



## It's no Trick—October brings a double Treat

**By Carol Shaw**  
MITA Editor

On October 7, 2006, MITAns will receive double benefit, with presentations by both John Honoman and Sean Cutter.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m., Honoman will offer an hour of instruction and explanation of Microsoft's Excel program, which many of us use for anything from invoicing to client translations.

Following this technical assistance program, will be a talk by Professor Sean Cotter on the importance of translators in culture, and the importance of

practice over theory. A widely published translator of Romanian literature, Cutter is a professor at the University of Texas in Dallas.

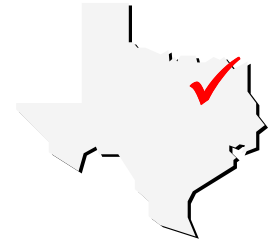
To learn more about our special speakers, please see page 3.

**October 7, 2006**

**John Honoman—Excel  
Sean Cotter—Translation and Culture  
2:30—5:00 p.m.  
Hackberry Creek Country Club  
1901 Royal Lane, Irving**

**METROPLEX INTERPRETERS  
& TRANSLATORS  
ASSOCIATION**

*Serving DFW and North Texas*



**Volume 3, Issue 4**

**August-September, 2006**

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*From the Editor:*

*My apologies for the delay in getting the Reader out. Life sometimes has a way of interfering. This issue includes a report by Luis García on the NAJIT Conference in Houston, this past summer. Even though the conference has passed, I am still running the article—with apologies and heartfelt thanks to Luis—as an excellent reminder of the benefit that conferences and seminars provide to working translators and interpreters.*

## Texas Takes the Stage

*Letter to MITA from Luis García*

This past May 19-21, 2006 the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) held its annual conference at the JW Marriott Galleria in Houston, Texas.

As usual, attendance was solid but this year was a special time for Texas Licensed Court Interpreters (LCI's). It was the first time the national conference was held on Texas soil.

Featured speakers came from the U.S. Department of Defense, SAKHI for South Asian Women, the Administrative Office of State Courts and numerous other organizations. Seminars and workshops offered a wide

range of training and information: simultaneous interpreting; security for court interpreters; preparation for the federal court interpreters' exam; workman's compensation hearings; domestic violence and interpreting; and assumptions of accuracy, just to name a few.

Hosting the conference in Texas allowed a number of Texas LCI's to attend for the first time while also parking the launch—in a national forum—of the Texas Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (TAJIT), which has been in existence since April 30, 2005.

To date, there are seventy-one members of TAJIT and

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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 October 7**

Join us for lively discussions and shared information! For directions, go to [www.dfw-mita.com](http://www.dfw-mita.com)



September 4: Labor Day  
 September 23: start of Rosh Hashanah  
 September 24: start of Ramadan  
 September 30: International Translator Day  
 October 7: MITA  
 October 9: Columbus Day (observed)  
 October 29: Daylight Savings Time ends  
 October 31: Hallowe'en

September 2006						
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

October 2006						
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				

*Upcoming events:*

- October 7:** —MITA Meeting *John Honoman/Sean Cotter*
- October 18-21:** -American Literary Translators Association, Annual Conference (Seattle)
- October 21:** -HITA quarterly meeting (Houston)
- November 1-4:** -American Translators Association, Annual Conference (New Orleans)
- November 3-5:** -International Federation of Translators Forum (Zurich, Switzerland)
- November 11:** -AATIA member meeting (Austin)
- December 2:** -MITA Annual Christmas Party

## Meet our Speakers for October 7

### Mr. John Honoman

**John Honoman** knows all about the administrative challenges faced by translators and interpreters. He is married to MITA member and ATA certified translator **Maria Elizalde**. On October 7, Honoman will provide MITAns with a brief training seminar on the use of Microsoft Excel® to handle invoicing, tracking payments, revenues and expenses and even completing those IRS forms we all get visited by in the Spring.

Honoman is presently the Director of Stewardship & Development for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. Having served previously as the first Executive Director of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs and also in various positions of increasing responsibility with the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, Honoman's career in non-profit management is now in its 20th year.

In addition to being fluent in Spanish, French, Portuguese, Honoman is conversant in Italian and holds an MBA in Marketing from Michigan State University.

John and Maria Honoman have two daughters, Angela Belén and Dianna Isabel.

### Professor Sean Cotter

The translator's role in culture is a familiar one to Professor **Sean Cotter**. A widely published translator of Romanian literature, Cotter is also a specialist in American and Romanian Modernisms.

His research interests include international literary movements, the historical roles of translators, the legacy of the avant-garde for Translation Studies, and the Soviet colonization of Romania.

Among his achievements, Cotter has translated *Second-Hand Souls: Selected Writings of Nichita Danilov* (Twisted Spoon, 2003) and *Goldsmith Market* by Liliana Ursu (Zephyr Press, 2003). He has also co-translated and co-edited *Singular Destinies: Contemporary Poets of Bessarabia* (with Adam Sorkin and Cristina Cîrstea, Ed. Cartier, 2003) and *Dinner at the Table of Silence: Poets from Gorj* (with Liliana Ursu, Ed. Clusium, 2002).

His articles and translations have appeared in journals such as *Massachusetts Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Xavier Review*, *The Comparatist*, *Mantis*, and *Conjunctions*.

In addition to the importance of translators in culture, Cotter will address the importance of actual, working translation vs. translation theory.

## Update on Website

Please be patient with us; our website is being redesigned and in the interim some items may not get updated quickly. We'll keep you posted about developments with the new site!

## Look what you missed in August!

Just how would **you** translate or interpret a reference to bathroom events, intimate relations, or someone passing away?

With an equivalent euphemism? In blunt language? Making certain adjustments, as needed, to fit the target language's cultural demands? We use euphemisms to avoid speaking directly about something that is embarrassing, painful or in some other way unacceptable to us. But now do we best approach them in translation?

On August 5th, **Peter Unseth**, Assistant Professor at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, led MITAns in a frank and often amusing exploration of euphemisms and how to handle them

in translation or interpretation.

As Unseth pointed out, much depends on the target culture: some things that require euphemisms in the source culture may be openly discussed in the target culture. It is the language professional's job to know which is which.

On the other hand, euphemisms may reflect the speaker/writer's level of education, emotions, personal background, etc., aspects which also must be reflected in the translation.

To learn more about Peter Unseth's approach to euphemisms, see the February 2006 issue of the *ATA Chronicle*.

## *A Blessing for International Translators' Day*

May your projects come with deadlines  
two days longer than you need;

May your invoices, both large and small,  
be paid with lightening speed.

May all your clients sing your praise;

May all your verbs agree;

May computer, fax and modem  
interface in harmony.

May all your dictionaries

and every reference book

hold exactly what you're looking for  
the first time that you look.

And may you always have a little

time to leave the desk to play -

Happy St. Jerome's to everyone,

and have a blessed day.

-C Shaw 093006

## Celebrating Translator's Day

Thanks to the efforts of Mariana Peterson, several MITAns gathered at Gloria's on Lemmon Avenue, to celebrate International Translator's Day on September 29.

Ed and Marilyn Retta, Yoli Rivera and Tomás Ayala-Torres, Emilia Lara and husband, Cody Serra and Mariana enjoyed the time together. Ed Retta also enjoyed winning a raffle: a Furgle (a hairy green monster CD/DVD holder.)

we are growing.

It is our sincere hope that many more LCI's will join, in order to also provide them with a source of Continuing Education that will comply with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) annual licensing requirements.

This association is also open to anyone not yet licensed but who is interested in pursuing a realistic career in judicial interpreting and translation.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank Carol Shaw for her tireless contribution to the formation of TAJIT, and to also recognize her wonderful husband John, whose positive and infectious enthusiasm and writing skills before his passing helped launch this organization into what it is today.

To find out more about TAJIT, please visit us at [www.tajit.org](http://www.tajit.org). And if you feel this profession is for you, contact any of us on the Board of Directors. We will be glad to help.

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*Luis Garcia is a licensed court interpreter, and a member of MITA, NAJIT and TAJIT. In fact, it was Luis' vision that first kickstarted TAJIT; it seems only fitting, then, that Luis was elected Chairman of TAJIT. Luis' company, Cross Cultural Concepts, serves Collin County and elsewhere in Texas.*

*The editor wishes to extend her personal thanks to Luis for his kind words and in particular, his much-appreciated memory of John Shaw.*

## Court Interpreter Continuing Education

Several resources are being established around the State for those interpreters needing to obtain CEs for renewal of their licenses. MITA members involved in this effort are:

Access Language Center  
(taught by Carol Shaw, MITA member)  
Contact: Gerda Stendell  
Website: [www.accesslc.net](http://www.accesslc.net)

Berkana Language Center (MITA member)  
Contact: Eta Trabing  
Website: [www.eberkana.com](http://www.eberkana.com)

Masterword Services (MITA member)  
Contact: Jorge Ungo  
Website: [www.masterword.com](http://www.masterword.com)

*(Note: While Berkana and Masterword are located in Houston, they do serve the Dallas Metroplex as well. Contact them for local dates.)*

*If anyone knows of any other groups offering this services, please let me know! [editor@dfw/mita.com](mailto:editor@dfw/mita.com)*