

## Dear Colleagues

*The New Year, 2006, brings in a healthy afterglow of spent holidays, end-of-year bookkeeping, and a new issue of Interpreters Voice.*

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This issue opens with a reflection on the 46th Annual ATA Conference by our new Division Administrator, Giovanna Lester. (There are even a few pics!)

You've been waiting all year to find out what the annual ID meeting is about. In an exclusive scoop, the Voice is publishing the actual minutes of that meeting!

How does shopping at the hardware store prepare one for medical interpreting? Judit Marin gives some specific examples in her article about interpreting for Workers Compensation patients.

Our new Assistant Administrator Katharine Allen shares her viewpoints on how the California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA), of which she is also president, may interact to benefit the Interpreters Division.

Gio and Katharine give us a State of the Division report, which should let us know where the division is headed over the next two years.

We are including an Events calendar to keep you informed on what to look forward to in the coming year.

And so much more!

Thank you for all your support over the past year, and your continued support in the years to come.

— Toby S. McLellan

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**REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS**

Your contributions are what keep the Voice ringing, so do send them to our Administrative Assistant ([sierrasky@schat.net](mailto:sierrasky@schat.net)) and they will be forwarded to the editor.

Articles should include the author's name, short biography and photo, any appropriate copyright notes and other observations.

**DISCLAIMER**

Opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Interpreters Division or the American Translators Association.

# From the Administrator

## A Personal View of the 46th ATA Annual Conference by Giovanna L. Lester

I had no idea of what people were like in Seattle. I mean, when you think of New York, you picture people rushing down crowded streets, and you expect to find lots of foreigners; Miami evokes the image of a more sedate Cuba... But I could not picture the people in Seattle.

Well, I do not have a much better picture now either. I spent most of the Conference within the microcosms of the Westin: my chambermaid was from the Philippines, the cashier at the restaurant from Mozambique, the server from a Nordic country, the receptionist was Hispanic, the attendant at the store, Russian...

I can tell you the weather was lovely and I brought the wrong wardrobe with me, since I thought we'd have snow and my blood seems to freeze when the temperature approaches the 60s. The hotel administration, however, made it very easy on us by keeping the temperature even in the low 70s. Wish they could have used the same wisdom to do something about the elevators...

We were 1,620 attendees in total. I felt at home seeing all the familiar faces at the exhibit hall, and meeting interesting new people, learning about new software for managing projects as well as new features incorporated to old and proven tools. But I could not get my massage – it was closing time when I finally had a chance to approach the chairs.

This year I was a presenter. It gave me a new appreciation for our colleagues who every year go before the group to share their knowledge and experience with us. It is exhilarating and nerve-racking all at the same time, until you take hold of that microphone. As long as you are speaking about something that is dear to you and well known, there is nothing to fear. It is something I invite you to experience firsthand: consider becoming a speaker for the next conference. You may think you have nothing to share, but that is

*cont.* →

**Advertisements:**

Advertising in *The Interpreters Voice* is \$80 per page; \$40 per half page, \$20 per quarter page, and \$10 per one eighth page (bus. card size). Submit ads to appropriate editors cited above.

**Submission Guidelines**

Please email articles in Word 97 or text format to appropriate editors.

Submissions are limited to 1000 words and are published on a space-available basis. They may be edited for brevity and clarity.

Articles appearing in *The Interpreters Voice* may also appear in other ATA media, such as its website. All copyrights revert back to the author after publication.

**Submission deadlines** are always one month prior to publication dates, and those are tentatively set as follows:

Spring issue	due Feb.28	Autumn issue	due Aug. 31
Summer issue	due May 31	Winter issue	due Oct. 31

**Membership** in the Interpreters Division is \$15.00 per year in addition to the ATA membership fee. Please make your check payable to the ATA and send it to the ATA address noted above.

## Administrator cont.

not necessarily true. Take a look at previous years' program (they are available online) and you will see that all professional levels are addressed by the sessions – from the novice to the experienced.

Saturday rolled in and we learned the results of the election and welcomed Marian Greenfield as our new President, Jiri Stejskal is our new President-elect, Alan Melby will also remain on the Board as its new Secretary, and Peter Krawutschke is back as its Treasurer. We also have three new Directors: Liliana Valenzuela, Boris Silversteyn, and Jacki Noh. Then it was time to say goodbye to Scott Brennan, Kirk Anderson, Tim Yuan and Beatrice Bonnet.

New Orleans will be the site of next year's conference. I can't wait! ■

– Gio



Registration desk



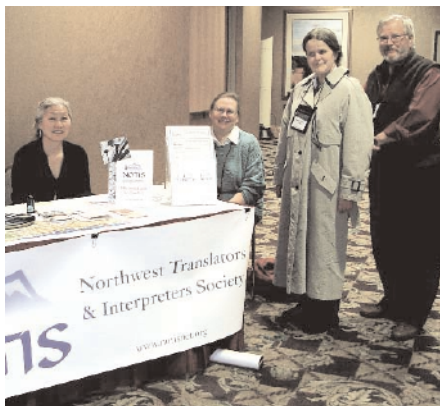
Jiri Stejskal, President-Elect



Outgoing president Scott Brennan and Marian Greenfield, incoming president



Opening Assembly



*NOTIS Table: Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society, the local Chapter of the ATA and conference hosts*



Body Works massage tables — one of the most sought-after services.



# Interpreters Division Update



by Giovanna L. Lester and Katharine Allen

**F**irst of all, thank you for your vote of confidence expressed through congratulatory e-mails and phone calls. I look forward to the next two years.

I believe in finishing up tasks, but two years is sometimes not long enough. So, Katharine and I will endeavor to bring to term some of the projects started in the past administration. Namely: bringing a tighter closeness to our sister Divisions, finishing up the booklet on interpreting to educate end users, and streamlining the *Interpreters Voice*.

We see the ID as a blanket entity encompassing members of most language-oriented divisions and we would like to be able to count on these shared members to assist us in devising and implementing ways of bringing the Divisions together. We

made a good attempt in 2004 with the joint Medical/Interpreters Divisions Reception. In 2005, we tried to share a guest speaker in Seattle with the German Language Division, but timing prevented the initiative from going forward. During the Division's Boot Camp session we brought up the possibility of cross-collaboration in other divisions' newsletters. All these ideas were well received and we look forward to working jointly towards a common goal.

own booklet on conference interpreting and the ID will develop a more general booklet covering the "Dos" and "Don'ts" of selecting and hiring an interpreter. An outline has been developed and a draft is already being worked on. We expect that this draft will be ready to be shared with a select group of volunteer members for their review and input by the second quarter of 2006. Hopefully it will be ready for publication before the 2007 conference.

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The booklet on interpreting for end users is going forward. It has been decided that AIIC will develop their

Talking about conferences, we followed a suggestion brought up in the Division's Boot Camp and adopted the Japanese Division's way of handling their programs. A Conference Committee has been created to coordinate the efforts of putting together our next two yearly conferences — 2006 and 2007 — as well as plan a mid-year conference in 2007. Two polls are available in the listserv collecting input to help us better plan these events. Please accept our invitation to participate in the polls and help us in our planning. Click on the link below to join the listserv if you are not already a member: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/e-voice4ATA-ID/promote>. Katharine and I would like to thank Odile Legeay and Christina Helmerichs for taking on the task.

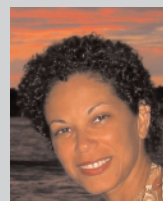
Our project with the Red Cross was the subject of a presentation by Dee Hayward and Jennifer Cariño, representing the Red Cross, Caterina



Meet **Katharine Allen**: *I have worked as a freelance interpreter and translator since 1991. In recent years I have also worked as a healthcare and community interpreter trainer and language access consultant from my home in the beautiful Eastern Sierra Nevadas in California. Since 1994 I have conducted my T&I work under my own business, Sierra Sky Interpreting & Translation. I have a background in social services, mental health and healthcare work, both in the United States and Latin America. Locally, I work closely with local immigrant, community and public agencies. Internationally, I work in a translation team with a Chilean partner under TeamTranslations. I also have many ties to environmental non-profits in Chile and do a lot of pro-bono translation work for them.*

*Since 2002 I have sat on the Board for the California Healthcare Interpreting Association. This fall I became Board President. My work with CHIA has included creating a hospital assessment tool for evaluating language access services, building the association's infrastructure and collaborating with other healthcare interpreting associations across the country. I am very honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the Administrative Assistant for the Interpreter's Division. I hope that my role within the ID and CHIA will allow me to help Giovanna forward her vision for the division as well as forging stronger ties with other interpreting associations.*

Brazilian born **Giovanna "Gio" Lester** has been working in the T&I field since 1980. She is the current Assistant Administrator of the Interpreters Division. Gio has also been active in her local Chapter (FLATA), having served as president (2002-2003), director (2004) and currently as a member of its Special Advisory Council. She may be reached at [translanguage@iname.com](mailto:translanguage@iname.com).



Sullivan, who took the cross-country trip from Connecticut to Seattle just for this engagement, Scott Brennan, and I. The presentation, which covered the Red Cross work in the area of diversity, length of volunteer engagement, the work already performed by ATA volunteers during recovery after Katrina, training requirements, etc. was 90 minutes long. During the presentation, also

attended by our Coordinators Peter Gergay and Patricia Chávez-Dietz, volunteer registration forms were distributed and later made available at the Red Cross booth. We recruited 17 volunteers for Korean, Japanese, Dutch, French, Russian, Haitian Creole and American Sign Language.

We would like also to thank Maria Carolina Paraventi who will be helping Katharine and Toby with the

*Interpreters Voice*. The new *Voice* will be better organized and, we hope, brought to you in a more timely manner. We received many compliments on our last issue and it was due to readership participation. We asked for your collaboration and we received great material that resulted in a beautiful postcard spread. Please send us your artistic pictures too for our cover page. ■

# New Possibilities for Networking between CHIA and the ID



By Katharine Allen

**T**he California Healthcare Interpreting Association and the ATA Interpreters Division got a lot closer this past November. I am Katharine Allen, the current CHIA President, and I stepped into the role of Assistant Administrator for the Division. I see many potential benefits to both groups. The Interpreters Division boasts close to 900 members, representing one of the nation's largest interpreter groups. Its members represent many fields of interpreting, including conference, escort, judicial, healthcare and community. As part of the ATA, the ID is well-positioned to take a leadership role in defining, educating and marketing the interpreting profession nationwide.

CHIA is one of the nation's foremost associations pushing forward the professionalization of healthcare interpreting. (See the upcoming CHIA Profile in the February issue of the ATA Chronicle). Judicial, healthcare and community interpreting represent huge and upcoming sectors. Current immigration trends nationwide,

coupled with Federal civil rights legislation requiring language access in publicly funded services, have created tremendous demand for qualified language professionals in many areas. Currently, experienced interpreters are in short supply.

All types of interpreting in the U.S. lack recognition, understanding and resources. Even the older and more established fields of conference, diplomatic and judicial interpreting are poorly understood by the majority of Americans, lack sufficient training programs and educators, should be better remunerated and need greater marketing and publicity structures.

Just as CHIA has a lot to learn from the expertise possessed by ID members who represent more established interpreting fields, the Interpreters Division can gain from the work CHIA does, which includes:

- Support and creation of interpreter ethics and training programs;
- Education of California state legislators, policy makers and health care administrators as to

the importance of quality language services;

- Identifying and pursuing the building blocks to healthcare interpreting certification, including the creation of an Interpreter Registry that will allow interpreters to showcase their skills and training in detail to potential employers;
- Research into many aspects of healthcare interpreting, including current pay rates and job data, and improved healthcare outcomes and lowered cost due to using qualified interpreters.

In other words, CHIA's work towards building the infrastructure necessary for a vibrant, healthy healthcare interpreting profession can be shared and applied as appropriate to similar Interpreter Division efforts to promote the interpreting profession as a whole. Hopefully, my dual leadership role in both groups will greatly increase the exchange of information, ideas, opportunities for collaboration and resources, thus benefiting the membership of both groups. ■

# Interpreters Division Annual Meeting Minutes



*November 12, 2005  
Seattle, Washington*

Steven Mines, outgoing Division Administrator, called the meeting to order and thanked all the members for taking time out of their conference schedule to come to the Division's Annual Membership Meeting.

## Interpreters inside the ATA

Mines commented on the importance of the Interpreter's Division to the American Translators Association (ATA). The Division currently has 850 members, overall ATA membership is approximately 9500, almost 1 in 10 members self-identifies as an interpreter. Close to half the ID members are also accredited translators, a smaller number are active ATA members through the peer review process. Mines reviewed ATA membership levels and the peer review process for becoming an active member. He encouraged ID members to seek their active membership to be able to fully participate in the election and decision-making process inside the ATA. It is to everyone's interest to actively promote interpreting inside the ATA.

Several members had questions about the peer review process. One member described problems he had going through the process because of not fitting the established categories for legitimate activity inside the profession. The ID administration pledged to help clarify the matter.

## Division Strengths

Mines also spoke about the strengths of the Division. Interpreters

are the most diverse division, representing many branches of the profession (court, conference, medical, etc.). The ID represents a separate profession inside the ATA and is distinct from other Divisions. It is important to seek that recognition within the ATA.

## Interpreter Division Dues

Mines explained the dues/ funding structure for ATA divisions. The dues for all divisions contribute to pay the salary of one ATA staff person, Mary David, who acts as the liaison between divisions and the ATA. Dues pay for the newsletter, communication with members, annual conference events, invited speakers and helping towards mid-year meeting costs (if the ID plans one). Funds cannot be rolled over from one year to the next. In order to comply with GAAP—Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the standard practice, since ATA divisions are not separate financial entities with separate budgets, the funds are added to the general ATA budget.

At this point Giovanna Lester, incoming Division Administrator, announced a new ATA policy on divisions due. Starting with the upcoming renewals for 2006 ATA

membership, overall ATA dues would be increasing moderately and separate dues for membership in ATA divisions were being abolished. All members would have access to membership in any division they chose for the same ATA dues rate. Proceeds from the rate hike would go towards an allocated budget for all divisions. Divisions,

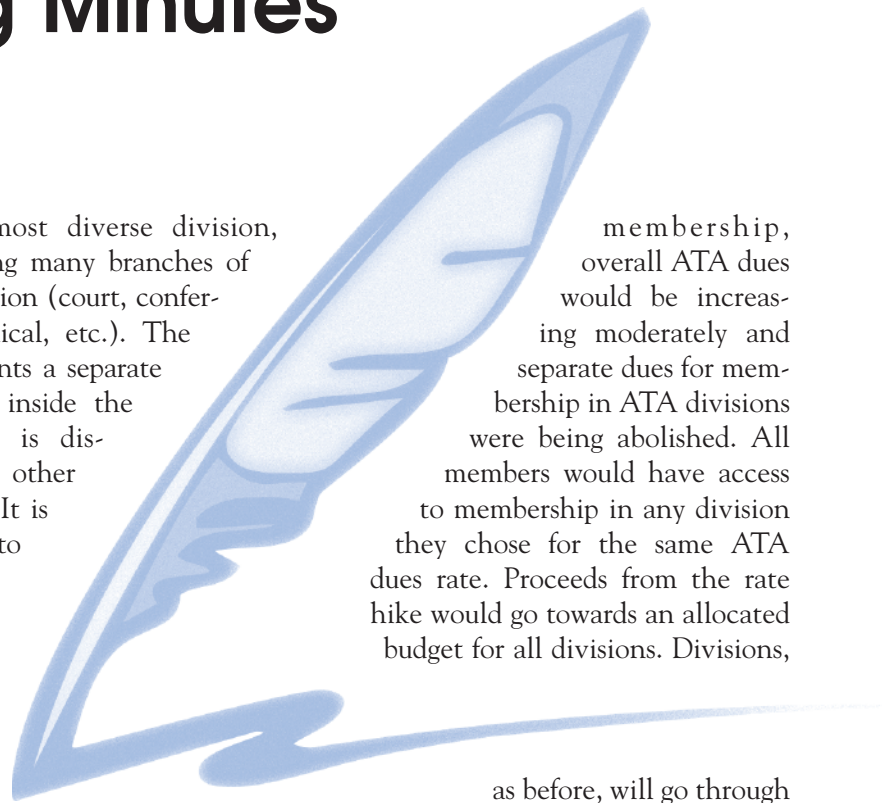
as before, will go through ATA administration to request funds for division activities.

## Conference Review

Mines reviewed ID activities at the conference. There were 5 pre-conference seminars focused on interpreting, a large diversity of sessions covering a wide range of topics relevant to interpreters, a successful ID reception at the Seattle Space Needle, and the presence of Helena Howard as the ID invited speaker. The ID division administration reviews presentation proposals and makes recommendations to the ATA Conference planner for which ones to include. In response to a member's question, Mines reported that evaluation forms for the conference were used by the ATA Conference Organizer to plan for the next year's event.

## New Division Administration

Giovanna Lester was introduced at the new Interpreters Division Administrator. She thanked Steve



for his service to the Division and expressed her work for the Division as Assistant Administrator as a labor of love. She hopes to use her organizational talent and skills to energize the ID and best represent the interests of interpreters inside the ATA.

Katharine Allen was introduced as the incoming Assistant Administrator for the ID. She expressed gratitude for being asked to serve in this role, and pledged to support Giovanna in her work as Administrator.

### Division Accomplishments

Lester reviewed the accomplishments of the ID during 2005.

**Website** – Changes were already made to the website, but there are plans to upgrade it in 2006. The website is the public face of the ID. More resources, links and information will be added so that it can be a strong resource for ID members and act as the portal to our Division. The profiles of the new ID administration will be uploaded soon.

**Voice Files** – A new feature has been added to the ATA Profile. Members can now upload up to four (1 minute) files of their recorded voice for potential clients to listen to. Lester was the first member to test the program. She encourages all members to take advantage of this new benefit.

**Interpretation Booklet** – Progress is slowly being made in the creation of a booklet on interpretation targeting customers, similar to the booklet on translation the ATA published several years ago. It will be a generic guide on how to purchase quality interpretation services and will not include the specifics of different kinds of interpreting. One member suggested publishing the book electronically, and having resources mentioned in it be hyperlinked to take the reader

directly to those resources. Lester informed that the booklet will likely be available in electronic format online. She will explore the possibility of hyperlinking resources in the text.

**Newsletter** – The ID pays (as an honorarium) for the services of a graphic designer and editor for the newsletter. After a hiatus, the newsletter is back on schedule. Members were shown the most recent copy online. Lester put a call out to all members to get involved with the newsletter.

**Volunteering** – The ATA (through the Interpreters Division) and the Red Cross have formed a partnership to develop a network of trained interpreters nationwide to volunteer in national disasters and emergencies. ATA volunteers were active during the Hurricane Katrina crisis under this program, even though it was not fully up and running. Volunteers are trained and deployed by the Red Cross. The ID is acting as a facilitator to connect professional interpreters to the Red Cross.

### Conference Committee

The ID is forming a conference committee to help with the work involved in the ATA annual conference as well as planning for a mid-year ID meeting. Cristina Helmerichs and Odile Legeay generously volunteered to participate in this committee.

### Member Input Session

During the Q & A session for members the following issues were raised:

- Would it be possible to have a separate day for interpreting at the ATA conference so that members don't experience so much conflict between sessions?
- Can the Interpreters Division support the stand that all dues paying members of the ATA should be active members and allowed to

fully participate in all ATA decision-making processes? How do other ID members feel about this issue?

- Let's explore the possibility of combining an annual ID mid-year meeting with other division mid-year meetings, to save on costs and share resources.
- Can the ID help review the peer review process to active ATA membership to make sure that all aspects of interpreting professions have the opportunity to use this process? (i.e. researchers, academics, as well as practicing interpreters.) ■

*Respectfully submitted  
November 29, 2005 by  
Katharine Allen, Assistant  
Administrator*

## The Interpreter's Dress Code

Have you ever been mistaken for a lawyer, a nurse or a professional person other than an interpreter while on assignment? Let us know your humorous or embarrassing anecdotes.

We are always looking for stories for the "Interpreting Milestones" feature. Let us know what drew you to this unique profession, and what's kept you there.

If you have suggestions or comments on what you would like to see in the *Interpreters Voice*, please drop a line to the assistant administrator, at [sierrasky@schat.net](mailto:sierrasky@schat.net).

Thank you,  
Toby S. McLellan



# Interpreting for Workers' Compensations Patients

By Judit Marin

**D**o you enjoy walking along every single aisle of Home Depot while wondering how to say forklift, wheelbarrow, buffer, scaffolding, or rebar in your language of service? Then, you are a perfect candidate to be a medical interpreter. You may be wondering why a medical interpreter should be familiar with these terms. Aren't we supposed to know "only" terms for illnesses, organs, and medical procedures? Well, chances are that if you work as a medical interpreter for injured workers, these terms may come up during the medical session.

Many victims of industrial injuries in California are non-English speakers. They work in a wide range of jobs mainly in construction, landscaping, janitorial, restaurants, and in the rich and fertile fields of our Golden State. When a worker is injured, he or she has the right to be evaluated by a neutral doctor who will offer some recommendations for future treatment, among other things. Some medical interpreters work in the field of Workers' Compensation interpreting for patients at medical-legal evaluations. If you are interested in this type of medical interpreting, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the

Worker's Compensation process. You can find a wealth of information in [www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/dwc\\_home\\_page.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/dwc_home_page.htm), and for information in Spanish you can access this excellent guide at [www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/CHSWCworkercompguidebook\\_spanish.pdf](http://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/CHSWCworkercompguidebook_spanish.pdf).

As part of your job as a medical interpreter for the injured worker, you may have to help the patient to fill out an extensive questionnaire which covers the history of the injury (here is where terms such as forklift, scaffold, rebar, etc. may become handy), as well as treatment received, description of pain, and past medical history. In order to complete the

explained the injury to me, and before writing anything down, I repeat back to the patient what he or she just told me. If the patient agrees with my "version", I write it down as accurately and concisely as possible. Another important section of the questionnaire deals with pain: intensity, frequency and type of pain. Remember all those words to describe pain in English: Sharp, dull, knife-like, throbbing, burning, piercing, severe, shooting, etc. They can be difficult words to interpret but we have to be prepared to do so in our language of service. In general, it is a good idea to review vocabulary

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**Many victims of industrial injuries are non-English speakers... they work in construction, landscaping, janitorial, restaurants...**

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history of the injury you need a clear understanding of how the injury happened. You have to be a good listener and try to picture in your mind the sequence of events as the patient describes the injury to you (some patients take longer than others to get to the point!). Personally, once the patient has

related to orthopedic terminology. In addition, you may have to interpret at psychological evaluations since an injured worker can claim emotional distress due to an injury.

Something important to consider at Workers' Compensation evaluations is that the ethical principle of confidentiality it is not applied as it is in a regular doctor-patient visit. The reason for this is that after the evaluation, the doctor prepares a medical-legal report that is sent to insurance lawyers, patient's lawyers, and other agencies related to Workers' Compensation; therefore, the information that the patient provides during the visit is not confidential. That does not mean, however, that we, the interpreters,

*This article first appeared in the California Healthcare Interpreting Association Newsletter, in the Fall 2004 issue. Reprinted here with permission.*



**Judit Marin** is a freelance Spanish interpreter and translator based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has been a member of the ATA and the NCTA for the past 8 years. She is an ATA certified (English>Spanish) translator and a member of the CHIA (California Healthcare Interpreting Association) Board of Directors. She holds a master's degree in Spanish from U.C. Santa Barbara and a B.A. degree in Catalan Philology from the University of Barcelona, Spain. When she is not interpreting and translating, Judit loves reading and running.



are giving up the ethical principle of confidentiality between the patient and ourselves.

Finally, I would like to briefly comment about a very common practice in the medical-legal visit. What do you do when the doctor takes out a recorder and starts dictating sections of the medical report? Do you interpret simultaneously what the doctor is saying? Do you stop interpreting altogether?

This is a complicated issue, especially for those of us who follow the California Standards for Healthcare Interpreters, since we are supposed to interpret everything (that is why pre-encounter sessions are so important). Some doctors are totally against the interpreter interpreting while they dictate, others (a lesser number) do not mind. I think that this scenario offers us an excellent opportunity to educate providers about the

California Standard for Healthcare Interpreters.

You may never drive a forklift, push a wheelbarrow, buff the floors of an office building, or pick fruits and vegetables in the San Joaquin Valley, but you may need to become acquainted with the labor activities of your clients if you strive to be a professional and accurate interpreter for injured workers. ■

## Legislative News

# What's Shakin' in California

By Don Schinske, Executive Director, CHIA



In the last two years, California legislators and regulators have sought to strengthen and clarify the obligation of public and private healthcare programs to provide adequate language assistance and culturally competent care to the state's Limited English Proficient (LEP) population.

The efforts include:

### **SB 853 (Escutia, 2003)**

Sponsored by minority health groups, this bill aims to ensure that all commercial health plans and insurers offer language assistance and translated materials to LEP enrollees on par with what is required through the Medi-Cal (Medicaid) program. SB 853, which was signed by then-Governor Davis, requires that the Department of Managed Healthcare (which regulates managed care plans specifically) and the Department of Insurance (which regulates indemnity and all other insurers) develop standards for provision of services by Jan. 1, 2006. That deadline won't be met. But the DMHC has issued its first formal draft of the regulations, which suggests that the managed care regulations should be in place this

spring. The DOI intends to model these regulations on the DMHC set.

The draft regulations require that:

- 1) All enrollees in health, dental, and other managed care plans receive vital documents translated in their primary language
- 2) Each managed care plan develop a language-assistance plan that addresses:
  - a) standards for assessing enrollee language needs;
  - b) provision of language services;
  - c) standards for staff training;
  - d) standards for monitoring compliance.

Notably, the draft regulations require plans to "discourage" the use of family members, friends, and minors as interpreters except in the case of an emergency. In addition, the financial obligation for providing services must be expressly delineated in the contract between plans and their providers or delegated groups.

### **AB 1195 (Coto, 2005)**

This bill, signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger, requires all physician Continuing Medical Education

courses that deal with direct patient care to include a component on cultural and linguistic competency. The Medical Board of California is exploring the development of standards for the course components. The requirement represents a compromise between minority health advocates who wanted a separate CME course requirement, and the California Medical Association, which agreed to have the C/L component added to existing courses.

### **AB 775 (Yee)**

This bill would prohibit the use of child interpreters under 14 in healthcare facilities or programs that receive state funding. The bill stalled in a Senate policy committee this past summer, but the author is aiming to move it again in 2006. Provider groups oppose the bill because of the lack of a funding mechanism to pay for alternative means of interpreting, although some groups are encouraging such a mechanism to be added to the bill. Various groups, including CHIA, have had preliminary discussions about other potential options for pursuing a funding mechanism in Medi-Cal. ■

# Interpreting Milestones



Maria Carolina Paraventi

As far back as I can remember I have been interpreting. When I was a little girl I grew up in the countryside, on the outskirts of Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, and I remember vividly having to interpret for my grandparents who were hard of hearing and always used to ask me something like, “Now, what was that your Daddy said, sweetheart?” And I would always be there to help them understand better what was being said.

A few years went by and I found myself again in a very similar situation when my mother decided to venture off to the States and, of course, brought me with her. She did not speak a word of English and felt very confident she could count on my elementary school English A-B-Cs to get by. I would say she knew her daughter well and was definitely right on target. I remember one day she wanted to cook my favorite Brazilian dish at the time, chicken stroganoff, and so we went out to buy the ingredients at a small deli and the grocer asked us what we wanted and I had forgotten how to say a particular word in English and I tried saying a few words but he couldn’t understand it. I finally decided to “interpret” what I wanted and so I put my arms



“I’m not sure, but I think she’s inviting us to dinner.”

to my sides and bent them up, flapped them like wings and said out loud: CÓ CÓ RÓ CÓ CÓ! He immediately started to laugh and said, “Oh! You want chicken!” and made me repeat that word several times until I spoke it like a native.

As I grew up in New York I became so accustomed to “interpreting” for my mother (who still does not speak this blessed language) that it became part of my everyday life. After moving back to Brazil a dear friend mentioned about the interpreting class at PUC (Pontifícia

Universidade Católica). I went for an interview and started right away. I loved it! Not only learning the technique to something I had been doing all my life, but also learning something new — simultaneous interpretation. I fell in love with the whole concept of it and finally felt I had found my passion in life.

Now I interpret professionally and I also donate my services to my church, to friends, and even strangers. What is of the utmost importance to me is to be able to serve humanity somehow.

Overall, I’m usually cool, calm and collected when I’m interpreting, I guess because I have been doing it for so long and started it in such a natural way, how could I fear anything after “cockadoodledoing” my way through way back when? The most interesting experiences I had were definitely traveling with official visitors from Brazil and Mozambique. I also traveled to

**Maria Carolina Paraventi** was born in Campinas, São Paulo and was raised in the countryside until she was 7 years old, at which time she moved to the big capital with her mother. They lived there for four years and at 11 her mother decided to venture off to the States, again to a big capital, but this time it was to the “capital of the world” Big Apple. Maria Carolina grew up in New York and lived there from 1963-1988. She studied psychology at NYU but changed fields when she moved to Rio in 1988, where she attended PUC and completed a Conference Interpreters course, and where she started her journey as an interpreter. This journey eventually brought her back to the States to work as a freelance for various organizations including the Dept. of State. Her new venture now is Court Reporting, which she enjoys a great deal, but her passion will always be interpreting, which she continues to do as a freelancer. She may be reached at [mcp6@prodigy.net](mailto:mcp6@prodigy.net)

Puerto Rico with a gentleman who grew up in the Amazon and had never seen the ocean in his entire life (and he was 32)! That was the most meaningful trip I have ever taken, sharing his unforgettable experience and assuring him it was okay for him to put his feet in the water.

The funniest experience was during a trip with a female visitor, a psychologist, who had a huge suitcase and at the end of the trip had excess weight. In order to avoid paying the extra charge I explained to her that she had to unload some of the effects

into her hand luggage. The ticket counter area was swarming with passengers coming and going and all eyes were on us since I was trying to convince the ticket agent that we were running late and after all it was only 5 lbs. overweight! She adamantly refused so I quickly opened the "little trunk" and the first things that came out were the visitors' intimate apparel. Needless to say, she was so embarrassed that she wouldn't budge, so there I was cool, calm and collected, handling 5 lbs. of the visitor's lingerie. We still had one

last stop, Miami, before she would go back home. As it turned out, we couldn't even look at each other during the last meetings because we would crack up and laugh. We are friends to this day and to this day we laugh about this incident.

This has been a long and wonderful journey and I have learned so much and continue learning and growing and I intend to go on for as long as life allows me, and who knows? If there's life in the other side, I will definitely be interpreting there too. ■



## ESL / Foreign Languages Dept. and the Translation & Interpretation Program SEMINAR on IMMIGRATION TERMINOLOGY 2006

**Presenters:** J. Daniel Dowell, Immigration Judge  
Héctor A. Suco, Supervisory Interpreter

**Date:** Saturday, January 28, 2006

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Location:** Miami Dade College, Inter-American Campus 627 S.W. 27th Ave., Miami, Florida – Room 3103  
**No Cost for Admission**

This presentation will consist of the perspective from the Immigration Judge and the role of the interpreter in the courtroom. The legal definition and translation into **Spanish** of the terms most commonly used in Immigration Court proceedings and the terms that appear on applications filed by aliens seeking immigration relief and benefits in the United States will also be discussed.

- The Role of the Interpreter
  - Literal interpretation vs. Summary interpreting
  - Demeanor in the courtroom
- Translating from Written Documents
- Interpreting for the Court in a Telephonic or Televideo Hearings
- Removal, Deportation and Exclusion Charges
- Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996
- Notice to Appear (charges and allegations)
- Forms of Relief: Application for Asylum and Withholding of Removal, Adjustment of Status, Cancellation of Removal for Certain Permanent Residents, Cancellation of Removal for Certain Nonpermanent Residents, Application for Waiver of Ground of Excludability, and the NACARA law.
- Institutional Hearing Program

*Biographical Information:* **J. Daniel Dowell** is an Immigration Judge with the U.S. Immigration Court in Miami and has been an Adjunct Professor of Immigration Law at the National Judicial College, University of Nevada in Reno. **Hector A. Suco** is a Supervisory Interpreter with the U.S. Immigration Court in Miami and is currently Adjunct Instructor, Miami Dade College, InterAmerican Campus, Translation/Interpretation Program



# 2006 Translation & Interpreting Events Calendar



Jan/2006		
January 5-8	<b>Linguistic Society of America (LSA)</b> <b>80th Annual Meeting</b> Hyatt Regency and Doubletree Hotels Albuquerque, New Mexico	<a href="http://www.lsadc.org">www.lsadc.org</a>  Reservations: (800) 233-1234
January 14-15 <b>CANCELLED</b>	<b>ATA Chapter: Northeast Ohio Translators Association (NOTA)</b> <b>Internet Research Seminar</b> Kent State University Satterfield Hall, Room 316 Kent, Ohio	<a href="mailto:intofrench@frenchlink.com">intofrench@frenchlink.com</a>  <a href="http://www.ohiotranslators.org">www.ohiotranslators.org</a>
January 28	<b>ATA Chapter: Northern California Translators Association (NCTA)</b> <b>Introduction to Word and Excel Macros</b> Mechanics' Institute Library Meeting Room, 4th Floor San Francisco, California	<a href="mailto:events@ncta.org">events@ncta.org</a>  <a href="http://www.ncta.org">www.ncta.org</a>
Feb/2006		
February 7-9	<b>Israel Translators Association (ITA)</b> <b>2006 International Conference</b> Crowne Plaza Hotel Jerusalem, Israel	<a href="mailto:route1@bezeqint.net">route1@bezeqint.net</a>  <a href="http://www.ita.co.il">www.ita.co.il</a>
February 19-25	<b>Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)</b> <b>CICLing 7th International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics</b> Mexico City, Mexico	<a href="http://www.cicling.org/2006">www.cicling.org/2006</a>
Mar/2006		
March 23-25	<b>American Translation &amp; Interpreting Studies Assn (ATISA)</b> <b>3rd Annual Conference</b> Best Western Hacienda Hotel San Diego, California	<a href="mailto:ATSA2006@yahoo.com">ATSA2006@yahoo.com</a>  <a href="http://appling.kent.edu/ATISA/ATISAHome.html">http://appling.kent.edu/ATISA/ATISAHome.html</a>

## Apr/2006

April 18-21	<b>The Localization Industry Standards Assn (LISA) Lisa Forum Asia 2006 – China Focus</b> Shanghai, China	<a href="mailto:events@lisa.org">events@lisa.org</a>  <a href="http://www.lisa.org/events/2006shanghai">www.lisa.org/events/2006shanghai</a>
April 20-23	<b>ATA Translation Company Division (TCD) 7th Annual Conference</b> Hyatt Regency on the Hudson One Exchange Place Jersey City, New Jersey	<a href="mailto:vitrav@mcelroytranslation.com">vitrav@mcelroytranslation.com</a>  <a href="http://www.ata-divisions.org/TCD">www.ata-divisions.org/TCD</a>
April 28-29	<b>ATA Spanish Language Division (SPD) Mid-Year Conference</b> New York-New York Hotel & Casino 3790 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, Nevada 89109	<a href="http://www.ata-divisions.org/SPD">www.ata-divisions.org/SPD</a>  Reservations: (866) 815-4365
April 29	<b>Mid-America Chapter - American Translators Assn (MICATA) “The Business of Translation and Interpretation” Symposium</b> Kansas City, Kansas	

## May/2006

May 6	<b>New England Translators Association (NETA) 10th Annual Conference</b> Radisson Hotel Marlborough, Massachusetts	<a href="mailto:ConferenceInformation@netaweb.org">ConferenceInformation@ netaweb.org</a>  Judy Lyons, (617) 421-9499
May 19-21	<b>Nat’l Assn of Judiciary Interpreters &amp; Translators 27th Annual Conference</b> J.W. Marriott Houston on Westheimer Houston, Texas	<a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a>