



The MITA Reader

It's beginning to look like party

FOX4's Jeff Crilley is keynote speaker at Dec. 4 MITA fete

By Carol Shaw
Reader Co-Editor

December 4 and the MITA Christmas party are almost upon us! Mark your calendars for that Saturday evening, and plan on joining us. Guests are more than welcome! MITA will subsidize the cost of the dinner, so attendees need only pay \$10 per person.

Emmy Award winning TV reporter **Jeff Crilley** will be our guest speaker. Crilley has appeared on CNN, CNN Headline News, FOX News, Good Morning America and numerous other shows over the past two decades. In addition to the Emmy, he has received the National Headliners Award, Edward R. Murrow Award, and Thurgood Marshall Award - and was recently named "The Best TV Reporter" statewide, by the Texas Associated Press.

Crilley has also written a book on

MITA Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 4
7 to 10 p.m.

Mi Cocina Restaurant

7750 N. MacArthur, Irving

—Food and beverages—

—Keynote speaker Jeff Crilley—

—Silent auction—

—\$10 per person—

publicity and media exposure, and will speak to MITAns about ways to publicize and market one's business. He has generously agreed to donate a copy of the book and his CD to our silent auction.

We will be having a silent auction during the Christmas party where items donated by MITAns, agencies and advertisers will help raise funds for MITA educational program scheduled for next year.

METROPLEX INTERPRETERS
& TRANSLATORS
ASSOCIATION

Serving DFW and North Texas



Volume 1, Issue 8

November, 2004

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Directories are printed, ready to distribute

Our 2004-2005 directories are back from the printers and are ready to be distributed to MITAns and the targets of their choice.

MITAns need to sign up for copies, indicating how many and where they will be distributed, in order to avoid an overlap.

Each member has been sent a personal copy of the directory. We have also sent copies to all those great companies who helped us print the directory with the purchase of advertising space.

The directories will be available at the Dec. 4 Christmas Party and future meetings. For all other times, members will need to send postage paid envelopes to the Treasurer for mail out. Notify Carol Shaw at cshaw@nexuslanguage.com

MITA Resource Center

Ever need to find out what an acronym means?
www.acronymfinder.com is a free site that can tell you the difference between an RBI and an RBC.

Did you do your dues?

We're having a sale on MITA renewals! Anyone submitting their renewal payment for 2005 dues may do so at \$35 for individuals, \$45 for companies - but only up until Dec 4.

After that, it goes back up to \$40 for individuals and \$50 for companies.

Treasurer Carol Shaw will even be prepared to accept dues payments at the Christmas party!

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

MITA regular meeting and Christmas Party Dec. 4!!!

For directions, go to www.dfw-mita.com

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

U. of Arizona now offers court, medical interpreter practice tapes

The National Center for Interpretation at the University of Arizona has developed self-study materials that may be of interest to MITAn court and medical interpreters.

As their website (nci.arizona.edu) announces, “The University of Arizona Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation has developed a new series of practice audiotapes for court interpreting, INTERPRE-TAPES®. The Interpretapes® are available for both medical and court venues. Three different volumes are

offered for court interpreting, ranging from general courtroom interpreting, to expert testimony and formulaic court language.

At this time, only Volume 1 of the medical Interpretapes® is available, but the series will be developed further, according to an announcement on the website.

NCI also offers practice FCICE exams, courses and other services of interest to interpreters.

HUMOR

Alas, poor Carmen was a revolting cigar-makeress

The following is an extract from a synopsis of *Carmen*, thoughtfully provided some years ago by the Paris Opera for the benefit of its English and American patrons:

“*Carmen is a cigar-makeress from a tabago factory who loves with Don Jose of the mounting guard. Carmen takes a flower from her corsets and lances it to Don Jose (Duet: 'Talk me of my mother'). There is a noise inside the tabago factory and the revolting cigar-makeress bursts into the stage. Carmen is arrested and Don Jose is ordered to mounting guard her but Carmen subduces him and he lets her escape.*

ACT 2. *The Tavern. Carmen, Frasquita, Mercedes, Zuniga, Morales. Carmen's aria ('the sistrums are tinkling'). Enter Escamillio, a balls-fighter. Enter two smugglers (Duet: 'We have in mind a business') but Carmen refuses to penetrate because Don Jose has liberated from prison. He just now arrives (Aria: 'Slop, here who comes!') but hear are the bugles singing his retreat. Don Jose will leave and draws his sword. Called by carmen shrieks the two smugglers interfere with her but Don Jose is bound to dessert, he will follow into them (final chorus: 'Opening sky wandering life')...*

ACT 3, *a place in Seville. Procession of balls-fighters, the roaring of the balls heard in the arena. Escamillio enters. (Aria and chorus: 'Toreador, toreador, All hail the balls of a Toreador'.) Enter Don Jose (ARIA: I do not threaten, I besooch you'.) but Carmen repels him wants to join with Escamillio now chaired by the crowd. Don Jose stabs her (Aria: 'Oh rupture, rupture, you may arrest me, I did kill her') he sings 'Oh my beautiful Carmen, my subductive Carmen...' “*

- courtesy of The Interpreter's Friend

Diana Schultz 'spins web' of translation

Meet your fellow MITAns

By John Shaw
Reader Co-Editor

Diana Schultz has found a unique niche in the translating field and has been a big boost for MITA. She designed, hosts and maintains the association's web site, dfw-mita.com.

Diana was a social worker until she decided to branch out.

"I had always done translating for medical and social cases as a part of my duty in those fields," Diana said. "I was surfing the internet one evening, found a link to Keen.com, and thought I'd give translation a try. It was a good idea."

Diana has been a freelance translator for more than 10 years. She is a native Spanish and English speaker. She currently owns and operates DTS Web Development, through which she designs, hosts and maintains web sites for clients of all kinds. The business was established four years ago.

She received her BAAS Degree from International A&M University in Laredo in 1990 with a double major in English and history and entered the social work field upon graduation.

Diana is certified by Language Line in medical, financial and insurance interpreting.

Most of her translation work is nationwide, but she does have local clients as well.

Diana has a much-in-demand trans-



Diana Schultz

lation ability.

"I prefer to work medical or social service cases," she said. "I am medically certified and translation just expanded my career in the health field."

Diana is married and resides in Rockwall. They have two sons, Alex, 19, a freshman at Texas A&M-Commerce and Andy, a junior at Rockwall High School. Diana serves as the Communications Chair for the Rockwall ISD PTA and is active in the Academic Booster Club.

She has been a member of MITA for two years. "I joined MITA to network with other professionals in the field," she said. "And I really enjoy that interaction."

Diana Schultz

Translator/Web Developer

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MITAn shares experience of ATA Certification

By María J. Elizalde-Honaman
ATA Certified Translator

For years the ATA has offered a certification exam in translation. This test, although not necessary to obtain employment as a translator, is meant to determine the translator's proficiency of the target language and examine the translator's ability to render a functional translation.

Although the August 2004 issue of the ATA Chronicle had an excellent and in-depth article about the certification exam, I will attempt to summarize some of the most important factors to keep in mind about the test and some tried and true suggestions.

First of all, if you are just beginning your career as a translator, you may want to consider waiting some time before attempting to take the test. Professional translation requires professional translation skills. These skills are usually acquired with experience. Because of the time constraints (3 hours) and the fact that the exam must be written by hand, the candidate should feel comfortable about the transla-

tion skills developed prior to taking the test. If you fail, it will be necessary to wait a year before being able to retake the exam.

The certification test is an open book exam administered by a proctor. The exam consists of three passages of approximately 225-275 words each. One of the passages, in the general category, is mandatory. The candidate is then given the choice between one passage in the fields of science/technology/medicine and another passage in the fields of law/business/finance. At least two passages must meet ATA certification standards. The skills evaluated are: comprehension of the source text, knowledge of translation skills and writing in the target language.

Here are some pointers that proved to be useful to me:

- Pay close attention to the translation instructions at the beginning of each passage. These instructions may specify the source of the text and other important information that relates to the purpose of the passage and the audience involved.
- Take the time to read the entire

source text carefully. Do not try to start the translation immediately. This way you can make sure that you fully understand the source text and if in doubt, you can always choose another passage more suitable to your skills. You may have time to translate three passages and therefore improve your chances of passing two out of the three. But remember, it is better to provide two quality translations than three mediocre ones.

- Make sure that your translation is functional and appropriate for the context specified in the instructions. In order to produce a functional translation, it may be necessary to deviate from the wording of the source. Do not assume that a literal translation is acceptable!
- Be aware of Anglicisms or false cognates. Double-check the meaning and usage of a given word with a monolingual dictionary to be certain.
- Use dictionaries appropriately and efficiently. Dictionaries sometimes

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Input needed for meeting times, locations

By Carol Shaw
Reader Co-Editor

The MITA Steering Committee has been busy making plans for 2005 and really needs feedback from the membership.

The suggestion has been made that MITA meet monthly. In the odd-numbered months, we would still have a business/informational meeting at the usual, fixed location. Then in the even-numbered months, we

could have an informal gather for dinner (each person pays their own), midweek. These informal dinner gatherings would be in restaurants around the metroplex, each month in a different area. If this were organized, would you attend? And would you like to help organize the dinners in your area?

Please e-mail the steering committee and let us know how these ideas appeal to you.

editor@dfw-mita.com

MITAns attend ATA Conference

Toronto was graced with the presence of MITAns Mies de Vries, Inna Oslon, Lee Penya, Martha Villarreal, Maria Elizalde Honaman, Arlette and Yves Quervel at the American Translators Association Annual Conference, last

month. We will be hearing more reports from our colleagues about the ATA Conference this year.

Any MITA translators not also members of the ATA are encouraged to check them out (www.ata-net.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 4, 2004

MITA Christmas Party!

January 8, 2005

Steering Committee Meeting

Profiles needed

One of the more popular features of The MITA Reader is the "Meet your fellow MITAns" profile.

We need nominees for the column, or even volunteer yourself. Nominees will need to have a headshot photograph, a resume and a completed questionnaire. It is perfectly acceptable to nominate yourself!

We will attempt to publish 15 or more profiles throughout the year.

Lingva Prismo offers linguistic forum; debaters welcome

MITA Secretary Karen Sharp passes on an introduction to an interesting new online forum.

Lingva Prismo (<http://www.lingvo.info/?lingvo=en>) is a multilingual website for and about languages. Each month members discuss different current linguistic issues in a forum "Topic of the Month" <http://www.lingvo.info/foro>

[lingvo.info/foro](http://www.lingvo.info/foro) International organizations rely on the services of translators and interpreters to provide full communication to all parties. The European Union aims to provide documentation of all proceedings in the 20 official EU languages, which means a total of 190 language combinations are possible. However, the Euro-

pean Commission has an 80 percent deficit. Lingva Prismo discusses the topic of translators and interpreters, as one means of international communication.

The November topic is: *Could the use of translators/interpreters be a realistic SOLE solution for international communication?*

MITAn gives tips on ATA Certification

provide many possible translations for the same term. Any given word should relate correctly to the source context. You don't need to bring a suitcase loaded with books. Remember, time is limited.

- Play close attention to the style of the source text and use the same stylistic approach in your target language. Think about the context. Ask yourself: Does the translation make sense?
- Check, double check and triple check the grammar. Make sure that gender, prepositions, capitalization, punctuation, etc. are adequate.
- Check the spelling. This is especially vital since most of us are used to relying on an electronic spell-checker to do part of the work for us. You are the electronic spell-checker in this exam!

And finally, the most important pointer that I have to offer:

- Seriously consider taking the practice test offered by the ATA. The exam (\$160) is not returned to the candidate, and only

provides a final result or grade with no comments from the graders. On the other hand, the practice test, which is a passage from previous years in the same areas listed for the certification exam (\$40 per passage), gives you the opportunity to receive feedback since the practice test is returned to the candidate. Look carefully at the corrections on the practice test. Hone-in on your weaknesses. Take this opportunity to critically evaluate your skills and determine, based on the grader's feedback, your chances for passing the certification exam.

In conclusion, the ATA certification exam is a tool that we can use to improve our translating skills and further our careers. Take the challenge; arm yourself with knowledge and skills, and good luck! For more information about the ATA certification exam, go to:

www.atanet.org/bin/view.pl/285.html

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