



# inforMATION

issue 5      spring 2005

---

---

## Exciting lineup of MATI events scheduled for 2005!

- April 16, 2005**      **MATI Wisconsin Meeting and Workshop at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee**, "Translation in a Manufacturing Environment", 1:30 to 4 pm. Guest Speaker: Betsy McDowell. For further information please contact Madeleine Velguth at [mvelguth@milwpc.com](mailto:mvelguth@milwpc.com), or check the calendar section of our website at [www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org).
- May 13, 2005**      **MATI Illinois Meeting and Networking Reception, place TBA, 4:30 to 6:30 pm.** "The Interpreter's Guide to the Vehicular Accident Lawsuit" --Revelations of A Case Style. Guest Speaker: Diane E. Teichman. Upcoming details soon in the Calendar section of our website, at [www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org).
- June 24-26**      **University of Arizona Federal Court Interpreter Certification Prep Course, DePaul University.** Three full days of instruction and language lab practice with Anthony Rivas, FCICE certified faculty member from the University's National Center for Interpretation. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Early Bird Discount by May 24, 2005. For further information please contact Moira Pujols at [mpujols@matiata.org](mailto:mpujols@matiata.org), or check upcoming details in the Calendar section in April, at [www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org). Please make a note of this new date. The prep course was previously scheduled for July 8-10.
- July 9-10**      **American Translators Association full day professional seminar with Jost Zetsche in Chicago** on CAT tools and MATI's Annual General Membership Meeting and presentations. New board members will be installed at this meeting. Check the ATA's website at [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org) for details.
- September 15-18**      **MATI's Second Annual Conference at DePaul University.** Two-day conference interpreting seminar with renowned conference interpreter Georganne Weller to precede the main conference. Seminar will require additional registration, and it will be limited to 15 participants. Look for further information on the calendar section of our website in May.

### Other Professional Events of Interest:

- April 9, 2005**      **"Le Mot Juste--The Promise and Peril of Translation"** A one-day conference at the Alliance Francaise, organized by the France-Chicago Center of the University of Chicago. Call 312 337-1070 for information.

# Contents

- 1 Exciting lineup of MATI events scheduled for 2005!
- 2 Call for Nominations
- 3 Workshop: Translation in a Manufacturing Environment
- 4 Report on the Indiana Commission on Health Interpreters and Translators  
Montserrat Zuckermann
- 5 Taking the Long View of Translation at the Beginning of 2005  
Ann Huehls
- 7 First Conference of Iowa Interpreters & Translators Association Announced
- 7 Ethics for Interpreters in Health Care  
Enrica J. Ardemagni, Ph.D.
- 9 "The Beginning of Wisdom: Some practical aspects of technical translation"  
Tom Bonsett
- 12 Upcoming Event
- 13 IJET-16 Chicago
- 14 Resources for Translators and Interpreters

April 10<sup>th</sup> deadline approaching ~

## Call for Nominations

A nominating committee of Madeleine Velguth and myself, Janice Becker, has been formed to lead the search for candidates for MATI office. Other MATI members are invited to join the Nominating Committee as well, to help us find talented members and invite them to become candidates. Our duties are important but far less time-consuming than holding office, so please contact us if you'd like to help. (Members of the Nominating committee cannot run for office, however.)

According to MATI bylaws, "[terms of] office shall be two years except that the Vice President and the Secretary will serve terms of one year the first year of existence of the Association and two-year terms thereafter." For that reason, we are now seeking candidates for the offices of vice president and secretary. Two non-officer directorships are also open at this time. Current board members whose terms are expiring are eligible to run for a second term.

According to our bylaws, "The Vice President shall assist the President and perform his or her duties in the President's absence, incapacity or removal. The Vice President shall also be an ex-officio member of all committees....The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and general meetings, for disseminating the minutes and keeping all records pertaining to all meetings, regular and emergency, and shall be in charge of correspondence and announcements of meetings of the Association." The Vice President must be an active member of ATA but membership in MATI suffices for all other positions that are open.

The Board is defined as “the highest authority of the Association,” having “the power to manage its property and govern its affairs,” including advising and overseeing the activities of the executive officers.

Behind these words, however, lies the reality that MATI depends on its officers and board members for imagination and energy and the ability to draw on the diverse talents of all MATI members to help the organization grow and meet its members’ changing needs. Have you ever had an idea for a local program you’d love to see? Or wondered why MATI didn’t organize a particular educational activity? Then maybe you should be on the Board! We can guarantee you will meet a lot of people in our professions and beyond, learn a great deal in the process, and gain immeasurably in the process.

As a tri-state organization, the MATI nominating committee has the additional task of seeking candidates that reflect our geographical distribution too. So we hope all our members will give serious consideration to running or suggest other members they think have a lot to contribute. Yes, this is a commitment of time and energy and the organization will benefit from your investment. But we can say from our own experience, those who volunteer will benefit as well.

The terms for the elected officers will run from our Annual General Membership Meeting on July 10th, 2005 until July 2007. The deadline for submission of candidate names is April 10th, and ballots with a complete list of candidates will be sent to MATI members with voting instructions April 20th. Announcement of the elected board members will be made in time for the new board members to observe the May 2005 meeting, the last of this current board.

To throw your hat in the ring—or someone else’s—please contact Madeleine Velguth at [velguth@milwpc.com](mailto:velguth@milwpc.com) or Janice Becker at [gabtemail@ameritech.net](mailto:gabtemail@ameritech.net).

## MATI Regular Member Meeting & Workshop at UW-Milwaukee

# Translation in a Manufacturing Environment

That’s the topic at the next MATI regular meeting, to be held on April 16, 2005, at the campus of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. The guest speaker will be Betsy McDowell, who has worked in the technical writing field since 1978. She cut her technical writing teeth in laser optics and spectroscopy at MIT, and her other credits include internal editor at Ashland Oil, and documentation specialist for Lode Star Computers. She is currently a technical writer for Paper Converting Machine Company in Green Bay, WI and is working on a Masters of Engineering degree in technical Japanese through the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ms. McDowell is an active member of the Society for Technical Communication.

The MATI meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Ms. McDowell’s presentation, which will be followed by a break for networking between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. But that’s not all. Madeleine Velguth has organized a session of workshopping a text in language-specific breakout groups, which will meet from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. All the action will be at Curtin Hall, Room 118, and if you have any other questions, please contact Madeleine at [mavelguth@milwpc.com](mailto:mavelguth@milwpc.com). MATI members attend for free; the charge for non-members is \$10.

# Report on the Indiana Commission on Health Interpreters and Translators

By Montserrat Zuckermann

In 2003, the Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC), a not-for-profit agency, brought to the attention of the Indiana legislature the fact that many hospitals and health care facilities in the state are not in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) guidelines against “discrimination of persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP)” who receive federally-funded health care services. The OCR guidance was drafted in the year 2000 and updated in 2003 when wording as to the use of competent interpreters and translators was added.

IMHC first lobbied for the state to create a certification program for health care interpreters and translators and was successful in attracting the support of members of key committees of the legislature. The legislature deemed that the matter should be the subject of further study before a certification program could be established and in 2004 passed House Enrolled Act No. 1350 (P.L. 61–200), which was signed by then governor Joe Kernan. P.L. 61–2004 establishes the Indiana Commission on Health Interpreters and Translators; its purpose is to recommend the “level and type of education necessary to perform the job of (A) health care interpreter and (B) A health care translator” and to “recommend standards that said professionals should meet to practice in Indiana.”

The Indiana Commission on Health Interpreters and Translators has now held the first of five Town Hall meetings that will take place throughout the state before the end of the summer. The purpose of the meetings is to publicize the work of the

Commission, educate the public, and seek input from the general public.

The first meeting of the Commission took place in the rural northern Indiana town of Logansport, where the Hispanics make up 12.5% of the population according to the 2000 census and where Hispanic students represent between 15 and 30% of the student body in the elementary schools. It was hosted by Logansport Memorial Hospital, whose president and CEO, Brian Shockney, is a member of the commission. There were about 20 people from the general public in attendance, mainly employees and providers associated with the hospital, as well as several members of the commission and representatives of the Indiana Health Department, the state agency under whose auspices the commission functions.

The subjects of compliance with OCR guidelines and language proficiency generated most of the questions and took center stage in the discussion that followed the presentation.

MATI members have been actively involved since the beginning of this process. Currently, the president of the Commission is Dr. Enrica Ardemagni, a MATI board member. MATI members Bill Zart, Connie Floerchinger and José Lusende are also members of the commission, and Marta Rainero is one of two ad-hoc members. Among the proofreaders of the final report were MATI members Montserrat Zuckerman, Carol Paddock and Disa Jernudd.

Participation in these meetings is open to anyone. MATI members are especially encouraged to attend as the recommendations of the Commission will have an impact on our profession. To view the Commission's Report of Findings and Recommendations, go to: [www.in.gov/legislative/igareports/agency/reports/HCIT01.pdf](http://www.in.gov/legislative/igareports/agency/reports/HCIT01.pdf).

Future Town Hall Meetings  
are scheduled for:

- April 15:** 9-11 AM Indianapolis  
United Way  
**August 26:** South Bend, Indiana; details  
pending  
**September:** Gary, Indiana  
**TBA:** Community Hospital East in  
Indianapolis

For information about future Town Hall meetings, contact Enrica Ardemagni at [eardema@iupui.edu](mailto:eardema@iupui.edu)

Language Proficiency Tests mentioned at the Town Hall meeting included:

**TOEFL:** Test of English as a Foreign Language administered by ETS

**DELE:** Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera administered by the Instituto Cervantes <http://www.dele.org/dele/index.asp>

**OPI:** Oral Proficiency Interviews administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

---

*Montserrat Zuckerman has been a freelance translator and interpreter for the past six years. She is currently MATI secretary, a post from which she will step down in June. She has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of serving on the MATI board and looks forward to serving the organization in other capacities. She lives in Indiana and can be reached at [Montsezuck@ameritech.net](mailto:Montsezuck@ameritech.net).*

Presentation by Dr. Peter Krawutschke

# Taking the Long View of Translation at the Beginning of 2005

Reported by Ann Huehls

**M**ATI was honored to have Dr. Peter Krawutschke deliver the keynote address on "Translation at the Beginning of 2005: A Look at the Present, Past, and Future of Translation in the U.S." at our February 26, 2005, event in Indianapolis. During his address, Dr. Krawutschke reflected on his own experiences while discussing the developments already made in the fields of translation and interpretation and what is to come in the future as these fields continue to grow and gain recognition. Dr. Krawutschke is currently Professor of German at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he founded and served as director of the university's Translation Center. He has been a member of the ATA since 1971 and served as president of the ATA from 1995 to 1997. Now an honorary member of the ATA, he is the association's representative to the International Federation of Translators (FIT), an international organization of translators of which the ATA is a member with 80 other countries. In his service to FIT, he acted initially as FIT's secretary general and is presently its treasurer. Dr. Krawutschke also serves as president of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (AFTI), a program he founded that provides academic scholarships to students in translation and interpretation programs. Time permitting, he still translates automotive and paper manufacturing texts from German into English.

In his address, Dr. Krawutschke discussed the past, present, and future of translation in terms of its role in the translation community, education, and the world. Over

time, the growth and expansion of existing organizations and the establishment of new groups in the translation and interpreting community help to gain recognition for the professionals working in these fields. The expansion of the ATA and the founding of local chapters, such as MATI, further illustrate the increasing number of professionals over the years and the ever present need for the support and recognition of these individuals. In 1971, the year Dr. Krawutschke attended his first ATA Conference with 180 other members, the association had a total of 800 members. Today the ATA has grown to have over 9,000 members and will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2009 in New York City. The ATA is one of many groups that offer support in one or more aspects of translation and interpretation. Groups such as AFTI are helping to establish translation and interpretation in the academic community. Each year AFTI awards a scholarship to a student pursuing the study of translation or interpretation in an academic program. This year's scholarship was awarded for non-literary translation/interpretation.

Translation and interpretation as fields of academic study have also gained, and continue to gain, recognition and support. Higher education is changing, and more translation and interpretation programs at the certificate, masters, and doctoral levels are being offered by academic institutions. The program at Kalamazoo has been replicated by other colleges and universities, and Binghamton University recently started a Ph.D. program in translation, which has been approved by New York State Department of Education.

Dr. Krawutschke also emphasized the need for translation and interpretation to be a separate department from foreign languages. This serves not just the interest of the professors, but also the quality of work produced and how society will view it. This carries over into the business aspect of translation and interpretation, as consumers must also come to expect a higher quality of work from translators and interpreters.

He provided examples of signs of growth in the field of translation and interpretation, both econom-

ically and professionally, in the United States and throughout the world. The United States is recognizing the presence and importance of translators and interpreters in the professional world. The Senate recently passed Resolution 28 designating 2005 as the "Year of Foreign Language Study," which acknowledges and stresses the importance of foreign language in academics, the national economy, and national security. It is not surprising that translation and interpretation are of growing interest to the intelligence community because of the US military presence in Iraq and other countries. Translators and interpreters are now classified on Tax Form C for Professional Business Activity Codes and listed under "Other Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services." In years past, they were categorized with secretaries. Unfortunately, the state of literary translation in the United States has experienced shortcomings with regard to copyright compensation for translations and copies.

Translation and interpretation are making similar marks in other parts of the world that serve as clear signs of economic growth. New Zealand has created a translation association, and translation and interpretation are part of the Language Industry Sector in Canada.

Great steps have already been made for translation and interpretation, but the future presents the opportunity for many more. The next major step is the development of standards for translators and interpreters. Standards for interpreting (e.g., court interpreting and medical interpreting) are already in place in many states.

Dr. Krawutschke offered the following steps that successful translators and interpreters need to take:

- ◆ Becoming members of professional organizations and attending seminars;
- ◆ Keeping up with advances in technology;
- ◆ Returning to school; and
- ◆ Earning certification in a language.

---

*Ann Huehls is a student of Translation Studies (German > English) at IUPUI in Indianapolis. She may be contacted at [ahuehls@iupui.edu](mailto:ahuehls@iupui.edu).*

# First Conference of Iowa Interpreters & Translators Association Announced

The Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association (IITA) has announced its first Annual Conference, to be held at the DMACC Urban Campus in Des Moines, Iowa, April 29-May 1, 2005. As of *inforMATION*'s publication date, the major presentations planned for the conference include:

- ◆ Interpretation/Translation Traps and Tricks
- ◆ Lessons Learned: Tools and Techniques for the Non-Expert's Self-Study of Spanish/English Grammar and Terminology Hunting
- ◆ Translating the Booklet "Facts About Unemployment Insurance"
- ◆ The ABC's of Certification
- ◆ Proverbs
- ◆ Iowa Division of Latino Affairs Legislation and Administrative Rules
- ◆ Iowa Court Interpreter Rules and the State Roster of Court Interpreters
- ◆ Tape Transcription and Translation

For more information and to register, visit IITA's Web site at [www.iitanet.org](http://www.iitanet.org)

# Ethics for Interpreters in Health Care

as presented by Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, M.A.

by Enrica J. Ardemagni, Ph.D.

**T**he National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) was formed by a group of leaders in the area of medical and social service interpreting whose goal was to form a dialogue pertaining to the role, standards, training and certification in medical interpreting. NCIHC began as a two-day working session in 1994, and has grown into a national and multidisciplinary organization whose mission is to promote culturally competent professional health care interpreting as a means to support equal access to health care for individuals with limited English proficiency ([www.ncihc.org](http://www.ncihc.org)).

Ms. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, M.A., Manager of Minority Community Relations and Interpreter Services at the University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics in Madison, is currently serving as the Co-Chair of NCIHC's Standards, Training and Certification Committee. She gave a compelling presentation at the February 26, 2005 MATI educational event held at the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis campus on the NCIHC National Code of Ethics, completed and published in 2004 (found under working papers at [www.ncihc.org](http://www.ncihc.org)). Ms. Bidar-Sielaff outlined the long process that NCIHC has engaged in for the last ten years in defining a road that would lead to setting a national code of ethics and national standards of practice. Her focus during this presentation was to show what research and tremendous labor has been put into building the profession of medical interpreting.

***Overall, this presentation was stellar in helping working interpreters to realize that they have an organization and individuals who can help them in professional development.***

Ms. Bidar-Sielaff's presentation pinpointed the major tenets of the NCIHC National Code of Ethics by pointing out how ethics guide the practice of interpreters working in health care venues. This Code of Ethics as well as the Standards of Practice will define competent practice in the field and will be the backbone of the national certification process that will define professional health care interpreting. Those involved in the process of creating the National Code of Ethics completed various subtasks such as reviewing existing codes of ethics, conducting national focus groups, eliciting feedback on a draft code, and producing of the final national code of ethics and companion guide.

The focus of Ms. Bidar-Sielaff's talk explained the core tenets of the Ethics. Each was given with examples that helped to interpret exactly what was entailed in each tenet, allowing those present to possess an in-depth understanding and to grasp the concept behind each tenet and a way to make it applicable to their work. Given as an interactive workshop, participants engaged in dialogue with Ms. Bidar-Sielaff regarding the specifics of each tenet as they were discussed. She gave enlightening examples of many experiential interpreting cases but stayed within the boundaries of not disclosing confidential information. Thus, Ms. Bidar-Sielaff not only presented the tenets and what ethics interpreters should follow; she was an exemplary model of how ethics can be taught

through example while maintaining the standards that she upholds.

Ms. Bidar-Sielaff had prepared some case study scenarios that helped participants to focus on what tenet of the Code of Ethics applied to that particular scenario, with a request for feedback on how they would respond to the scenario. The participants were particularly intrigued by an example of how relaying information from one language to another language is culture bound. This scenario dealt with an individual who had been diagnosed with a terminally ill disease, and was told "I suggest you get your personal affairs in order." Although this message is clear and to the point in U.S. culture, some cultures would not share this information in such a direct fashion. The patient's bilingual daughter did not convey the message in the same way that was stated by the doctor. Participants discussed how frequent this was in interpreted situations, and Ms. Bidar-Sielaff reiterated the importance of understanding the culture of the language that was being interpreted to assure that both effective communication as well as cultural sensitivity was maintained.

Overall, this presentation was stellar in helping working interpreters to realize that they have an organization and individuals who can help them in professional development. This type of workshop would benefit all working as medical interpreters, and will certainly help those states that are moving towards interpreter certification by establishing this emerging field as serious with well-researched Ethics that define the profession. With Ms. Bidar-Sielaff at the helm of working on the National Standards of Practice, the next phase as outlined by NCIHC solidifies this organization as a leader in health care interpreting.

---

*Enrica J. Ardemagni, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Spanish and Director of the Certificate in Translation Studies in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. She can be reached at eardema@iupui.edu.*

# “The Beginning of Wisdom: Some practical aspects of technical translation”

Reported by Tom Bonsett

**Dr.** Nicholas Hartmann shared with the February MATI meeting in Indianapolis his strategies for achieving success as a freelance technical translator. Dr. Hartmann, who is certified by the American Translators Association in German-English, French-English, and Italian-English, has an independent technical translation practice in which he primarily focuses on German to English patent translation. This translation practice includes some longstanding relationships with foreign clients, and in order to elucidate various issues that can arise in such relationships, Dr. Hartmann devised an imaginary letter from a client requesting a German to English patent translation. This synthetic letter embodied all of the salient features that such a letter would typically display.

Dr. Hartmann explained that foreign patent attorneys will typically retain a “corresponding attorney” in the United States in order to represent their legal interests in negotiating the U.S. patent system and that, in most cases, Dr. Hartmann works for the corresponding attorney rather than directly for the German patent attorneys.

Reference was made to the tone of this letter, Dr. Hartmann pointing out that he was being addressed by his first name, indicating that the relationship with the client was cordial but still business-like. This tone of familiarity has developed over the course of time and reflects the customer’s well-

*Dr. Hartmann was adamant that the translator must not acquiesce to meddling in the translation process by either the ultimate client (the German patent attorneys) or the corresponding attorney.*

founded expectations of receiving a quality translation in a timely manner from a translator who has proven to be reasonably adaptable in matters regarding delivery date and the subject matter to be translated and is conscientious about consulting with the client regarding preferred terminology.

This translator-client relationship, however, is a two-way street in that the translator expects, as a quid pro quo, both to be shielded from the German attorneys (the ultimate customer for the translation) and to be paid in a timely manner. These mutual understandings are the underpinnings of a successful translator-client business relationship.

Also mentioned in this letter was the understanding that communications regarding terminology and drafts for review would be exchanged back and forth with the client via e-mail. In connection with this review process, Dr. Hartmann mentioned what he termed the “educated German disease,” the symptom being that sometimes native German speakers (for example, German patent attorneys and engineers) are convinced that they have a better understanding of American English terminology than does a translator whose native language is American English. Dr. Hartmann was adamant that the translator must not acquiesce to meddling in the translation process by either the ultimate client (the German patent attorneys) or the corresponding attorney, stressing that both the translator and the corresponding attorney are working together as a team to serve the best interests of the German patent attorneys. The translator is not a service provider to the team, but is rather a “key player,” having earned a place on the team by virtue of experience and competence in translation.

While the U.S. corresponding attorney is responsible for compliance with U.S. patent law, the translator is responsible for providing an accurate translation. Dr. Hartmann explained that many translations that he provides to his client will be accompanied by a “translator’s declaration” which states that Dr. Hartmann has done his best to produce an accurate translation. The translation work that Dr. Hartmann performs on behalf of his client is of critical importance to the ultimate success of the client’s quest for protection of patent rights under U.S. law. Dr. Hartmann can’t and won’t certify as accurate a translation which incorporates “new matter,” i.e. wording suggested either by the corresponding U.S. attorney or by the German patent attorneys that does not truly constitute a translation of the original text. After the translator’s declaration is signed by Dr. Hartmann there will be no further alterations to the translation without his consent.

Expanding on this subject during the question and answer session that followed his presentation, Dr. Hartmann pointed out that translator’s declarations are a standard procedure in patent translation.

*In his opinion the translator actively carries ideas, meanings, and thoughts across the gulf separating the source and target languages.*

Also, in response to a query as to how one should handle errors and inaccuracies in the source text, Dr. Hartmann indicated that perhaps the translator should put a note in the translation or in the cover letter regarding the source text’s errors and inaccuracies. Exactly how one should handle this matter depends on the nature of the relationship between the translator and the client.

Dr. Hartmann then addressed the fundamental question of what is meant by translation. Citing the ATA’s concept of the translator as a “bridge between two languages for the free passage of ideas from one side to the other,” (see the ATA Code of professional Conduct & Business Practices) Dr. Hartmann took issue with the concept of a translator serving as an “inanimate bridge” between two languages. Rather, in his opinion the translator actively carries ideas, meanings, and thoughts across the gulf separating the source and target languages. Translators may be paid “by the word,” but the end product for the customer is what the words actually mean.

As an illustration of this concept Dr. Hartmann wrote out on the white board the word for “water” in Greek, pointing out that unless one could read and understand Greek the symbol was meaningless. Holding aloft a glass of water, he pointed out that anyone looking at the glass of water could immediately grasp the concept of “water” (the meaning behind the symbol written on the white board). Seeing actual, tangible water leads to a non-verbal comprehension (by what Zen Buddhism calls “direct pointing”) of the tangible reality of “water.”

As another example of an abstract representation

of a concept, Dr. Hartmann pointed out that patent drawings are a two-dimensional representation of three-dimensional objects, the implication being that the person looking at the drawing needs to somehow grasp the concept behind the drawing. In his standard translator's declaration there are implied penalties for negligence and incompetence and statements that to his own knowledge the accompanying translation is accurate (bearing in mind that no "single perfect" translation actually exists). However, there is a "curious" oversight in this declaration in that nowhere does it state that the translator is an expert in the subject matter being translated.

Obviously the translator needs to have some knowledge of the subject matter being translated, but how can a translator acquire this understanding of the concepts embodied in the translation? According to Dr. Hartmann there are many paths to acquiring this understanding. For example, technical translators "love" plant tours as an opportunity to connect the words they are translating with tangible reality.

According to Dr. Hartmann, successful technical translators are curious about the real world and have a persistent, indiscriminating approach to learning; having the attitude that there is no such thing as useless knowledge. Dr. Hartmann drew a spiral on the white board signifying that the successful technical translator has to start developing a technical knowledge base somewhere, and then work out from there, learning more and more. As an example of this relentless knowledge acquisition process Dr. Hartmann is very keen on reading owner's manuals.

Dr. Hartmann's own path to technical translating is interesting, his exposure to technology having started at an early age as he accompanied his father Erich Hartmann (who was a well-established portrait and industrial photographer and photojournalist) to industrial laboratories and factories. His father worked professionally as a freelancer and he could get along well with people; in that sense he serves as role model for freelance translators.

Dr. Nicholas Hartmann's academic training was in the field of classical archeology; however, this

apparent liberal arts detour away from technology in fact led him into technical translation. His laboratory work in radiocarbon dating gave rise to opportunities to do freelance translating in the field of metallurgy. Interestingly, at the time (circa 1980) when Dr. Hartmann did his first technical translations the back and forth exchange with an editor was by means of "marked up" typed manuscripts. This editing interaction served as an instructive course in translation for which Dr. Hartmann was paid!

In addition to a sense of curiosity, Dr. Hartmann discussed another trait characteristic of successful technical translators, namely that of having good time management skills. He pointed out that producing an accurate, high-quality technical translation is a physically demanding process. When the translator tires mistakes result, leading ultimately to a tarnished reputation for the translator. Meeting a deadline is important; however, the translator should make sure of his or her physical capacity to do the work at hand. During the question and answer session, Dr. Hartmann said that the technical translator needs to have a firm grasp of both his or her normal translation throughput and surge capability in order to know how elastic one can be to meet customer deadlines.

*It is the responsibility of the client (or translation agency) to let the translator know who the intended audience is.*

The importance of a translator's reputation for meeting the customer's expectations of receiving a quality translation was illustrated by Dr. Hartmann in regard to the question of register. It is the responsibility of the client (or translation agency) to let the translator know who the intended audience is. An

*According to a Chinese proverb,  
the beginning of wisdom is to  
call a thing by its right name.*

unwillingness or inability to provide the translator with this vital information is sufficient grounds for a translator to decline a translation job. As one's reputation as a technical translator increases, one is in a better position to decline undesirable translation jobs, hence the vital need to protect and improve one's professional reputation.

Dr. Hartmann pointed out that the idea that technical translators work in isolation is "bunk;" successful technical translators are constantly interacting. As part of a time management strategy, the translator needs to learn how to acquire technical knowledge. Also, in Dr. Hartmann's opinion, translators have a "moral obligation" to help other translators learn.

According to a Chinese proverb, the beginning of wisdom is to call a thing by its right name. However, according to Dr. Hartmann, just what that "right name" is can depend on other terms in the field, on the set of documents being translated, and even on personal preference (e.g. a client's preferred terminology). Dr. Hartmann recounted an experience he had translating three French language patents dealing with firearms. The English language translations he made of these three patents required

a self-consistent English terminology which in turn needed to be consistent with some prior, poor quality translations! In the process of sorting out the terminology for this project Dr. Hartmann helped compile an eleven page glossary, as part of a cooperative translation project that took over two months to complete.

Dr. Hartmann reiterated that the correct term, the chosen word to represent a concept, is only the correct term in a given context. The glossary for a particular translation project is specific to that project. It is a self-consistent terminology set that can only be derived from understanding the constellation of concepts in the source text. Dictionaries and glossaries from other translation projects are of limited usefulness in deriving the glossary for a specific translation project. In formulating such a glossary the translator always needs to keep in mind that the words are symbols for real, tangible concepts. In Dr. Hartmann's opinion, the more you look at terminology the "slipperier" it becomes. However, the beginning of wisdom for a technical translator is to call things by the right name.

---

*Tom Bonsett is employed by Ross-Royce Corporation (a manufacturer of gas turbine engines in Indianapolis, IN) as a turbine test instrumentation development engineer. He also serves as an adjunct professor with the Engineering Dual Degree Program offered by Butler University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). His educational background includes a B.S. degree in chemistry, both a Masters and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, a B.A. with a major in German and a minor in Japanese, and (in progress) a B.A. degree in translation studies at IUPUI. He can be reached at tbonsett@iquest.net*

## UPCOMING EVENT

**April 29-May 1**

### **Financial Translation & Interpreting Conference**

Hyatt Regency / Jersey City, New Jersey

Plan now to attend 3 days of in-depth, advanced-level sessions on financial translation and interpreting presented by experts in the field of finance. This career development and skill-building conference is targeted at experienced translators and interpreters. Take advantage of networking opportunities such as the Job Marketplace, the Welcome Reception, and the Exhibit Hall. Earn ATA Continuing Education Points.

To learn more, visit <http://www.atanet.org/pd/finance>



The Japan Association of Translators (JAT) is pleased to announce the 16th Annual International Japanese/English Translation Conference (IJET-16). Translators and interpreters from across the globe will journey to Chicago, USA on June 3-6, 2005 for the world's premiere E<>J translation conference. Chicago, also known as the Windy City, features spectacular architecture, excellent restaurants, plentiful shopping, and convenient public transportation. Plan to stay a few days longer to take in the city.

### **Informative Sessions**

As at past IJETs, Saturday and Sunday will be packed with sessions. Saturday will begin with an opening ceremony and a speech by Scott Brennan, President of the American Translators Association. Shortly thereafter, Cornelius Iida, interpreter to Presidents Carter and Reagan, will give the keynote address. After lunch, presentations on topics relating to translation and interpretation will be given in three breakout rooms. Sunday will feature more presentations, again in three breakout rooms.

IJET-16 received a very generous \$3000 grant from the Japanese Language Division of the American Translators Association. Some of the grant has been allocated toward the keynote speaker. The remainder will be used as honoraria for expert speakers who are not necessarily translators. These recognized experts will share their knowledge with IJET-16 attendees.

The organizing committee received so many excellent proposals for presentations that we decided to have two extra days for field-specific presentations. Tentatively, a seminar on biomed-

icine will be given on Friday afternoon before the Zenyasai, or pre-conference dinner. A post-conference seminar on patents is slated for Monday morning. The June 3 and 6 sessions of IJET-16 are being sponsored by the University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies (<http://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/>), which offers a Certificate in Translation Studies. The Graham School of General Studies is the venue for the seminars.

### **There's More**

IJET conferences are an excellent place to catch up on industry trends and network with colleagues, but it's hard to do everything in the two days normally allotted for an IJET. That's why IJET-16 will be a four-day conference. In addition to the Friday and Monday field-specific seminars, there will be meetings of special interest groups (SIGs) on Monday morning. In a roundtable format, each SIG will cover one theme directly or indirectly related to translation (e.g., pharmaceuticals, parenting and translation, finance, tax issues). SIGs will meet in a restaurant, park, coffee shop, bar, or other location instead of a stuffy conference room. Feel free to propose a SIG of your own. In addition, an exhibit hall featuring translation companies and vendors of translation tools and software will be open on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

Visit <http://www.jat.org/ijet/ijet-16/> and follow the links for more information. To receive periodic emails about the conference, contact Ben Tompkins, organizing committee chair, at [ijet-16@jat.org](mailto:ijet-16@jat.org).

**MICATA, the Mid-America Chapter of the  
American Translators Association, proudly presents:**

# **Resources for Translators and Interpreters: A symposium for language professionals**

**When:** April 1-2, 2005 with an ATA Certification Exam on April 3

**Where:** Carlsen Center, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas

**Who should attend:** Professional translators and interpreters; global suppliers; students of languages; other language professionals. Seven (7) Continuing Education points for ATA-certified translators

## **Confirmed and Tentative List of Presentations on Following Page**

### **General Conference Schedule (details to follow)**

Friday, April 1 at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas

5:30-7:30 p.m.: Reception and on-site registration

Saturday, April 2 at the Carlsen Center, Johnson County Community College

Morning: Registration, Welcome and Educational Sessions (w/ mid-morning break)

Noon: Luncheon

Afternoon: Educational Sessions (with mid-afternoon break)

6:30-9:00 p.m.: Barbeque buffet dinner at the KC Masterpiece Restaurant, 10985 Metcalf. Cost is \$17 per person. If you plan on attending, you must indicate so on the registration form and send payment with your registration.

Sunday, April 3 at the Carlsen Center, Johnson County Community College

8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon: ATA Certification Exam

Hotel: Doubletree Hotel, 10100 College Boulevard in Overland Park, Kansas. To reserve a room at the American Translators Association rate of \$74 per night (plus tax), call the hotel at 913.451.6100 by March 2. After this date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Please contact Kathy Foster at [kfoster@sh3.com](mailto:kfoster@sh3.com) if you have questions regarding the conference or if you would like to help with conference preparations. If you need another copy of this flyer to share with a friend or colleague, go to [www.ata-micata.org/micatapdf.pdf](http://www.ata-micata.org/micatapdf.pdf)

---

### **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Please detach and return completed registration, together with your check (made out to MICATA) to:  
**MICATA Conference, P.O. Box 144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201**

Title (check one):  Mr.  Ms.  Mrs.  Dr.  \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:**

No. & Street, Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration Fee includes:

Fri. Welcome Reception

Sat. Luncheon

Snacks and beverages during A.M. & P.M. breaks

Early Bird (postmarked by March 18) \$ 75.00

Regular (March 19-31) \$ 85.00

On-site (April 1-2) \$ 95.00

Student (include copy of student ID) \$ 35.00

Saturday Dinner at KC Masterpiece \$ 17.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

## *2005 MICATA Symposium Schedule (as of 2005.3.11)*

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ROOM A</b>	<b>ROOM B</b>	<b>ROOM C</b>
8:30-8:45	Welcome: Dick Scott, JCCC	—	—
8:45-9:45	ATA Resources: Alan Melby	—	—
9:45-10:00	Break	—	—
10:00-10:55	Getting Started as a Translator/Interpreter: Kathy Foster/Meeri Yule	Technical Translation Issues: Frieda Ruppenner-Lind	Computer Security: Keeping Your Intellectual Property Safe: Craig Paul
11:00-11:55	Translating Henry Darcy's <i>The Public Fountains of the City of Dijon</i> : Pat Bobeck	Clinical Trials 101: Ben Tompkins	Directory Assistance? Financial Services and Marketing, please: Bill Bergerson
12:00-1:30	Lunch John Watson, KS Dept. of Commerce	—	—
1:30-2:25	Translation and Computers: Alan Melby	Interpreting Equipment Demo: Sennheiser Electronics	Tax Tips for Freelancers: John Matthews
2:30-3:25	Translation Theory: Brad Shaw	Ethics In Medical Interpreting: Karlton Cruse/Cecilia Abbey	The Business Side of Translation: Jackie Smith
3:30-3:45	Break	—	—
3:45-4:40	SDLX Demo	Like to Travel? Conference and Escort Interpreting Might Be Your Ticket: Kathy Foster	Panel Discussion on Translation and Interpreting
4:45-5:00	Wrap-Up	—	—