

#### The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

January 2005

January 29 meeting

# Hydrology made simple PATRICIA BOBECK WILL discuss her prize-

winning transla-

tion of Henry Darcy's *The Public Fountains of the City of Dijon* at AATIA's January meeting [see sidebar for new venue and time]. In addition, American Translators Association President Scott Brennan will speak briefly and answer audience questions about ATA.

Darcy, a French civil engineer known as the father of hydrogeology, designed a public water supply system in the 1830s for the city of Dijon, France, that provided abundant free water through a series of aqueducts, pipes, and street fountains. Hailed as a technological feat in its day, the system made Dijon a model for water supply.

Bobeck recently won ATA's S. Edmund Berger Prize for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation for her translation of Darcy's seminal work, famous among hydrogeologists but until now not widely available and only in French. She will relate how and why she took on this project, which took three years of nights and weekends to complete, and will describe challenges of translating a 19th-century technical text.

Bobeck is both a translator and a geologist employed by the Radiation Safety Licensing Branch of the Texas Department of State Health Services. She is a long-time member of AATIA and served two terms as the Association's president in the early 1990s.

The meeting will conclude with a reception for AATIA members held by the ATA Board of Directors. ★

### ATA to host reception for AATIA members after rescheduled January meeting

SCOTT BRENNAN, PRESIDENT of the American Translators Association, cordially invites AATIA members to join the ATA Board of Directors at a reception at the Austin Hilton Hotel on Saturday, January 29, 2005. The Board will be meeting in Austin that weekend.

AATIA's January meeting will be rescheduled for the same day. The schedule is as follows:

**Date**: Saturday, January 29, 2005

Times: 3:00–5:30 p.m. AATIA member meeting

6:00-7:30 p.m. ATA reception, RSVP to Maggie Rowe

(maggie@atanet.org)

Place: Austin Hilton Hotel, 500 E. 4th Street

**Note**: SpanSIG will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 10 a.m., January 8,

at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe.

### Workshop to teach all about interpreting

A January AATIA Workshop will provide a four-day overview of interpreting in various settings, covering the following topics in 24 classroom hours: roles and responsibilities of interpreters in social service, medical, psychosocial, law enforcement and legal settings; achieving accurate and complete interpretation from source to target language using consecutive interpretation; sight translation of documents from various fields; codes of ethics in different settings; and dealing with cultural barriers.

Participants will practice and improve their skills with supervision from experienced trainers. The workshop is open to speakers of all languages, but those with language pairs other than Spanish-English must bring a language partner for the practice exercises.

Instructors will be AATIA members Esther Díaz and Maurine McLean, both of whom have decades of experience as trainers and as professional interpreters and translators.

The workshop will be held January 14–15 and 21–22 at Ventana del Soul

Cultural Center and Coffee Shop in Austin. Participants who complete the 24-hour training will earn a certificate of participation. Those who are ATA-certified may also earn ten continuing education points, the maximum that can be claimed in any calendar year.

For details and a registration form visit www.aatia.org or contact Director of Professional Development Laura Vlasman at lvlasman@earthlink.net or 891-9207. ★

### News 8 Austin profiles AATIA

AATIA WAS THE SUBJECT of a brief television interview on News 8 Austin. President Esther Diaz shared information about the AATIA website and the importance of using qualified translators and interpreters. The interview ran several times throughout the day on January 2nd. The taped interview will be shown at a future AATIA meeting. Thanks to Greenlights for Nonprofit Success and News 8 Austin for this opportunity to promote our association! \*\*

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#### November meeting reviewed

#### Nice voice! You should do something with it!

AWARD-WINNING VOICE TALENT Lainie Frasier gave an interesting, informative presentation about voice acting opportunities for language professionals at the last AATIA meeting.

Via her business VoiceWorks, Frasier plays the roles of president, actor, producer, director, and teacher. She has over 1500 credits and nearly thirty years of experience in radio, television, industrial, and animation voice-over. She has won numerous local and national awards for acting and audio production. As Frasier states on her website: "You may not have heard of me, but you

probably have heard me on the radio, on television, in a narration, a Japanese animé, or on a CD-ROM computer game." She has done voiceovers for the Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Transportation, City of Austin, Thundercloud Subs, and Village Home Builders. She also guest lectures for UT-Austin and other institutions and offers voice-acting workshops.

Frasier began her career at the age of four as a national spokesman for Winn's Variety Stores and knew instantly it was her calling. She followed her dream to UT where she received a BFA with honors in acting. Directing and teaching were her other proficient talents, so it was only natural to combine all three into a successful enterprise. Frasier stated that she has the most wonderful job in the world, because "she gets paid to play".

Voice-over categories include being a spokesperson or character actor for: commercial (radio or television voiceover), industrial, and animation projects. Frasier stated that Austin has many opportunities for voice talent. State agencies make statewide commercials and industrials for which bilingual talent could be paid double. Other entities that require voice talent include advertising agencies, such as GSD&M, which produce local, regional and national commercials and industrial campaigns; high-tech corporations and gaming companies; book publishers; and Austin's growing film and entertainment industry.

One of the most common questions Frasier hears is: "How do I get started?" She emphasized that you need more than a good voice. You need technique. You also need the ability to develop characters in depth on the spur of the moment. It is vital to have an agent who will look for job opportunities and negotiate to determine what a job is worth. She also stressed that you must adapt to changes in the marketplace and diversify your talents. It is important to get training in specific mediums.

A good voice is a given, but besides a well-trained voice and talent, a voice actor needs the ability to nail copy fast and take direction well, the ability to bring copy to life and project certain attitudes with your voice, having your own original style, subtlety of delivery, microphone technique, consistency from take to take, playfulness, and a vivid imagination. You must also be fun to work with, treat your business like a business, and of course, practice, practice, practice!

Frasier stated that there are seven steps to success in voice-over:

Step 1: Get training and get great! The competition is too good to go into voice-acting without a solid foundation of talent and training. Besides becoming educated in the voice-over field, training helps you to make friends, network, have fun, and build confidence.

Step 2: Create a headshot and résumé. Create a headshot that looks like you. It should be a professionally taken 8"x11" black- and-white photograph with a matte finish. The reverse side should include your name, height, weight, hair color, eye color, and agent information. It should also include contact information, credits, education, training, special talents, and awards. Make sure that it looks professional and is easy to read.

Step 3: Produce a talent demo. Your 30–90-second demo recording should be a snippet of commercials or projects you've already done using several voices that show your type and technique. Your demo should not be created in one day, but built and developed over a period of time. It should illustrate what you have to offer, what makes you unique, and it never hurts to include a little humor. Frasier stressed that you shouldn't show eve-

rything you do, just the things you do best. You must at least have a commercial or industrial demo to be marketed as a voice-over talent. Other kinds of demos include character, political, or disclaimer.

Step 4: Sign with an agent. When you contact agents, submit your demo, headshot, and résumé with a cover letter. You will need to follow up and audition for the agent before you sign a contract. The agent will collect a 10-15% commission for booking your talent, negotiating rates, and collecting fees. Your responsibilities as the talent include professionalism, keeping materials updated, marketing, recordkeeping, maintaining a working phone, fax, cell phone, and e-mail, getting training, good health and appearance, including a professional wardrobe.



relations, direct mail marketing, maintaining a website, etc. Voice actors can record a demo and put it on their websites. You can work with your agent to develop a targeted marketing list. Net-

Step 5: Start marketing yourself.

Marketing involves advertising, public

working will help you find out about auditions, training, and current events. Sell your services to prospective clients. Don't be afraid of self-promotion. Follow up on leads and involve your agent.

Step 6: Audition, Audition, Audition! Do not turn down auditions or jobs. Inform your agent of any scheduling conflicts or conflicts of interest. Always take four headshots and résumés, and have copies of your demo on hand. First impressions are important, so dress appropriately. Arrive early, be prepared, and act professionally. Be warmed up and ready to go. Make it a fast, professional, and positive experience. Remember: they're always looking for new voices and actors who can create magic.

Step 7: Build your client base job by job. Be sure to diversify your business. A mixed client base of commercial, industrial, and animation clients triples your worth and protects you in economic downturns.

If you think it's impossible to make a living doing voice-overs in Austin, Texas, Frasier is living proof that you can if you treat your business like a business, diversify your talent, and market yourself. For more information about voice-over training and workshops, call Frasier at (512) 441-6060 or visit her website at www.lfvoiceworks.com.

Her winter voice-over workshops include: "Going the Distance" (Narration) (offered in January), which will help intermediate students improve their stamina with corporate copy, develop appropriate industrial styles, master the art of punchin editing, and determine the best way to market your talent; "Character Building" (Commercial) (offered in February) for beginners to learn the basic process for developing characters, discovering the fun of playing off a partner, creating announcer styles with attitude, honing auditioning skills, and gaining information on getting an agent; and "Voices in My Head" (Animation) (offered in

March) which will help advanced students learn how to place their voice, instantly create characters, experience the art of looping at ADV Films, win auditions, and learn about creating a killer animation demo. Meetings are 6–10 p.m. at Production Block Studios, 3011 North Lamar and cost \$400 per class. Classes are limited to six students each.

—Janet Peirce ★

## THE CARNIVAL

by Tony Beckwith ©2005 www.tonybeckwith.com

"Tall and tan and young and lovely, the girl from Ipanema goes walking, and when she passes, each one she passes goes aaah!" These are the opening lyrics of the most famous Bossa Nova number of all time. It was wildly popular when I was a teenager in Uruguay. I listened to Astrud Gilberto breathe those words into a microphone, felt the goosebumps ripple up the back of my neck, and knew that I had to go to Brazil for the

It was a three-day bus ride from Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro, and my stalwart traveling companion and I were somewhat the worse for wear by the time we arrived. Pale and wan and tired and dirty, we could hear the drummers in the favelas, the shantytown neighborhoods up in the hills. The air was moist and fragrant; the drumming was lazy and seductive and seemed to enter my bloodstream and my mind. It was the morning of the first day of the carnival.

carnival.

We stayed with a friend of a friend who had an apartment not far from the notorious Copacabana beach. It wasn't long before we stood with our feet in the warm sand, gazing around the bay and up at the iconic Cristo statue standing high above the point, his arms widespread in welcome. It was still only mid-morning, too early for the jet set crowd who stayed up late partying and didn't emerge from their high-rise, beachfront hotels until a little after noon. These international sun worshipers came in pairs and groups to lie on the sand in the tiniest bathing suits I had ever seen—many

wearing nothing at all. My fellowadolescent and I strolled nonchalantly along the water's edge, not-sosurreptitiously ogling everyone we passed, searching for our Girl from Ipanema.

That song was composed by Antonio Carlos Jobim, with original



Portuguese lyrics by Vinícius de Moraes, and English ones by Norman Gimbel. In 1963 Stan Getz, the American jazz virtuoso, wove his haunting, lyrical saxophone into the gentle rhythms of Joao Gilberto on guitar and Jobim on piano, while Joao's wife Astrud exhaled the vocals.

As night fell over the city we joined the throngs moving through the streets. There were carnival floats and other vehicles and tens of thousands of people shuffling, swaying, and dancing in a sort of massive impromptu conga line. We inched our way forward, wrapped in the hypnotic sound of the samba schools playing

their irresistible percussion for hour after hour after hour. The energy was infectious and everyone was cruising at some level of euphoria. Revelers were spraying a mixture of ether and perfume onto handkerchiefs and inhaling the fumes deeply. When I tried some it made me so happy I fell out of

the back of the Jeep I was riding in at the time. But it was impossible to fall far in that shoulder-to-shoulder crowd, which was like a city-wide mosh pit, and I was carried along boisterously for a while. In the spirit of the carnival I bonded instantly with my rescuers, and remained with my new brothers and sisters for the rest of the night.

In the magical hour before dawn we all went back to the beach, stripped naked and ran into the ocean. Taking a deep breath, we sank beneath the surface, squatting on the sandy bottom, not moving a muscle. When the water around us had settled and was inky black again we lunged

skyward, creating an explosion of phosphorescent drops that clung to our skin then scattered like fireworks as we waved our arms and crashed back down into the sparkling surf. As we walked out of the water, a dozen bodies gleaming wet in the moonlight with Rio silhouetted against the sky in front of us, another set of Astrud's lyrics were running through my mind: "Quiet nights of quiet stars, quiet chords from my guitar, floating on the silence that surrounds us..." We lay drying on the sand as the sun came up; it was the second day of the carnival, and the distant drumming drifted to us on the morning breeze. \*

### New Nasties in Your Computer

by Frank Dietz © 2004 www.frankdietz.com

I REMEMBER SINGING the praises of the internet as a research tool to a group of translators a few years ago, only to hear that they were very afraid of catching a computer virus there. Viruses are here to stay, and everyone who gets on the internet should use a virus protection program and update it regularly (if you do not want to spend the \$50 or so for one of the commercial programs, you can download the anti-virus program AVG for free at http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/1/).

Beyond that, exercise common sense in opening e-mail attachments, even if the mail is from someone you know (the virus might have sent itself to everyone on that person's address list). Unfortunately, there are new nuisances out there in cyberland: spyware and adware.

The two terms overlap somewhat, as the following definition of adware shows:

...any software application in which advertising banners are displayed while the program is running. The authors of these applications include additional code that delivers the ads, which can be viewed through pop-up windows or through a bar that appears on a computer screen. The justification for adware is

that it helps recover programming development cost and helps to hold down the cost for the user. Adware has been criticized because it usually includes code that tracks a user's personal information and passes it on to third parties, without the user's authorization or knowledge. This practice has been dubbed spyware and has prompted an outcry



from computer security and privacy advocates... (http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,289893,sid9\_gci521293,00.html).

Therefore, spyware and adware are often included in the larger definition of "malware", i.e. "malicious software."

How do you know that you have such programs on your computer? First of all, you might experience lots of pop-up ads, even when you are not visiting a website that contains such ads. Secondly, your homepage might be reset to some other site, such as a search engine or a porno site. Thirdly, your computer might seem to run slower and be more instable.

What can you do? First, get a popup blocker. There is one integrated in Windows XP Service Pack 2, or you can download the free Google toolbar (http://toolbar.google.com/) which provides a number of other nifty functions.

Then you should get one or several programs that search for spyware/adware. I like *Spybot Search&Destroy* (donationware, **www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html**) and *Ad-Aware Personal Edition SE* (free for personal use, **www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/**). My experience is that a single program does not seem to catch everything, so having two of them gives me a better chance of catching "scumware."

Also, keep your copy of Windows updated with the latest security patches and consider switching browsers. I have been using *Firefox* for several months (www.mozilla.org), as it does not natively support ActiveX and is less often targeted by malware.

Finally, watch where you go. Don't just download anything you hear about, particularly if the software was mentioned in a pop-up ad (FREE!!! THOUSANDS OF SMILEYS!!!). If your computer is already severely infected with malware or you are not comfortable running removal programs, you might consider paying a pro to clean your system and practice safer browsing from then on. \*\*

### December 11 Board meeting highlights

- Proposed changes to the Membership Form will make it more user-friendly.
- Speakers at general membership meetings may be offered the opportunity to place a free quarter-page advertisement for their business or services in the edition of THE AATIA LETTER.
- Possible AATIA workshops for 2005 may include a four-day workshop on interpreting in January, a workshop on literary translation in June, an ATA certification workshop in July, and a one-day workshop on business and finance translation. An ATA certification exam sitting may be scheduled for the summer of 2005.
- Currently, AATIA has 209 paid members, which breaks down into 178 Active Members, 6 Associate Members, 19 Business Members, and 6 Active Members with a business listing.

—Janet Peirce, Secretary ★



### Olympic, paralympic interpreter speaks

STEVE MINES SHARED his recent experience interpreting at the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games with AATIA's Interpreter Special Interest Group meeting December 11.

The official languages of this year's games were French, English, and Greek, so hiring preference was given to interpreters who had one or several of these as active languages. Relay interpreting was also used when, for example, a Mongolian athlete was asked a question by a Germanspeaking journalist. Some 200 hired interpreters covered communication needs at hundreds of competitions, press conferences, administrative decisions, and appeals before the Court for the Arbitration of Sport on questions such as athlete eligibility for a given event, as well as sessions of the International Olympic Committee. Interpreters were issued cell phones for last-minute assignments and changes, since the language needs of medal ceremonies could not be predicted

with certainty or much advance notice.

The Olympic interpreting experience mimics that of the athletes there are long waits, furious preparation, and brief flashes of intense performance. Interpreters were supplied reference brochures and terminology glossaries for each sport and had access to websites throughout the grounds to help them acquire background information. However, an interpreter would not likely understand all of nuances and politics behind each sport event, as Mines realized when he found himself assigned to interpret a press conference for an equestrian event that was won by a rider on an Andalusian horse, to the great consternation and even unbridled hostility of the defenders of traditional Hanoverian horsemanship, a group that even included other Olympic interpreters.

Many jobs were in consecutive mode, often with relay interpreting, thus increasing the importance of the accuracy along the communication chain. Steve recounted moments of high emotion, as when he interpreted a press conference for the Brazilian marathoner who lost his lead when attacked near the end of the course by a crazed spectator, causing him to come in third and win bronze. The dramatic, unexpected attack and the athlete's quick reaction and recovery stole the limelight from the gold and silver medalists, making the Brazilian runner the true Olympian hero of the final day at the Games.

Steve described the Paralympics as having "all of the energy and twice the amazing heroics of the regular Olympic games, as the disabled athletes broke world records and overcame their physical limitations to achieve true feats of greatness." The most notable contrast was shifting from the spectacle of very young athletes with near perfect bodies to working with athletes of varying ages whose physical disabilities included amputated or congenitally deformed limbs, blindness, and palsy. Competitions were adapted in inventive ways. Steve described a soccer game between blind athletes who play with a ball that makes a sound as it rolls on the ground, so players can run after it and kick and score. All players except the sighted goalies wear evemasks to equalize their level of visual impairment. Crowds are hushed by the announcers with the cry, "Silence! Ball in play!" For a free kick, the official taps a coin on the edges of the goalposts so that the blind kicker knows where to aim. When asked if he would accept a similar interpreting assignment again, in the intense heat of an Athens summer, under the pressure of working on so many different vocabularies, in the spotlight of press coverage, and with the far-flung commute from Austin, Mines said, "In a heartbeat!" We hope

—Maurine McLean ★

### TAHIT lobbies for healthcare

A PRIMARY GOAL of the Texas Association for Healthcare Interpreters and Translators (TAHIT) is to promote the use of qualified healthcare interpreters. In the fall, TAHIT founder and AATIA member Tricia Yacovone met with State Representative Jack Stick and his opponent, Mark Strama, both of whom expressed interest in the goal. After the election Yacovone and AATIA president Esther Díaz met with Representa-

tive-elect Strama and one of his aides to outline the need for more qualified healthcare and social service interpreters, the population that would be impacted by such a change in Texas, and precedents set in other states for similar legislation. Representative-elect Strama demonstrated much enthusiasm for the idea, and offered to sponsor a bill after taking the oath of office in January. He also paved the way for Díaz and Yacovone to contact Senator Rodney Ellis, who proposed SB 1615 during the last legislative session regarding an interpreter services pilot program for

Medicaid recipients, and Senator Kyle Janek, a medical doctor who is vice chairman of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Although the senators themselves were not available, Díaz and Yacovone met with an aide to Senator Janek, and Yacovone met with the general counsel and chief of staff to Senator Ellis. TAHIT plans to contact other legislators and members of the medical and insurance industries to gauge their response to and support for the legislation. \*\*

he'll be working in Beijing in 2008.

# 3 Thank You &

AATIA WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to thank all the officers, coordinators and volunteers for giving so selflessly of their time and resources over the past two years. Without you, AATIA could not exist or function! You and your efforts are greatly appreciated! If you have been inadvertently omitted from the following list, please contact Janet Peirce at jpeirce@cox-internet.com for your well-deserved recognition.



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Regional Conference: Organizers: Esther Díaz and Laura Vlasman and our friends from HITA, Odile Legeay and Michèle Tropeé Volunteers: Tracy Andrighetti, Ivania Cabrera, Dita Dauti-Heilman, Gisela Greenlee, Silvia Kenig, Janet Peirce, Sirikarn Peters, Susana Roca-Smith, Rose Marie Sauer, Efrat Schwartz, Marian Schwartz, Reneé Tanksley, Elsa Taylor, Laurel Treviño, Tricia Yacavone

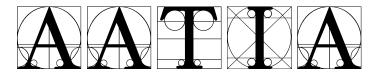


Conference, Workshop, and Meeting Presenters: Traci Andrighetti, Michele Aynesworth, Tony Beckwith, Leo Bello, Michael Blumenthal, Albert Bork, Patricia Bown and Kim Vitray of McElroy Translations, Esther Díaz, Frank Dietz, Ingrid Ellerbee, Cristina Helmerichs, Odile Legeay, Sofia León, Zoya Marincheva, Ben Maya, Maurine McLean, Steven Mines, Petra Navarro, J. Henry Phillips, Marian Schwartz, Pat Thickstun, Liliana Valenzuela, Patricia Yacayone.

Finally, a very special thank-you to all the "angels" who made donations to AATIA:



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International Translators, Patricia
Ayala-McLean, Tony Beckwith, Marta
Blumenthal, Michael Blumenthal,
Albert Bork, Tomoko Carroll, María
de Vries, Michiko Dodge, Ruth
Germann-Ford, Cristina Helmerichs,
Camelia Joffe, Claudia Kellersch,
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Número Uno, Felipe Pérez, Beatriz
Quintana, Thelma Sabim, Juliet
Kathryn Viola, Laura Vlasman, Larisa
Zlatic Language Services \*\*



### Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900 www.aatia.org

AATIA holds meetings at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe, unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are welcome.

#### **EVENTS IN AUSTIN**

Jan 8 10 a.m. Spanish SIG meeting

Jan 29 3-5:30 p.m. AATIA member meeting

6-7:30 p.m. ATA reception

Feb 12 10 a.m. 10-12 noon. ISIG meeting

1-4 p.m. AATIA board meeting

Mar 12 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting

#### **BEYOND AUSTIN**

Nov 2–5, 2005 **Montreal.** Annual Conference of the American Literary Translators Association.

Nov 9–12, 2005 **Seattle.** 46th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association.

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# Lansford's Danish translations honored

The American-Scandinavian Society has announced that Ingrid Lansford has won its second \$1000 Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize for her translation of six stories by Danish writer Meir Aron Goldschmidt. \*

#### LitSIG seeks newbies

The Literary Translators Special Interest Group is looking for new members! If you would like to attend the next meeting (in February) or would like to submit a literary translation to the LitSIG for review at a future meeting, please contact Traci Andrighetti at 454-3305 or traduttrice@hotmail.com. \*\*



I'm beginning to think I may be one of the people you can fool all of the time.