has responsibility for exploring ways to meet the training and credentialing needs of individuals working in languages other than Spanish, including collaboration with other entities.
11. SSTI has responsibility for encouraging high-quality research, including both empirical and theoretical, into translating and interpreting.
12. SSTI has responsibility for seeking grants for educational projects, in coordination with NAJIT and MVOITI.
13. As a special project of NAJIT and SSTI, MVOITI presents training courses oriented towards preparing for Spanish/English certification examinations.
14. As a special project of NAJIT and SSTI, MVOITI develops additional training materials and courses for Spanish/English interpreting and translating.
15. As a special project of NAJIT and SSTI, MVOITI has responsibility for training opportunities in Spanish/English oriented towards companies and organizations which are not NAJIT members, to be priced in such a way that some surplus is generated for other SSTI activities. ▲

Adopted by the NAJIT and SSTI Boards, December 2004

STATE ROUND-UP: KENTUCKY *continued from page 9*

of Miranda warnings. Kentucky taxpayers expect professionalism from the courts and public servants, and do not want public funds squandered in expensive retrials or alleged criminals to go free on technical deficiencies of the prosecution.

We are left to wonder if the gains made in the last ten years are about to be lost. Professional interpreters in Kentucky do not believe that this is what the Supreme Court intended when civil rights legislation was enacted in 1964, leading to a mandate that courts provide competent interpreters for those with limited English skills and for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Tyler West
KAJI President

HAWAII

Hawaii's court interpreters, acting through the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, have introduced a certification bill patterned after the NCSC Consortium Model Act into the Hawaii State Legislature. Those wishing to follow SB 979 and HB 1191 can go to:

www.capitol.Hawaii.gov/site1/docs/docs.asp?press1=docs

MESSAGE FROM SSTI PRESIDENT *continued from page 16*

as a researcher for the National Center for Court Interpretation and the Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation where I designed, produced, and co-authored the first three volumes of the Interpretapes ® series of multimedia training materials. My recent work has focused on the use of corpus-linguistics, discourse analysis, and digital technology in training-needs assessment for interpreters and translators.

In summary, I am excited about the future of SSTI, NAJIT, and MVOITI. As a professional organization, NAJIT has done great things, not only for interpreters and translators, but for all of those affected by the work of language mediators. I would like to express our appreciation to NAJIT Executive Director Ann G. Macfarlane for her diligence, organizational skill, and steady hand in guiding the organization through these changes. SSTI's role alongside NAJIT has been well defined. The current board of directors is dedicated to building on the fine work of our predecessors to advance the profession of translating and interpreting, and to serving the membership of NAJIT through our work. We welcome and value the support of NAJIT members. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed financially to SSTI while renewing NAJIT membership. It is only through your support that we can carry on the excellent work already begun. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Annual Conference.

Peter P. Lindquist
President, SSTI

SURVIVAL SKILLS *continued from page 5*

into your glossary. Not now, you say, I really need a rest after all the mental and physical exertion. But adding the newly acquired vocabulary to your list immediately, before other responsibilities intrude in your busy life, while the vocabulary is still fresh in your mind, ensures that you will have ready-made study material for your next conference on a same or similar subject matter. And much of your preparation will already be done, before that conference organizer picks up the phone to call you.

[The author is a court and conference interpreter practicing in the Chicago area. She is federally certified. This is an edited version of a paper from NAJIT's 2004 conference in Denver.]

Pre-Conference Checklist:

■ **Inquire about:**
- ✓ physical facilities
- ✓ sound equipment set-up
- ✓ numbers of conference participants who will need interpretation
- ✓ where the interpreter will be positioned (booth or interpreter station)
- ✓ if using wireless equipment, ask for a small table and chair to be provided. (Interpreters should not be required to share a work table with speakers or participants — they need a separate work area free of visual and auditory obstructions.)
- ✓ advance copies of conference agenda
- ✓ presenters' draft speeches
- ✓ "prep" or background material for the interpreter (on the organization, company or subject)

■ **Negotiate:**
- ✓ Fixed half-day or full-day flat fee, depending on the time period for which interpretation is needed. An "hourly" fee is not recommended, except perhaps for overtime hours.
- ✓ Insist on working with an experienced teammate interpreter for the entire conference. Never agree to work alone to save the agency money.

■ **Establish:**
- ✓ availability of an on-site sound technician for large (ballroom-type) conferences, whether utilizing booth or wireless equipment
- ✓ Working receptions and dinners are considered part of the work day, whether you're interpreting a formal speech or dinner jokes, or are needed to facilitate social interaction among participants who do not share a common language.

■ **Ensure:**
- ✓ that interpreter can hear and see speakers, videos, Power Point screens, flip charts, blackboards, etc.
- ✓ If the interpreting booth is situated outside the presentation room, make sure that sound is clear through the interpreter headset.
- ✓ When interpreting a video, arrange for an audio feed into the interpreter headset, if working in a sound booth. If this is not possible, inform participants that certain portions of videos may not be audible, and therefore cannot be interpreted.

Conference Checklist:

■ **Microphone check**
- ✓ Make sure presenters will use a working microphone (of the stationary, cordless, or clip-on variety) and that the microphone is on at all times.
- ✓ Check that standing or cordless microphone are provided for conference participants. (Otherwise, their comments — which may be of crucial importance to other participants — will be largely inaudible.) Alternatively, request that inaudible comments be "paraphrased" or repeated by the moderator in the original language, so they may be interpreted.

■ **Audio Feed check**
- ✓ If the speaker's microphone is freestanding or of the lectern type, make sure that it has an audio feed into the interpreter headset, or there will be no amplified sound through your headset, and you will have to depend on ambient sound (no amplification other than speaker mike). Usually, the sound technician takes care of such details, but make no assumptions.

■ **Meet and greet**
- ✓ Meet the speaker(s) beforehand, if possible, and request copies of speeches (if not received ahead of time from the interpreting agency) and of any additional printed materials to be distributed to conference participants.

An Antidote for Interpreter Burnout

Daniel Sherr

It's not supposed to happen, but it's happened to you. You're in a rut, a mid-life interpreting crisis. You've done one too many "conspiracy-to-possess-with-the-intent-to distribute" case, more child support decisions than you care to ponder, or your fortieth illegal reentry charge of the year.

One possible solution: the Cambridge Conference Interpreting Course (www.cciconline.net) in Cambridge, England. 2005 may be an excellent year to sign up because the working languages will be English, French, German, Russian, and Spanish. The course is not designed for novices. It is aimed at interpreters who want to improve technique.

Say, for example, you are a Russian interpreter who interprets from English to Russian for Russian delegations visiting the States. The course would of course allow you to further hone your English-Russian in a conference setting, but if you wished, the course would allow you to practice from Russian into English. Or, if you usually work from English into French and Spanish, you could try working from French into Spanish. Or, if your usual beat is court interpreting, you might take this course to get exposed to the international conference environment.

The biggest asset of the course is the opportunity to be listened to and evaluated by practicing conference interpreters with decades of experience. Most are staff interpreters at institutions such as the U.N., the OECD, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or NATO. These interpreters have job security, they see you not as a competitor to squelch, but as a colleague to support.

Interpreters develop their own techniques and tics. But individual approaches may be counterproductive or annoying to fellow interpreters. The opportunity to have one's less productive work habits pointed out by an objective third party in a low-pressure situation is certainly a major draw for the course.

The course lasts two weeks (10 working days and one weekend) and promises five hours per day in the booth. You work every day except the one weekend in the middle. The student-teacher ratio of three-to-one means that virtually every time you are interpreting, at least one faculty member is listening to you.

Students interpret material taken from a wide variety of contexts. Topics covered in 2004 included defibrillation, the history of electromagnetism, public service interpreting in the United Kingdom, the history of Zaire (there I thought I was really lost because the speaker decided to dazzle us with her knowledge of the patois from one of the French overseas possessions), challenges for NATO in the 21st century, and the paradoxes of South America. In addition, two special mock conferences were organized, to give less experienced conference interpreters the opportunity to work with a relay and show students how to work with a "pure booth" format (booth one: English; booth two: French; booth three: Russian, etc.)

In addition to interpreting and feedback, some lectures are offered. I would give high marks to two series of talks given by course chairman Christopher Guichot de Fortis on interpreting the Bible and interpreting Shakespeare. Quotes from Shakespeare and the Bible pop up often in conferences, although one may not always recognize their provenance. Among the Biblical and Shakespearian quotes discussed during the course were: "O ye of little faith!," "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," "A man cannot serve two masters," "blood money," "to see eye to eye," "It was all Greek to me," "a sea change," "to stand on ceremony," "all's well that ends well," "too much of a good thing," "strange bedfellows," "Dress makes the man," "Sufficient unto the day be the evil thereof..."

A Conference Interpreting Course for Court Interpreters?

Why not? Yes, conference interpreting and court interpreting are different. The differences do not, however, mean that interpreters cannot move from one discipline to the other.

On the one hand, experienced court interpreters, with their ability to maintain register and accuracy of content, have an excellent springboard from which to work in a conference environment. Some of the tips put forward at the Cambridge course are certainly useful advice for court interpreters: maintain eye contact with the speaker, avoid "uhs," record oneself and … have the courage to listen to the recording.

For difficult, very fast speakers, one of the teachers recommended a "filtering" technique, where the interpreter takes it all in, determines the relevant message, and delivers it. This lecturer recognized that such a technique would not be well suited to court. However, it was a stimulating exercise, because often, filtering and condensing require more concentration than interpreting everything that is said. This lecturer also stated that if an interpreter in a conference setting is able to deliver the speaker's remarks in their entirety, without filtering, more power to him. Filtering, he clarified, is a fall-back measure that can be resorted to when the conference interpreter is unable to keep pace with the speaker.

If some court interpreters have successfully made the transition to conference interpreting, many conference interpreters have successfully worked in the court system. Nearly 20 years ago, the Federal Court Interpreters Advisory Board was interested in seeing if active conference interpreters of non-certified languages could be recruited to work in federal courts. In a 1987 report to the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Board noted that initially, these conference interpreters felt they could embellish the speaker's remarks and that they did not have to be fully accurate as long as they rendered the essential meaning. After being briefed on the cardinal principles of court interpreting, the conference interpreters understood the need to reproduce the original as faithfully as possible. The report concluded, "The Advisory Board has formed the opinion that good conference interpreters are easily trainable, are aware of the need to research the case and to prepare themselves. Most of them adjust quickly and well to the court system."

Court interpreting and conference interpreting should not be viewed as hermetically sealed compartments. They are clearly close

kin. Even if a court interpreter taking the course has no intention of later making a foray into conference interpreting, the Cambridge course will force him to work on his speed, his ability to deal with different accents and his capacity to react to the unexpected. These skills will clearly serve him in good stead in the judicial arena.

Continuing Education Requirements

Increasingly, certified state court interpreters throughout the country are required to take continuing education courses. California, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and the state of Washington all require their interpreters to accrue a certain number of continuing education credits within a two- or three-year period to keep their certification. Last year, NAJIT's sister organization, the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, stipulated that SSTI-certified interpreters must "accumulate 30 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every three years" in order to maintain their accreditation.

Not many courses are available where interpreters can be scrutinized and evaluated by practicing interpreters every day for two weeks. That alone should make the course deserving of state and SSTI course evaluation committees' attention. I urge these committees to give serous consideration to granting a high number of credits for this very stimulating, two-week, 80-hour long program for practicing interpreters.

Biggest Drawback: Economics

No question about it, this course is expensive. In 2004, an American taking the course had to shell out about $6,000 for lodging, travel, and tuition. In 2005, it might easily exceed that. Some factors that contribute to the hefty sum:

1) Teachers charge nothing for their time and services, but their travel, lodging and meals are paid for through course tuition. Expenses for some 10 teachers must be distributed among approximately 25 students.
2) Equipment rental: 15 Brahler interpretation booths with technician and console for two weeks is a considerable expense.
3) The plummeting dollar means that a course calculated in pounds is increasingly expensive in dollars. No wonder the English seem reticent to give up their sterling pound for the euro. If they do, they will be forced to recognize what many already suspect: England is now by far the most expensive country in Europe.

Although the course is far from economical, those who go are determined to get the most out of it. And despite the high tuition, it fills up quickly and some students are turned away.

The course can be viewed as an investment in one's development as an interpreter. My advice? Screw your courage to the sticking place and send in your application.

[The author is a federally certified and NAJIT certified Spanish interpreter and a seminar and conference interpreter in Spanish, French and Catalan.]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 11-12, 2005. Portland, OR. Understanding the Legal System for ASL and Spoken Language Interpreters. Western Oregon University. Email: simonjh@wou.edu.

April 1-3, 2005. Overland Park, KS. MICATA Symposium on Translation and Interpretation. Information: www.ata-micata.org.

April 28-29, 2005. Madrid, Spain. 2nd International Conference on Public Service Translation and Interpreting. Information: www.uah.es/otrosweb/traduccion.

April 29-May 1, 2005. Des Moines, IA. Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association First Annual Conference.

May 13-15, 2005. Washington, DC. NAJIT 26th Annual Conference.

June 3-6, 2005. Chicago, IL. IJET-16. Japanese/English Translation Conference. Information: www.jat.org/ijet/ijet-16/index.htm.

June 12-14, 2005. Portland, OR. Symposium on Teaching Consecutive Interpreting. Western Oregon University. Information: www.wou.edu/regionx-iec.

July 10-15, 2005. San Antonio, TX. RID National Conference. Information: www.rid.org.

August 2-7, 2005. Tampere, Finland. FIT Statutory and General Congress. Information: www.fit-ift.org.

August 4-6, 2005. NATI Conference. Omaha, NE.

September 9-12, 2005. Nashville, TN. TAPIT Conference.

November 9-12, 2005. Seattle, WA. ATA 46th Annual Conference. Information: www.atanet.org.

May 19-21, 2006. Houston, TX. NAJIT 27th Annual Conference.

MEDICAL INTERPRETER ALERT!

Support our sister organization, the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care, and help create professional standards that will guide the actions of health care interpreters for generations to come. Visit the NCIHC website **by March 15, 2005**, and take the survey regarding the new draft set of standards: www.ncihc.org

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

A recent discussion of language and dialect on the listserv mentioned these three sites:

http://www.orbilat.com/index.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialect

http://www.sil.org/lingualinks/literacy/referencematerials/glossaryofliteracyterms/WhatIsADialect.htm

http://members.aol.com/translatrs/dictionaries/ins-ensp.html
Recommended English-Spanish insurance and annuity glossary

www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p850.pdf
Tax terms, English-Spanish

www.number2.com
Recommended for building English vocabulary

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Book Review

Beyond Words

Getting to the Heart of Communication in One or More Languages for the 21st Century
Diane Goullard Parlante
2004. 1st Books Publishing
ISBN-I-4033-1975-8

Carol Rhine-Medina

This work was appropriately published by 1st Books Publishing in a collection that evidently caters to budding authors as yet unpolished in their craft. One must congratulate the author for her efforts and initiative in assembling a personal memoir and handbook for interpreters and translators, working under the stated objective of defining the two professions as well as sharing experiences. It is indeed something along the lines of "Chicken Soup for the Interpreter/Translator."

A word of caution: the content is unstructured and this stream of consciousness remembrance reads somewhat like a nebulous diary. The author does not appear to differentiate between various specialized fields in the interpretating and translating professions. The tone of the work is somewhere between New Age, Christian-inspired and self-help. Invariably respectful of all communication needs, the author relates personal experiences, which this reader would have enjoyed more if not couched in the ethereal mode she chooses to employ.

The author's translation & interpretation agency, French & English Communication Services, is mentioned and from her musings, she appears to do legal, community, medical and conference interpreting in a variety of venues (reviewer could not ascertain whether the author has interpreted in open court) as well as translation. Her time and ink might have been better invested in practical assistance to aspiring colleagues.

It is possible that practitioners in the various sub-fields of interpretation and translation might appreciate some of the wisdom imparted in verse or quotations from radio and television shows. Perhaps the introspective and religious tone of the book will appeal to medical interpreters working with patients in dire circumstances. The majority of judiciary interpreters may not be attracted by the many religious observations and random introspection, and needless to say, would be horrified by some suggestions for active (unsolicited by the parties) intervention by the interpreter to facilitate communication in the legal & judicial setting.

Unfortunately, the work is also dotted by errors in English—both grammar and spelling. Since the book is an opera prima, we the readers may wish to exercise tolerance, despite the irritation that such errors are evident in a book addressed to professionals priding themselves on accuracy. This work may not appeal to Spanish-only translators and interpreters. With respect to reference resources, websites are often offered, but appear to have been selected out of overly subjective enthusiasm; the reader also runs the risk of desperately searching for sites subsequently modified.

The book seems to really be addressed more to those requiring interpretation/translation services, as borne out by the FAQ section, which includes information and tips of value to clients of T&I professionals. This reviewer did in fact find consolation in the observations made regarding conference interpretation and its pitfalls.

The author comes across as a caring and compassionate individual, but this work is short on the pragmatism that this reviewer feels is a necessary quality in books on the practice of interpretation and translation. The spirituality tends to diminish the professionalism of the writer, although possibly this was the original aim of the work: to emphasize the need for humanity and tolerance in professions where some — both professionals and clients — may appear to be searching for mathematical precision. ▲

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Carolyn J. Kinney has recently been named Interpreter Program Specialist for the Federal Court Interpreting Program at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. She has been with the AOUSC for 14 years in diverse functions, communicating employee benefits, conducting court staff training, and writing user and technical documentation for chambers and case management software. Carrie earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in linguistics, with an emphasis in sociolinguistics, from Georgetown University. Her graduate studies were inspired by curiosity about the interaction between language and culture as seen during four years in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer and contractor, as well as by living with families in Japan and Mexico. She has taught English in Senegal, French in Washington state and linguistics at the Smithsonian Institution. She has also managed multilingual offices in Senegal and Togo. Publications include topics on discourse analysis and cross-cultural communication. Carrie has served as president of the Washington Linguistics Society in Washington, D.C., and president of the Audubon Society Chapter in Yakima, Washington. ▲

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

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Languages *(if passive, prefix with P–)* _____
Credentials: ☐ NJITCE: Spanish ☐ Federal Court certification: ☐ Haitian Creole ☐ Navajo ☐ Spanish
☐ State Court Certification: From which state(s)? _____
☐ ATA: What language combinations? _____
☐ U.S. Department of State: ☐ Escort ☐ Seminar ☐ Conference

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:

NAJIT
603 Stewart Street
Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98101-1275
Tel:: 206-267-2300
Fax: 206-626-0392
headquarters@najit.org
www.najit.org

Academic Credentials: Instructor at _____
I am an ☐ interpreter ☐ translator ☐ freelance instructor
I am applying for the following class of membership: ☐ Active ☐ Associate ☐ Student *(NAJIT may validate applications for student membership)*
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(Corporate sponsors receive a longer descriptive listing on the website about their organization, one free quarter-page print ad in Proteus per year, and the grateful thanks of fellow members for their support of NAJIT and our profession.)

☐ Check here if you have ever been a NAJIT member ☐ Check here if you do NOT wish to receive emails from NAJIT
☐ Check here if you do NOT wish to be listed in the NAJIT online directory *(Student and associate members are not listed in the NAJIT online directory.)*
☐ Check here if you do NOT wish to have your contact information made available to those offering information, products, or services of potential interest to members

I certify that the above information is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to abide by the NAJIT Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

	Active	Associate	Student	Corporate Sponsor	Corporate	Organizational *(nonprofit)*
Dues	$105	$85	$40	$300	$160	$110
Suggested voluntary contribution to SSTI	$35	$25	$10	$100	$100	$65
TOTAL	$140	$110	$50	$400	$260	$175

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Check or Money Order (payable to NAJIT) ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ Amex

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ ____ /____
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Contributions or gifts to NAJIT are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, dues payments may be deductible by members as ordinary and necessary business expenses to the extent permitted under IRS Code. Contributions to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI), a 501c3 educational organization, are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.