



- Our Summer Issue -

The MITA Reader

We're growing, learning

MITA president reports on goals, accomplishments

By Márcia de Mello Kuusisto

MITA President, 2003-04

One of our major goals, as we work to keep our organization alive and strong, is to increase the visibility of our members.

In the first half of 2004 we have accomplished much in this direction:

- *An improved website*; we hope to increase traffic to it and make it 'interactive' (members will be updating their own information);
- *Organization of our published directory*. The next steps will be to sign up advertisers, go to print, and place it in strategic hands;
- *Publication and distribution of our*

Next regular MITA meeting

August 7 - 3 p.m.

**Hackberry Creek Country Club
1901 Royal Lane, Irving**

newsletter, The MITA Reader.

Along with these efforts, we have had the privilege of learning more about other members' unique professional skills. Our bimonthly meetings enrich us, allow us to network, and teach us 'tricks of the trade.'

In our next phase of development, we will still be striving for

- Membership growth;
- Occasions to sharpen our professional skills;
- Opportunities to increase our business management knowledge, and of course,
- Continue to raise membership visibility.

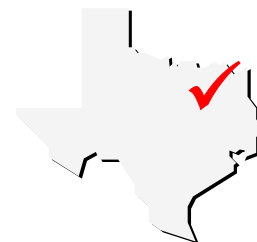
These are some of the tasks that we have before us and our dedicated Steering Committee has been faithfully working on these goals.

If you have an idea or if you would like to help, please feel free to send me an e-mail. I would love to hear from you!

(www.DynamoPort.com)

**METROPLEX INTERPRETERS
& TRANSLATORS
ASSOCIATION**

Serving DFW and North Texas



Volume 1, Issue 6

June-July, 2004

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Serra, Rodriguez continue to find new, helpful web sites for MITA members

Cody Serra shares a resource that looks very interesting! A recent gotranslators.com news email explains.

"More than two thousand free references have been added to the database which now contains more than 4000 URLs. GoTranslators now has the largest database of lexicological tools in the world.

To help you get the most out of this huge mass of references, we have written a set of short instructions which you will find at: <http://www.gotranslators.com/Dicohelp.php>

Feel free to make suggestions for new dictionaries and do please tell everyone you know about this resource. Access is free to everyone and even to transla-

tors or students who are not GoTranslators members can access them from the homepage at: <http://www.gotranslators.com/Public/ConsultEN.php>. We hope that this will help you as you go about your everyday work."

Anyone wishing to join this group may do so at **www.gotranslators.com**.

Another great site courtesy of Héctor Rodriguez:

**www.surefiresoftware.com/totalassistant/
provides a word counts for Excel and PowerPoint, as well as Word.**

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS — meet on second Saturday of odd months — at 3 pm at the home of Diana Ianariello.

Regular MITA Meeting August 7

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

July 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Steering committee
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Carpool, anyone?

Various MITA members are planning on attending the Regional Conference in Austin later this month; others are scheduled to sit for the ATA certification exam.

Should anyone wish to carpool or share a hotel room, please e-mail us and we will forward your name and email address to other interested parties.

editor@dfw-mita.com

August 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Regular meeting
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

HUMOR

Former USSR leader saw red over illogical idiom

In his entertaining book *Native Tongues* (London: Panther Books, 1984), Charles Berlitz relates an incident involving Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Krushchev when he visited the USA and the UN. During an interview on US television, the interviewer using an idiom to indicate that he thought the Soviet leader's statements were not logical, said that Krushchev was 'barking up the wrong tree.'

Krushchev's interpreter had some difficulty finding an equivalent Russian expression and told Krushchev that the interviewer had said he was 'baying like a hound.'

Krushchev was not amused, and quite a bit of explanation was needed before the misunderstanding was cleared up and the Soviet leader regained his calm.

(There is a Russian equivalent which refers to the *trepak*, a lively Ukrainian dance: "Cousin, you started the *trepak* on the wrong foot.")

Courtesy of www.theinterpretersfriend.com

Phillip Morris finds niche in patent translating

Meet your fellow MITAns

By John Shaw
Reader Co-Editor

Phillip M. Morris took advantage of a hitch in the Armed Services and paved his road into the field of freelance translating by getting his doctorate.



Morris

"I became interested in languages during a two-year stint in the U.S. Army when I was stationed in Germany," Phillip said. "With the G.I. Bill, I began study in Germany and have been involved with languages ever since."

He went on to obtain his Ph.D. in Germanic Linguistics from the University of Munich, Germany. He taught modern German and Germanic linguistics at several universities, including the University of North Carolina at Raleigh, Michigan State University and the University of Maryland.

Phillip later joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where he took and passed the one-year Patent Of-

fice Academy Training Program. He worked for the USPTO for 11 years before branching off as a freelancer, and now has four language pairs.

"I translate German, French, Dutch and Swedish to English," said Phillip, "and I currently specialize in patent translations."

He added that his work was done on a national level, from anywhere in the U.S.

Phillip joined MITA in 1998 to network and exchange ideas with his colleagues. He also belongs to the ATA, the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI) and the Austin Area Interpreters and Translators Association (AAITA).

He resides in north Dallas and enjoys ballroom dancing, playing the piano, art, and exploring the Internet.

Phillip M. Morris, Ph.D.

Freelance Patent Translator

German, French, Dutch, Swedish, to English
(trans88@aol.com)

Translation Journal: a valuable resource for related subjects

Héctor Rodríguez reminds us all of another great resource - the *Translation Journal*.

The current issue features articles about machine translation, cultural aspects of translation, translator test-

ing and evaluation, dictionary reviews, among other translation- and translator-related subjects and the traditional Translator Profile, Fire Ant and Worker Bee's translators' advice column, translators' tools, translators'

events, and much more.

As before, access is free. No registration is required and no personal data is requested or captured.

Visit the Translation Journal at <http://accurapid.com/journal>.

Directory nearing deadline

The Directory Committee has been working steadily toward publication of a MITA directory.

The directory will be distributed to chambers of commerce, health and medical centers, law firms, courts, and other organizations where our services may be needed.

At this point, two concurrent efforts are underway: first, to proofread all entries. The general membership will soon be invited to access a draft directory online and proof their entries.

Please be on the lookout for this, as the turnaround time will be short.

At the same time, we are seeking advertisers; in addition to outside advertisers, members are invited to consider advertising their own services.

Steering Committee met July 10

MITA's Steering Committee met Saturday, July 10, for the regularly scheduled meeting. Aside from the standard financial report and discussion of the directory (see Directory Committee report), the committee discussed upcoming meetings.

The next regular MITA Membership meeting and the Federal Court Interpreters Exam are scheduled for the same day.

As a courtesy to our members who will be taking the FCI exam, the presentation on current licensing and certification options will be rescheduled.

MITAns attending the August 7 meeting will have the pleasure of hearing Jerry Walker of Excelsior Language Center discuss accent reduction. Jerry and his business partner, Micheline Weishaupt, founded Excelsior Language Center in 2000. In addition to language training, interpreting and translation, Excelsior offers accent reduction courses, an area in which Jerry has considerable expertise.

Using spoken language interpreters in court

Seven tips for judges, attorneys who utilize court interpreters in trials

by **Buddy Strittmatter**,
Special to The Reader

Interpreter credentials are regulated.

In 1978, Congress passed Public Law 95-539 requiring spoken language interpreters in Federal Court to have Federal certification. In April 2001, the Texas Legislature passed a law requiring courts in counties with populations of 50,000 people or more to use state-licensed spoken language interpreters for civil or criminal proceedings.

Interpretation is spoken; translation is written.

They are similar but not interchangeable skills. A person takes one test to be licensed as an interpreter and a completely different one to become a certified translator. To some degree the translation test is the more difficult. Misused or missing diacritics (such as the accent marks in Spanish) can change the meaning of a word. Punctuation, grammar rules, and spelling conventions in other languages are different from English.

The register must be maintained.

“Register” refers to the level of formality or sophistication used in speech. The register must be kept equal in both the source language and the target language (The source language, or SL, is the language interpreted or translated from, while the target language, or TL, is the one interpreted or translated into.) If “big words” are used in English, then big words must be used in Spanish, Vietnamese, etc.

Word for word interpretation does not exist except in the simplest and shortest of sentences - and even then only by coincidence.

When a client requests a “word for word” interpretation, what he or she means is absolute exactitude, or as close as possible to that ideal. This does exist. In other words, the client wants every SL word

taken into consideration when the interpreter determines the SL meaning, and before the interpreter transposes that meaning into the TL (at the same register, as explained above.)

Interpreting requires a trained and capable professional.

If interpretation or translation were merely a matter of transposing words from one language to another, a computer could handle it. An interpreter or translator works with the *meaning* as expressed in the SL: the thoughts, ideas, and concepts, not individual words. It takes a trained, professional interpreter to hear a phrase or concept, comprehend the meaning, and accurately carry that meaning at the same register from the source to target language.

Accurately reflect the mood and language of the witness.

If a non-English speaking witness gives an answer that is nonresponsive, unintelligible, or incoherent, then the interpretation of that answer into English must be equally nonresponsive, unintelligible, or incoherent. *The interpreter absolutely may not explain, clarify or even comment. In addition,*

—Profanity in the SL must be equally profane in the TL.

—If the phraseology used in the SL is “down in the gutter,” then the TL interpretation must be “down in the gutter” as well.

—If the SL is expressed at a Ph.D. level, then the interpretation must be at a Ph.D. level as well.

Interpreter Fatigue. Rest time for simultaneous interpreters is very important. Studies conducted by the United Nations in New York, the Organization of American States in Washington D.C., and NATO in Belgium all indicate that continuous simultaneous interpretation in excess of 20 to 30 minutes tires the interpreter to where the error rate increases exponentially beyond that point. An interpreter may not even be aware that his

Buddy Strittmatter is an extensively experienced multi-certified interpreter and certified translator for the DFW area who has contributed greatly to MITA and the MITA newsletters of the past. He has developed his own training program for interpreters.

or her error rate has increased until hearing a tape recording later; then, upon comparison with the original version in the SL, the interpreter’s errors become self-evident. The answer to interpreter fatigue lies in team interpreting (two or more interpreters present, taking turns.)

Most Federal Courts, the U.S. State Department’s Language Services Office in Washington D.C. and the Superior Court of Los Angeles, California, among others, all recognize this characteristic of simultaneous interpretation. These entities use two interpreters at the defense table and a third at the witness stand.

My colleagues in San Antonio, Houston, Austin, Brownsville, El Paso, and other towns tell me the need for two interpreters is acknowledged by Texas State Courts as well, but lamentably has yet to be recognized by state judges in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Federal judges in Dallas/Ft. Worth, however, generally follow the recommendation of the Administrative Office of the US Courts and use two interpreters for trials of two days or more.

They do not tend to use team interpreting for brief proceedings, e.g., a plea, a sentencing, a preliminary hearing or similar short procedures.

Continuing education mandated for CLIs

By Carol Shaw
Reader Co-Editor

Any time the government casts its eye on the translation and interpreting industry, we need to sit up and pay attention. Whether the focus is interpreting or translation, judiciary or general, the result is an increased awareness of our industry overall.

MITA's John and Carol Shaw participated in the workshop convened June 7 and 8 by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) on new continuing education requirements for a variety of professions. Others in attendance at this Austin conference were Luis García, Konnie and Ernesto Garrido and Elva Escamilla, all from the DFW area; Olga Mencke and Iris Farias from San Antonio; and Cristina Helmerichs from Austin. Cristina Sánchez and Sofia León, also from Austin, joined us June 8.

Each group was given a set of guidelines and asked to propose a continuing education framework for their profession. As can be expected, there was no scarcity of opinions among the licensed court interpreters. Olga, Iris and Elva provided insight on the challenges facing exotic-language interpreters. Availability of resources and fields of study were discussed. Overall, the debate was lively and fruitful.

Recommendations made by the group to TDLR for licensed court interpreter continuing education were:

- 8 class-hours of continuing education should be required per year;
- Ethics should comprise 2 of the 8 hours;
- Areas of study should include (but not be limited to) interpreting, translation, cultural communications, literature, business applications, languages, writing and editing;
- Classes may be taken in person or online;
- Individuals failing to take the necessary classes should be given a grace period; continued failure to comply should result in sanctions, and ultimately in revocation of the license.

The next steps in this process fall to TDLR and education providers. TDLR will hold additional meetings which may modify the above recommendations. They must then establish and publish a set of rules for providers. After publication of the rules, those wishing to provide continuing education must apply to become recognized by TDLR before offering their courses to the members of any given profession.

Because of these intervening steps, licensed court interpreters can expect a delay of several months before any specific requirements are put in place. We are assured by TDLR that ample notice will be given so that interpreters can begin accumulating their needed CE hours.

From the 'Net: three words you can't translate

One thousand linguists were surveyed to find out the world's most difficult words to translate.

They came up with three.

Ilunga

Language: Tshiluba from the south-eastern area of Congo

Meaning: a person who is ready to

forgive any abuse for the first time, to tolerate it a second time, but never a third time.

Shlimazi

Language: Yiddish

Meaning: a chronically unlucky person.

Naa

Language: Japanese from the Kansai area of Japan

Meaning: to emphasize statements or agree with someone.

—courtesy of Marilyn Retta

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.

Ongoing Onsite Translator needed in N. Dallas - 40 hours per week. Contact Kristin Costanzo, The Creative Group, 214-855-9310, email kristin.costanzo@creativegroup.com

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

TAJIT, TAMI forming statewide organizations

By Carol Shaw

Reader Co-Editor

MITA, AATIA, HITA, EPITA, NAJIT, ATA and ALTA. Now add TAJIT and TAMI to the plethora of acronyms to keep in mind.

TAJIT: Interest in creating the Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators has been given added impetus by state licensing legislation.

The primary purpose of TAJIT is simple: to provide a single, focused body that represents and serves judiciary interpreters and translators with regard to legislation and continued education. It would also provide a state-wide databank of interpreters and translators. Luis Garcia (Collin Co.) has graciously taken the lead with NAJIT, supported actively by a growing group of judiciary interpreters and translators. Every

judge, attorney and legislator broached to date has offered encouragement and support. If you are interested in helping or would like to learn more, you are invited to join the TAJIT mailing list at groups.yahoo.com/group/tajit/.

TAMI: Created to meet the need for unity in purpose, procedures and ethics in medical interpreting, TAMI is open to all medical interpreters in the state of Texas. While there is no licensing or certification requirement for medical interpreting in Texas at this time, members of this specialty can do much to help each other maintain the highest of standards. Education opportunities for medical interpreting are usually available at conferences, such as the Regional Conference to be hosted later this month by AATIA and HITA in Austin.

Those interested in joining TAMI should contact Tricia Yacovone, at payacovone@aol.com.

Several members take time to attend picnic

Gill gives presentation on educational opportunities through Dallas Co. Community College District

By Carol Shaw

Reader Co-Editor

Despite the busy time of year, several MITAns gathered on June 5 to enjoy brisket, desserts, and a great presentation on the opportunities for continuing education offered by our local community colleges.

Melanie Gill, the Coordinator of Resource & Community Development for Eastfield College, provided information on the Dallas County

Community College District options and costs for classes ranging from financial management to literature to office software. The Bill Priest Institute, part of the DCCCD, offers excellent resources to small and start-up businesses at very affordable rates. Information was also available for the Tarrant County College District.

We were also privileged to have several visitors. Karen Sharp introduced Batya Brand, who counts Hebrew, Russian and English among her

multiple languages. Mary Paz, a friend of Diana Schultz's, was also present with her family. Mary is newly entering the field and found the camaraderie and free-flowing information encouraging. Both ladies are considering joining MITA.

After-dinner entertainment was provided by Karin Nicole Kuusisto and her friend Lindsey Frutell; in keeping with the international flavor of the day, the two young ladies performed a dance to a French tune.

Upcoming events:

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

- July 10:** —ATA Medical Translation and Interpreting seminar, Minneapolis, MN
- July 30-31:** —AATIA/HITA, Austin. Regional Conference, TAJIT/TAMI meetings.
Program available on the MITA website (Calendar).
- August 1:** —ATA Certification Exam, Austin (follows Regional Conference.)
- August 7:** —MITA General Meeting (Speaker Jerry Walker on Accent Reduction)
- August 10:** —ATA Business Seminar, Seattle, WA.
- August 14:** —ATA certification exam sitting in Houston, Texas.
- October 25-26:** —National Center for State Courts, Interpreter Workshops.
Program available on the MITA website (Calendar).