



The MITA Reader

MITA busy in April

New directory, improved Web site, new resources introduced

By Carol Shaw
Reader Co-editor

Those who attended the April 3 MITA meeting enjoyed some pre-meeting social time with other members; met MITA's new Webmaster, Diana Schultz; learned about MITA's new website and directory; applauded Mariana Peterson's willingness to take on the mantle of MITA's new Public Relations office; and heard a three-part presentation on different search and research methods.

After a warm welcome by our President, Márcia Kuusisto, MITA members were introduced to Diana Schultz, translator, web designer and MITA webmaster. Diana has the new site well

The next MITA meeting will be held Saturday, June 5, at the Dottie Lynn Recreation Center, 3200 Norwood Lane, Arlington, Texas. After a short presentation on continuing education and class options in the DFW area, members will enjoy a picnic supper. There is a swimming pool (\$4 per person) and a playground for those who wish to use them. Spouses/partners and children are welcome!

under way (www.dfw-mita.com). Along with a great new look, she is implementing a searchable member directory, a thorough link page, new FAQs and a number of other benefits for both members and visitors.

Members will be able to submit changes for their directory entries directly, thereby avoiding the delays that often plagued past updates.

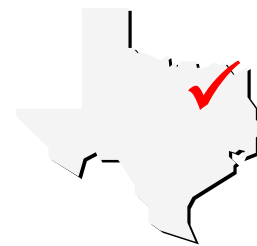
In addition to the new website, MITA will be publishing a new directory this year. The directory will be distributed to different markets in the DFW area. MITA thanks Mihaela Zeinali, Maria (Mies) de Vries, Karen Sharp, Buddy Strittmatter and Marilyn Retta for volunteering to serve on the directory committee. The committee has already held its first meeting. "Our first course is to get lapsed members to renew in order for the directory to have the maximum impact possible," said Chairwoman Mies de Vries. "A more complete directory will generate more interest."

Mariana Peterson volunteered to fill a

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**METROPLEX INTERPRETERS
& TRANSLATORS
ASSOCIATION**

Serving DFW and North Texas



Volume 1, Issue 4

April, 2004

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Directory Committee needs updated info; MITA needs to bolster membership

By Carol Shaw
Reader Editor

Let no translator or interpreter be left behind!

The Directory Committee urgently needs information updates; many email addresses and links included in the old website no longer work. In addition, a few members have not yet paid their 2004 dues.

If you know a lapsed MITA member - or perhaps someone who hasn't joined yet - please encourage them to contact the Steering Committee with updated information and dues.

The directory can be a valuable marketing tool for

everyone, and we want to make it as complete as possible. Don't be left out! To update your information, go to www.dfw-mita.com/membership/update.htm, or email directory@dfw-mita.com.

Resource Center

Looking to expand your educational horizons? Check out the diverse curriculum and continuing education courses at the **University of Texas at Arlington** at

www.uta.edu or www.uta.edu/ced

Julie Conde always finds new ways to learn

Meet your fellow MITAns

By John Shaw

Reader Co-Editor

After 34 years as a simultaneous interpreter, Julie Conde still considers every assignment as a new opportunity to learn.

"No matter which job I do, I always manage to learn something new – even if it is from a convention of geophysicists discussing their latest drilling methods," she laughed. "I've learned the best methods to care for your back, when and where to drill for oil, where to put the swag (find that word in your Spanish brain) and what the right side of my brain is doing while I interpret."

Specializing in conference/convention simultaneous interpretation, Julie also offers audio and video voice-over services, and produces audiocassette tapes interpreted from English into Spanish in a home recording studio.

"But the most surprising thing is that I now find myself in the "Toxic Waste Removal Business," Julie laughed. "After fighting with weight all my life, in the last few months I've lost 12 inches off each thigh, 11 off my



Julie Conde

waist, and by cleansing my body of toxins I've lost over 60 pounds of fat and added lean muscle to my grandmotherly" body'.

"Though I've interpreted in seven countries and seen beautiful scenery and met wonderful people, this new health is my best 'trip' of all – and I'll share the information with anybody! Just give me a call or shoot me an

email at loveisagenix@hotmail.com – or take a look at www.julieconde.isagenix.com.

"What a blessing to be in a size 12, on the way to a 10, after being an 18 on the way up to a 20, and what fun to see the double takes from my friends and co-workers," she added. "With this new technology I have a whole new energetic life, and will hopefully be around to see my grandchildren grow and mature."

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Julie Conde
*Simultaneous Interpreter/
Freelancer*
loveisagenix@hotmail.com

Cody Serra, a lifetime of assisting the underserved

Meet your fellow MITAns

By John Shaw

Reader Co-Editor

Cody Serra has always championed causes involving the unjustly treated. When she was a teenager, her father told her, "You're going to be a great lawyer for lost causes!"

After two years of teaching elementary school, Cody did start her university training as a lawyer, but she quickly realized there was probably a faster way to get involved.

"I have always been interested in being a bridge between parties who have a hard time communicating with each other," Cody said. "Originally it was serving people in need in Argentina and communicating their needs to the power holders. Even before that I was a teacher: elementary school, undergraduate and graduate college level. Again, transferring knowledge through communication."

Cody became a social worker in her native Argentina with the Agricultural Extension Service. Obtaining an International Development Scholarship to Michigan State University, Cody studied Rural Sociology. After receiving her Master's Degree, she revisited Argentina to teach agricultural engineers. Feeling inadequate to respond to their needs, Cody decided to return to the United States and completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at MSU in 1974.



Cody Serra, Ph.D.

Cody's major translation projects include the Social Security web page; Human Resources Manual; training manual for preschool teachers, articles on AIDS for a medical journal, documents for a national political party, and documents for the Catholic Diocese of Dallas.

Cody still enjoys teaching Spanish and communications to healthcare providers.

Cody decided to become a translator after reading a poorly-translated Spanish language article in the regu-

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Cody Serra, Ph.D.

*Translator/Interpreter/Instructor
Pan American Cultural Consultants*
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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS — meet on second Saturday of odd months — at 3 pm at the home of Diana Ianariello.

Regular MITA Meeting June 5, Picnic Time!

Join us for lively discussions and shared information! For directions, go to www.dfw-mita.com

May 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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30	31					

Julie Conde

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With her husband Anastacio, and two daughters, Ana and María, Julie spent 20 years in Colombia as a teacher/interpreter for *Misión de Cristo en Colombia*.

Now living in Hickory Creek (just north of Lewisville), she finds time for English/Spanish and Spanish/English interpretation, and often is found on the phone providing consecutive telephone interpretation for her clients—all this in addition to serving as Texas State Director of Special Programs for Eagle Academies of Texas, working daily with students of limited English proficiency throughout the state.

“Just call me on my cell, and I’ll always find time to help you,” she chuckled.

Cody Serra

Continued from page 2

lar monthly newspaper of the Catholic Diocese in Dallas. Curious about this world of “translations,” she connected with MITA through a friend and became a founding member.

Cody translates a wide variety of subjects from Spanish \leftrightarrow English, including the often-complex field of medical translation and interpreting. Her father, her uncle, in-laws and cousins are also physicians and she hopes to target projects that are geared more to the consumer side of health services.

In fact, her future goals include providing medical interpreting by phone to help Spanish-speaking patients in critical medical situations obtain the correct information about their condition and the proposed treatment.

Meeting

Continued from page 1

new Steering Committee position, becoming MITA’s first Public Relations officer. Mariana will work with retired journalist and volunteer John Shaw to raise MITA’s profile in the public eye through media contacts, press releases and other responses.

Terry Stadelman, Mies de Vries and Carol Shaw offered a three-part look at search and research techniques and resources for translators and interpreters.

Mies provided ideas for research where traditional sources (dictionaries, encyclopedias, glossaries, etc.) may not exist. She recommends creating a database of professionals in your specialty fields and languages, individuals one can contact for “inside” understanding. Other suggestions include magazine subscriptions, textbooks, joining internet user groups and building relationships with other translators in the field.

Terry covered internet search engines: how to select the best for you and how to get the best out of the one you choose. “It’s a Zen thing,” she said, “Some engines work best for some people and not for others. It depends on whether you think alike.”

Carol added ideas for customizing web searches, using the internet to verify regionalisms and common usage, and added some tips for selecting printed resources.

HUMOR

FAMILLE GRAND KOBE KITANO
THE CLUBHOUSE
www.english.com

Please come to a horizontal selling center immediately. A model room is looking-got.

* We are very sorry, but our explanation is only in Japanese

すぐ様の販売センターへお越し下さい。モデルルームをご覧いただけます。
*ご説明・ご商談は日本語のみとなります。

Have you a looking-got?

Marilyn Retta finds work as 'global nomad'

Meet your fellow MITAn

By John Shaw

Reader Co-Editor

Like many other translators and interpreters, Marilyn Retta discovered her affinity for the field almost at a glance one day.

"I have always been interested in language and majored in Spanish in University," Marilyn said. "I wanted to use my language skills but wasn't interested in teaching at that time. I was working for a Hispanic attorney and saw a business card on his desk for a translator and thought, 'That's exactly what I want to do.' That started me off on this pilgrimage! I found the local ATA chapter, passed the Spanish-to-English accreditation exam and was on my way,"

Marilyn was born into a family on international assignment, then spent her childhood and her professional life as a globe trotter. She was born in Guatemala and reared in Guatemala and Mexico. She has daughters, each born in three different countries-- Argentina, Chile and the US.

Marilyn has lived and worked in Europe, Africa and Latin America and



managed her family there. She specializes in legal translations and other business documents and does legal and medical interpreting. She is also a specialist in international relocation issues for families with children.

Marilyn and her husband, Ed, operate Cross Culture Communications, an education and training firm that caters to local firms seeking international markets. They have been doing translations and cross-cultural training and consulting since 1994. Marilyn has degrees in foreign languages and education as well as an MA and is also an

neers of professional translation and interpreting in the DFW area and found herself working them in amongst other important educational venues of the day.

"I spent five years working as a freelance translator when the business was just beginning in Dallas," she recalls. "At the same time, I worked as a computer trainer when word processors were first being introduced into the workplace. I learned six different systems to teach to office staff at various business locations – does anyone remember WANG?"

Marilyn has been a MITA member since 1994 and was a member of the Dallas chapter of the ATA (now long defunct). "After being out of the country for 5 years, and finding the ATA chapter non-existent, I

was looking for a place to rub shoulders with other translators and read about MITA in the Dallas Morning News," she said.

She is also a member of the ATA since 1983, and has been accredited for Spanish-to-English since 1984.

Along with her busy professional life, Marilyn enjoys travel, museums, and reading

Marilyn Retta

Translator/Interpreter/Consultant

mretta@crossculturecommunications.com

Accredited Professional Translator certified by the American Translators Association.

"I worked for 5 years as a trainer/interpreter onboard a British charity book ship, the *M.V. Logos*, and sailed around South America, West Africa and Europe, docking in 45 countries," Marilyn said. "Onboard the ship, 35 nationalities were represented, making it a floating mini-United Nations."

Marilyn was also one of the pio-

MITA Reader Information and Submission Guidelines

The MITA Reader is your newsletter. If you have a news item, please let us know. We welcome articles, profile recommendations, cheesecake, etc.

Articles must be relevant to the industry in general, approximately 250-350 words, and all facts must be verified and verifiable. On occasion, we will specifically request submissions on particular subjects —keep an eye on the Editor's P.S.!

Humor - share your personal anecdotes, re-printable cartoons, or one-liners; we can't afford to take ourselves too seriously!

Have you found a helpful website, dictionary or glossary? Drop us a line so we can include it in the Resource Center.

Recommendations for Profiles on local translators and interpreters are welcome. Please tell us why we should profile your candidate and how we can contact him or her. You may nominate yourself.

On occasion, we will **Challenge!** our colleagues. Respond or submit an idea for a future challenge.

As MITA members, you have **The Last Word**. Did you pass a test, solve a problem, relocate or increase your family? Let us know!

The MITA Reader is the monthly newsletter for the Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association
Email: newsletter@dfw-mita.com, or call 972-203-8591.

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Visit us on the web at: www.dfw-mita.com

Due unto MITA... MITA will do unto you

By Carol Shaw

Reader Co-Editor

Do you know what your MITA dues do?

Dollar for dollar, your MITA membership dues beat any investment on Wall Street.

Every month, the MITA treasury covers the MITA phone line, fees for the meeting rooms, website maintenance and postage.

It pays fees for the picnic site and special speakers when we have them. Occasionally, a larger disbursement is made for such exciting items as our improved website and publication of the membership directory.

The advertising value of the website and directory is significant. Not only can potential clients find you easily, but

your membership in a professional association creates a certain confidence level for anyone evaluating your services.

In addition, MITA membership provides each of us with the opportunity to hone our skills. Whether through presentations or informal conversation, meetings give us the chance to bounce ideas off each other and learn from someone else's experience.

Membership dues for the Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association are \$40 per year for individuals and \$50 per year for corporate, company or agency accounts.

If you have any questions about MITA dues or finances, please feel free to contact any of the Steering Committee members.

Area Job Openings, Opportunities

JOBS

*Disclaimer: MITA is pleased to provide a limited job posting service for its members; this is a courtesy service with no liability or responsibility implied or accepted by MITA. MITA reserves the right to deny publishing of any job posting at its discretion. Postings will be published on a first-come, first served basis and as space and time permits. Interested parties should contact the job posters directly. Those who wish to post **permanent** job openings for translators and interpreters may submit them directly to jshaw@nexuslanguage.com. Please limit text to 100 words or less.*

Full Time:

Home Interiors & Gifts, located in Carrollton, Texas, has an excellent opportunity for a Translator to join our Communications Department. This individual will be responsible for the translation of documents and other materials from English to Spanish and for coordinating the completion and publication of translated documents. The successful candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts or similar field with at least three years of related experience. American Translators Association (ATA)-accreditation is strongly preferred. Knowledge of type design, layout, composition, color theory, paper selection and creative concepts; good communications, interpersonal, and organizational skills; bi-lingual in English and Spanish. Salary range is \$15.25-\$16.80 per hour plus a competitive benefits package. Interested candidates should send a resume with salary requirements to tmccleendon@homeinteriors.com. (posted 3/23/04)

Part Time:

The Language Conservatory is expanding its many Language Departments and is now seeking additional qualified

language instructors experienced in teaching at all ages and levels of proficiency. Lesson times are scheduled around teacher's and student's available times. Fees paid range between \$20-40/hour plus travel expenses. The Language Conservatory is also seeking teachers for its June-July 2004 Summer Language Camps (Camps available: Preschool through Grade 12). Swimming, tennis and horseback riding will be offered between foreign language lessons in this total immersion program. This will be a unique Summer Language Camp Program in a country club setting in the North Dallas area. We are also seeking qualified translators. Contact: James van Loon, Director of Studies The Language Conservatory URL: www.languageconservatory.com Phone: (972) 202 2550 / (214) 789 2356 / Fax: (972) 503-8869 (posted 3/23/04)

Contract

Catholic Charities, with funding from the Texas Department of Health, has established a network of interpreters to improve client access to health care, immigration and social services in both Dallas and Tarrant Counties. A pool of linguistically and culturally diverse staff that is fluent in English and at least one other language has been established to serve the community. Besides being fluent in at least two languages, interpreters must attend a three-day training course which will be offered several times during the year at locations throughout the DFW Metroplex. The program will also offer on-going training to all interpreters in the network. Interpreters work on a contract basis and are paid for all hours worked according to an established salary schedule. For more info: <http://tinetwork.homestead.com/interpreters.html>

Check out the new MITA web site at www.dfw-mita.com

ATA slates Certification Exams in Austin

(The following article is excerpted from AATIA's **The Letter**, March 2004 issue)

AATIA will sponsor an ATA certification exam sitting in conjunction with the regional conference to be held July 30–August 1, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Austin. Two exam sittings will be offered on Sunday, August 1: at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The three-hour certification exam consists of three passages, from which candidates select two to translate. Each passage contains about 225–275 words in English or the equivalent in another language.

The exam is offered into English from Arabic, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, and from English into Chinese, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Prospective candidates should apply for the exam as soon as possible to allow ample time for verification of eligibility.

Besides meeting the requirements, candidates must have been ATA members for at least four weeks prior to the exam date.

Candidates are also strongly encouraged to take a practice test before attempting the certification exam.

Contact ATA headquarters at www.atanet.org or (703) 683-6100 to request a practice test and register for the sitting. The registration form can be downloaded from the website.

Local workshop planned AATIA will hold a certification workshop prior to the exam sitting. Watch **The Letter** and the AATIA website for details.

(MITA members are encouraged to check out requirements and additional information either through ATA

www.atanet.org, or through AATIA www.aatia.org. Members who wish to sit for the exam but are unable to on August 1, might wish to consider the ATA certification sitting offered in **Houston on August 14.**)

MITA surveys, newsletter, meetings need your input

We remind you once more that The MITA Reader is your publication, and ask you to forward items and articles of interest to us so that we may share them with fellow members, other translators and interpreters and the various businesses and other organizations we reach.

Know of a good place to meet for

Send replies, opinions, editorials to:
cshaw@nexuslanguage.com

regular meetings, special meetings and socials? There's still time to respond.

Do you have results of recent research that might be helpful to other interpreters or translators?

Do you have an opinion about any

current topic regarding interpreting, translation or teaching?

How about tips for those who operate their own small, or "cottage" business, as many freelancers do, who need information about taxes, insurance, budgets, financial planning, marketing, strategy and tactics.

Let us know!

Upcoming conferences:

NAJIT (National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators) celebrates their Silver Anniversary in style at their annual conference next month. For more information on this great opportunity (May 21-23, Denver, CO), see their website, www.najit.org

ATA (American Translators Association) activities include a seminar on "Translating and Interpreting for the Entertainment Industry" (May 22-23, Newark, NJ); the Translation Company Midyear Conference (July 8-11, Austin, TX); and a seminar on "Medical Translation and Interpreting" (July 10, Minneapolis, MN). For more information, go to www.atanet.org

Sell & Swap

Spanish/English Dictionaries - 40% off original retail price. If interested, contact Ana Laura Gamborino for further information at agamborino@sbcglobal.net

*Diccionario Mosby de Medicina y Ciencias de la Salud

*3 Vol. Diccionario Enciclopédico de Términos Técnicos

*2 Vol. Spanish Technical Dictionary

*Diccionario de Términos Económicos, Financieros y Comerciales

*Diccionario de Tecnología de la Información

*The Grammatical Structures of English and Spanish

*Wiley's Business Dictionary

*Diccionario para Ingenieros

*Diccionario de las Ciencias

*Diccionario de Términos Jurídicos

*English-Spanish Banking Dictionary

*Gramática del Español