



THE MITIN NEWSLETTER

*Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network
ATA Chapter
"The Linguistic Heartbeat of Michigan"*

WWW.MITINWEB.ORG

OCTOBER 2006

Upcoming Events

Translation Forum

Saturday, October 14, 2006

1:00 PM

Marygrove College

Madame Cadillac Building
8425 W. McNichols, Detroit

How can you keep up with your target language while living in the United States with the heavy influence of English? Come this Saturday to hear seasoned translators and language instructors to discuss this important topic: Fredo Aguirre, Spanish Translation Professor at Marygrove College, will speak on "Cultural and Language Tips to Hone Your Language Skills." Franco Gomero, engineer and freelance interpreter and translator, will discuss resources that help translators find words that do not exist in the target language for the automotive industry. James Kirchner, Linguistics Professor and freelance translator, will present the interface between linguistics and developing first-hand knowledge in the target language.

For directions, please visit: www.marygrove.edu. For more information, please contact Kevin Casillas, Events Manager, at (313)461-3669 or mitinevents@hotmail.com.

Translation Software and Computer Assistance Forum

Saturday, November 18, 2006

Farmington Public Library

An experienced English/German translator, Kevin Fulton, will provide a hands-on demonstration of 'Software I couldn't live without'. The presentation will include various low-cost / shareware / no-cost programs used for file management, graphics, web page creation and hard drive housekeeping. In addition, he will discuss recent changes to the Trados interface.

As usual, Kevin will make available demo copies of the utilities discussed to those attending the presentation.

Join MiTiN

The Linguistic Heartbeat of Michigan

Membership application form is available at <http://www.mitinweb.org/membership.cfm>

Annual membership fee:

Corporate membership \$50

Professional membership \$40

Most MiTiN events are open to non-members also. Come and talk to our member translators/interpreters.

September Meeting Report

Interpreter Communication Technologies and the Deaf Community

By Jennifer Pérez-Brennan

Hello newsletter aficionados! I am a newcomer to MiTiN, and was duly impressed with my first MiTiN event on September 16. It was held in the Voices for Health's Lansing office located in the Lutheran Social Services. The September event featured presentations by staff of Auburn Hills-based Intensified Interpreting Services (IIS) and Voices for Health of Grand Rapids. The afternoon's discussion revolved largely around interpretation of American Sign Language (ASL) and the advent of Video Remote Interpretation (VRI).

Four IIS professionals spoke: Esteva Westfall, Joy Thomassen, Nancy Scullen, and Consuelo Cantu. Together they lent great insight into the complexities of language in the deaf and hard of hearing community, which numbers approximately 600,000 in the state of Michigan. Some of the issues facing members of this population include:

- Geographic dispersal, including rural isolation
- Disjointed and incomplete language development, which can inhibit full participation in deaf and/or hearing cultures
- Below-average English literacy (average 4th grade reading level)
- Inconsistent exposure to sign language for many deaf children born to hearing parents
- Special barriers for deaf immigrants, who may use mutually-incomprehensible foreign sign languages and reside in households

further marginalized by language, education and cultural differences

- Diverse regional variations within ASL itself
- Limited access to the most appropriate communication technologies and far too few ASL interpreters to meet demand

The staff of IIS also gave observers demonstrations of two communication technologies. The first was the traditional teletypewriter (TTY) communication technology, which relies on an operator reading typed messages from the deaf user. The presenters explained that TTY is criticized for being emotionless, time-consuming, and superficial. The second was Video Remote Interpretation (VRI), a technology that allows the user and skilled interpreters to use video to combine sign and spoken languages to communicate with another party.

It was fascinating to consider VRI's potential to bridge the gap of even the most complicated language scenarios: service to deaf immigrants. Imagine: a deaf Honduran man in Michigan signs in Honduran Sign Language to an HSL/ASL interpreter, who signs to an ASL/English interpreter, who speaks in English to an English/Spanish interpreter, who speaks in Spanish to a doctor in Tegucigalpa.

That's quite a game of Operator! Of course most transactions are far simpler, but they are nonetheless immensely satisfying to the user, often allowing a depth of communication that some deaf people might otherwise never achieve, even with their closest family members.

While clearly an attractive option for distance communication, VRI has its drawbacks. There is insufficient regulation of interpretation in this medium (no universal code of ethics, for example) and subsidies are nonexistent for this somewhat expensive technology (both in

terms of equipment and interpreter staff). There was a consensus among those who spoke that VRI was the growth technology in interpreting, not just for users of ASL, but for verbal languages as well. For interpreters interested in the technology's potential, the discussion of VRI touched on the pros and cons of freelancing vs. in-house work.

Still, it was acknowledged by all that in some situations there was no replacing an interpreter in-situ: Voices for Health cofounder Carlos Pava provided the examples of mental health services and interpretation in a classroom environment. VRI does offer opportunities for increased confidentiality in other sensitive interpreting situations, however, such as HIV counseling, or for times when the interpreter would be put in harm's way if he or she were physically present.

Sadly, the lack of ASL interpreters almost makes a debate on the merits of VRI versus on-site interpreting moot. In fact, we learned that while Michigan's deaf and hard of hearing population is the seventh largest in the nation, the state ranks in the bottom 10 in terms of the services provided to this community. While there are a few good ASL interpretation programs in the state, not only can they not meet the demand in the deaf community, but graduates are not fluent enough when they complete these programs to function professionally as interpreters. The time and practice required to arrive at fluency (passing the national certification test, for example) often discourages potential interpreters from following through. This situation highlights a need for mentorship of new graduates, training with practicing interpreters in the field, and ongoing education in subject-specific areas throughout their careers.

Many thanks to Saturday's speakers for this unique learning experience.

Jennifer Pérez-Brennan is a Michigan native recently returned from eight years in the Dominican Republic. She translates from Spanish and French into English and can be contacted at jperezbrennan@yahoo.com, at (517) 648-3765 or through her Proz.com profile [#67248].

Have you updated your profile?

Update your profile on MiTiN website before **October 31, 2006 11:59 p.m.**

Our 2007/2008 Professional/Corporate Membership Directory will be printed based on the information you input by then.

Any changes after October 31, 2006 11:59 p.m. will update the online Directory only.

Forgot your username or password? Write to info@mitinweb.org so we can help you.

Mark Your Calendar

Christmas Pot-Luck Party

Saturday, December 09, 2006
Simmons Room, Novi, MI

From the President

Directory Information Is In Your Hands

by Izumi Suzuki

A year passes by so quickly nowadays. It was just moments ago when we were talking about summer vacation and stuff. Now leaves are turning and soon Michigan will have the most glorious colors of the year. Before we know it, 2006 will be gone. Soon you will again receive a postcard from the Board, asking you to pay your **membership dues** for the next year. Your early payment will help us organize things better, more quickly. The postcard this time will also ask you to **update your information** on the web for the next paper Directory. I hear from many members how both the online directory and the paper Directory help them get jobs. If your information is old, you may not get this benefit from Directory. Please go to our web site and make sure everything there is updated. We are also asking if you want to **advertise in the next paper Directory**. You cannot find any more cost-effective advertising than this – it is because you are a member -- so utilize it. We do all the formatting automatically, so all you need to do is to say yes to a full- or a half-page ad, and pay it, together with your membership dues for the next year. A corporate member may want to send us a photo-ready copy of its own advertisement, which we gladly accept.

Now, you are in for some exciting news: **Wafa Haddad** in Grand Rapids has graciously accepted the position of Director of West Michigan Programs. This position was previously served by Carlos Pava, whose busy business and personal life forced him to resign from it. Carlos:

thank you very much for your efforts in the West Michigan area.

Wafa is the owner & CEO of Tiger Lilly Arabic Language Institute, Wyoming, Michigan, founded in 2003. She teaches Arabic and she is a medical & legal interpreter with Voices for Health @ Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids. She has also been a social worker, professional speaker, trainer, and artist! (For details, you can visit her web site, www.tigerlillyarabic.com.)

Wafa is a dynamic lady, full of energy, and we look forward to coordinating well with her to expand MiTiN into a truly statewide organization. Welcome, Wafa! (If you would like to contact her, her e-mail address is Tigerwafa@yahoo.com.)

MiTiN Joins Grand Rapids' "Cultural Kaleidoscope"

By Wafa Haddad

MiTiN will join a cultural event held at the **Grand Rapids Public Museum** on **Saturday October 14, 2006 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** As the Director of West Michigan Programs, I am inviting MiTiN members to join the Grand Rapids Public Museum's "Cultural Kaleidoscope" event to support MiTiN.

The exciting exhibits focus on the experiences of different ethnic communities in shaping the history and characters of Grand Rapids. The exhibit will present Grand Rapids as a multicultural city that has been shaped through the interaction between newcomers and established residents.

As we all know, MiTiN is a network of professional linguists who assist business professionals to communicate each other with interpreting and/or translation skills in many languages. MiTiN also has

strengthened the ties between language service providers and clients who do not speak the same language. The visitors will read about MiTiN and the benefits of joining the organization. They will learn about different languages that MiTiN members provide.

Welcome New Members

Diallo Etienne: French

Veronica Hall : Spanish

Bayardo Julie : Spanish

Gabriela Radley : Spanish

V DO TRANSLATIONS: Cooperate

Please contact Secretary or Treasurer if your information is not correct.

**ATA 47th Annual Conference
November 1-4, 2006
The Sheraton New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana**

<http://www.atanet.org/conf/2006>

- Over 175 Educational Sessions
- Job Marketplace
- Professional Networking
- Translation Support Tools Forum
- Mentoring Skill-Building Workshop and More!

Room Sharing for the ATA Conference

Some of the MiTiN members are looking for a room sharing opportunity. Please write to info@mitinweb.org if you are interested in sharing a hotel room.

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MiTIN Directory Advertisement Options

Upcoming 2007/2008 Printed Directory

	<p style="text-align: center;">Full page (Price A, B, C, or D)</p> <p>Create your own page and send the camera-ready hard copy with your payment. Or it can be generated by the system.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Size: 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" Color: Black and white only</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Half a page (Price E)</p> <p>This will be generated by the system based on your information in the online Directory, www.mitinweb.org.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Size: 3" x 4 1/4" Color: Black and white only</p>	

Note: Professional or Corporate member's name, contact numbers, and language pairs will be automatically listed in the printed Directory as they are listed in the online Directory of the MiTiN website as of October 31, 11:59 p.m.

In addition to the listings, half a page or full page ad, as described above, will be included in the printed directory if you place order now.

Member Price:

- A. Inside cover \$200
- B. Back cover \$200
- C. Back inside \$150
- D. Full page \$40
- E. Half page \$20

Non-Member Price:

- Inside cover \$200
- Back cover \$200
- Back inside \$150
- Full page \$100
- Half page \$40

By October 31st, send a check **payable to MiTiN** (and the artwork if it is for full page) to:

MiTiN
P.O. Box 852
Novi MI 48376