

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association
September 2006



Beckwith translates Imax movie on cowboy culture

LILLIAN AND TONY BECKWITH MINGLED with Austin culturati at the recent premiere of a new Imax movie, "Ride Around the World," the story of global cowboy culture, at the Bullock Texas History Museum.

Beckwith translated the Spanish version, which will be distributed in Latin America and certain Hispanic markets in the States.

For more information about the movie, visit www.ridearoundtheworld.com. ★

Magee to hold live and online patent workshops

FORMER AATIA PRESIDENT MIKE MAGEE has developed and scheduled a patent translation workshop for October 28. Drawing on the programming skills of Chris Corsbie, an online version will appear on the AATIA website after the live workshop in October. The workshop is not language-specific, so participants may apply what they learn regardless of their working languages. Details will be posted on www.aatia.org as they become available. ★

September 9 member meeting

Celebrate Translation Day early

AATIA WILL CELEBRATE International Translation Day (officially September 30) at our regular September 9 meeting. The program will feature another of Tony Beckwith's popular "Mentoring Moments," this time focusing on interpreter members Maurine McLean and Fritz Hensey.

Representatives of sister Texas associations (Houston Interpreters and Translators Association, El Paso Interpreters and Translators Association, Metroplex Interpreter and Translator Association, among others) have been invited to speak on current projects of their respective associations.

Candidates for the 2007 AATIA Board of Directors will speak briefly, and in honor of the occasion, we want to offer special international refreshments. Anyone who would be willing to contribute an appetizer-type specialty is asked to contact Refreshment Coordinator Merry Wheaton at (512) 451-4772 or mcwheaton@austin.rr.com. ★

NEA awards Schwartz \$20K grant

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS has awarded Marian Schwartz a \$20,000 grant to support the translation from Russian of Olga Slavnikova's novel, *2017*.

Set in the near future, *2017* is part science fiction and part political thriller. The story's main character is a gem cutter named Krylov, who works for illegal miners of raw gemstones. Krylov finds himself navigating diamond mines deep in the Urals, a chance romantic encounter, and riots that mark the centennial of the October Revolution.

Slavnikova is the General Director of the Debut Independent Literary Prize. Her first novel, *A Dragonfly Enlarged to the Size of a Dog* (1996), was short-listed for the Russian Booker Prize. Her second work, *Alone in the Mirror* (1999), won the Pavel Bazhov Prize.

For the full press release, go to www.arts.gov/news/news06/LitTranslation.html. ★

ACC offers fall introduction to t/i

THIS FALL AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE will offer an introduction to the professions of translation and interpreting. Students may enroll for the ten three-hour classes on either Wednesday evenings, September 9–November 11, or Saturday mornings, September 13–November 15.

Esther Diaz will conduct the classes (catalog number BSKL 3010, Introduction to Translation and Interpreting, \$175.00), which are intended for individuals fluent in English and a foreign language who want to put their language skills to work. The classes will define the knowledge, skills, and credentials necessary to work successfully as a translator or interpreter.

For registration information go to www.austincc.edu/ce/register.php, and for course information contact mediaz@austin.rr.com. ★

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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*10% discount to members

July program recapped Earning your court interpreter license

In July Maurine McLean outlined how to become a licensed court interpreter in Texas. Candidates must pass a written multiple-choice test and an oral exam offered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). McLean suggested reading some standard test preparation materials such as GED, SAT and LSAT (law) to prepare.

Tested skills include sight translation (reading a text and rendering it verbally in the target language) and both consecutive and simultaneous interpreting. After becoming licensed, an interpreter must also take continuing education classes approved by the TDLR. The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters, ACEBO, and ACC are TDLR-approved, and AATIA is working on its approval status. For more information see www.license.state.tx.us/court/court.htm.

July's Mentoring Moment spotlighted literary translators Marian Schwartz and Liliana Valenzuela. Moderator Tony Beckwith first asked them how they got started.

Schwartz began translating and editing while attending graduate school in Austin. Liliana Valenzuela came to Texas from Mexico to attend school. Because she was fascinated by language and the spoken word, she took creative writing and literature courses and started translating her own poetry.

Asked about style-related problems, Valenzuela said, "In literary translation, style—how things are said—is as important as what is being said. Syntax and word choice require a level of detail not found in technical translation." Schwartz said that one main challenge in translating older authors is finding non-contemporary language resources. "Avoid obviously modern words and contractions, but do insert old-fashioned interjections, and use complete sentences."

On the importance of author consultation, Valenzuela spoke of great experiences because of the authors' active engagement and participation in the translation process.

The majority of Schwartz's translations are of deceased authors, but whenever she deals with living ones, they tend to be flexible and willing to change things in the original version if necessary. ★

Cole on "Justice" at next LitSIG meeting

AATIA's Literary Special Interest Group's next meeting will be on Saturday, September 16, 1–3 pm. Jonathan Cole will present his translation of "Forms of Justice," by Argentinean writer Fernando Sorrentino. Contact Marian Schwartz for directions and for copies of the text. ★

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FALL 2006

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Meet the Candidates

for 2007 AATIA Board of Directors

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR LEO BELLO has announced candidates for the 2007 Board of Directors elections. Candidates will make brief presentations at the meeting on September 9, 2004. The election will be conducted by mail during the last two weeks in September, and results will be announced at the November membership meeting.

Bello expressed thanks to all the candidates for their willingness to run for office. ★



For President

Michael Blumenthal

Over the almost two decades I've been a member of the AATIA, I've served as Director of Finance, Director of Membership, Director of Professional Development, interim President, and Co-Coordinator of the Spanish Special Interest Group. I have represented our local organization at the national level through the American Translators Association as a presenter at six annual conferences, three Spanish Division Conferences, and two Medical Division Conferences. I have been a member of the ATA Nominating Committee for the last two years.

I thank the AATIA and many of its members for welcoming me into

their world and allowing me so many opportunities to learn and grow. My primary goal as President will be reach out to both our current and past members to encourage their participation and to foster their further development: to mentor as we have been mentored. I'm counting on the members of the current board, the board to be elected, and all those who ever were AATIA members in the past to each join me in working: to serve AATIA members through education, networking, and promotion of translation and interpretation professions. ★

For Secretary

Carlota Grimes

My name is Imelda Carlota Grimes. I was born and raised in El Salvador. At

the young age of twenty-two, I married my husband Tim. After twenty years of working for the Foreign Service, we moved to Austin so both our children could attend High School in the States.

It would be an honor to serve as Secretary for AATIA. I can't think of a better opportunity in which to volunteer.

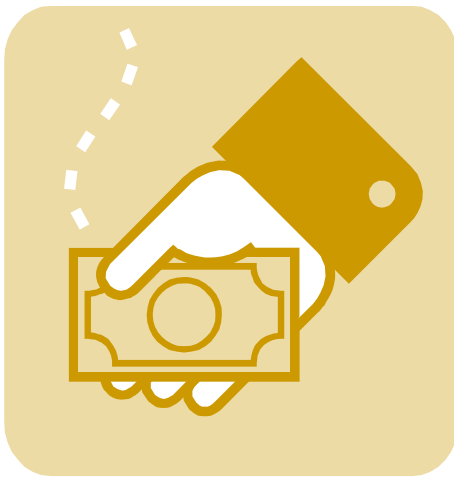
I am presently working as a freelance translator and interpreter after taking all the translating and interpreting courses under fine instructors (who also happen to be members of AATIA). I feel my administrative and organizational skills make me a great candidate for this position. ★

For Director of Finance

Al Favela

Although I was born and raised in Mexico, I have been living in this country for over 38 years. After working in banking and telecommunications, I started to work as an interpreter and translator eight years ago. I obtained my certification as a federal interpreter in 2000.

I have enjoyed my term as Finance Director for our organization and have



implemented some worthwhile changes. If elected to a second term, I will continue to make changes that will help make our organization more financially healthy.

During the coming year I will continue to work with the board to increase our membership and establish a strong continuing education program that will benefit our members and aspiring interpreters and translators as well as create another source of revenue for AATIA.

I would be honored to serve as Finance Director for a second term. ★

For Director of Membership

Gisela Greenlee

I have now served almost two terms as the Director of Membership and would be pleased to continue serving in this capacity for another year. My main focus has been timely recording of all memberships and an accurate listing of all of our current members. My goal for 2007 is to continue with the timely recording of all membership renewals and new membership applications. I



will also strive to keep increasing our membership base by following up on leads provided by our members or the board. ★

For Director of Communications

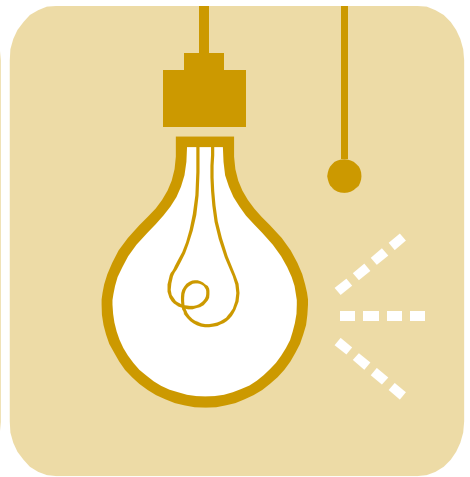
Cristina Pinto-Bailey

[statement not received by press time]

For Director of Professional Development

Maurine McLean

I have worked as a translator and interpreter in legal and medical areas for the past 20 years. My most recent work has been as a court and conference interpreter of Spanish and English and an instructor of translation and interpretation techniques. I belong to NAJIT and have been a member of AATIA for



many years. I have been the coordinator of the Interpreter Special Interest Group for the past two years. If elected, I would work to offer programs, speakers, and special training sessions that would interest current members and attract new members to our organization. As long as AATIA presents training that corresponds to members' needs, we will continue to be a valuable and vibrant organization. I'm willing to work to make that happen. ★

The Survivor

by Tony Beckwith © 2006
www.tonybeckwith.com

MY UNCLE IVOR WAS A BOMBER PILOT in World War II. I wasn't even born then, of course, but I heard about it later on, when I was a boy, and the thought of what he'd done made me swell with pride. He was one of a band of gallant young men of British descent, living in Argentina, who went north to volunteer their services to the Allies in those dark days of the mid-twentieth century.

Ivor enlisted in Ottawa in 1940 and went on to fly for the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served with the 432 Leaside Squadron and the 419 Moose Squadron, doing two tours of duty and seeing action in the Middle East. His citation for the Distinguished Flying Cross—awarded for “outstanding ability, cool determination, and devotion to duty”—noted that he had completed many successful missions during which, “under a quiet and determined manner” he had been “an inspiration to his crew.” And he came through it all without a scratch, which I thought was amazing. Was he so lucky, I wondered, because his name was embedded in the word “survivor”? I put that question to his younger brother, my father, who in his usual patient way said that he couldn't be sure but would think about it.

Like most mothers, mine would stoop to anything to get me to eat my vegetables. She'd say, “Carrots are so good for you; if you'll eat them you'll grow up to have good, strong eyes, just like your Uncle Ivor!” For years I had a mental image of him flying his plane and chewing on a carrot, winking at me and saying, “What's up, Doc?”

After the war, Ivor took his family to Canada and settled in Toronto, which seemed such a long way away from Uruguay, where my family lived. But every year, on my birthday, he'd send

me a card shaped like a wallet, stuffed with crisp, green Canadian dollars. I know for a fact that throughout my childhood I received other birthday gifts, some of which no doubt cost my parents large sums of money, but the only ones I still remember—as clearly as though they'd arrived this morning—were those dollar bills from my Uncle Ivor.

The years passed and I grew up. No, actually, I just got older. I left home and went out into the world, chasing dreams and moonbeams and shooting stars. Bit by bit, totally involved in my own life, I drifted from my roots and, without even realizing it, lost touch with my extended family. Then, one day, long after my father had died and I was middle-aged and living in the United States, my Uncle Ivor came to visit. Now in his late seventies, he piloted his car, on a solo mission, all the way from Toronto to Texas. “Family is important,” he said. “The older generation is dying off, and I'd like our family to stay connected.” He wanted me to come to Canada, to establish a bond with his son that would survive the inevitable passing of the patriarch.

So, one freezing January, Lillian and I flew to Winnipeg and kindled a friendship that has—thanks to an easy and mutual compatibility, email, and low-cost phone calls—blossomed and grown stronger every year since then.

As a result, I've been able to enjoy sending, rather than receiving, birthday dollars to my cousin's children, an experience which feels like coming full karmic circle and fills me with a most remarkable sense of peace.

The re-establishment of this particular family connection has, in turn, led to a renewed interest in and communication with other long-lost members of my tribe, all of whom are a source of immense joy and strength to me now, in what I think of as the autumn of my days. I am deeply grateful to my Uncle, for he was the catalyst who made this happen.

On June 15, 2006, my Uncle Ivor passed away peacefully in his ninetieth year. In his son's words, “He will be remembered as the kindest of men, gentle in demeanor, always putting others before himself.” I would add that he was a most generous man, and never more so than when he gave me the gift of family. ★



Flight Lieutenant Ivor C. Beckwith, DFC

The End of an Era— Free MS Glossaries are Gone

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IF YOU HAVE TRANSLATED SOFTWARE (i.e., been busy in the field of software localization), you most likely have downloaded the Microsoft glossaries at one time or another. The voluminous files for many languages contained translations of strings used in localized MS products, such as Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc. They used to be located at [ftp://ftp.microsoft.com/developer/msdn/NewUp/Glossary/](http://ftp.microsoft.com/developer/msdn/NewUp/Glossary/).

I say used to, because if you go to that FTP site, you only find the following notice now:

To provide users with more up-to-date terminology, Microsoft has replaced the glossary content that was previously posted to this site with a more concise document (CSV formatted) that is easier to use. Microsoft has consolidated and moved the data from the ftp site to the Microsoft download center in an effort to significantly increase reliability and accessibility for users.

This new CSV file contains over 14,000 English terms plus the translations of the terms for up to 45 different languages. Microsoft provides the Microsoft terminology data to allow their customers, ISVs, and partners to have a more consistent user experience across the products they are using and developing. To learn more about the terminology translations and download the CSV file, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/tools/MILSGlossary.msp>

The new glossary, alas, is much more “concise”, i.e., smaller than the old ones, which are now only available to subscribers of MSDN (Microsoft Developer Network).

I do not know why Microsoft decided to change this, but I find it a short-sighted decision. Providing the old glossaries for free cost Microsoft very little, but offered a great return: Numerous freelance translators world-wide used the MS translations as a guideline (no matter what their intrinsic merit), thus standardizing user interfaces for Windows programs. How many of them will spend hundreds of dollars in subscription fees? ★

ATA and Red Cross recruit volunteers

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC) and the American Translators Association have partnered to develop a nationwide volunteer network of professional interpreters. ATA's Interpreters Division has taken the lead in coordinating the pilot program, recruiting volunteers, and establishing ATA liaisons for each of the eight Red Cross Service Areas in the U.S.

This collaboration is part of ARC's plan to increase language capacity across the organization and become

better able to serve all communities, especially as the 2006 hurricane season approaches. Under the agreement, ATA will recruit volunteer interpreters from its membership to serve during disaster relief operations, and ARC will provide training in disaster services and community relations.

ATA volunteers may serve in a variety of positions depending on interests and qualifications. Some will serve regionally as members of language banks or Disaster Action Teams, responding to local emergencies such as house fires—by far the number-one disaster in America. Others will join the Red Cross as members of the Disaster Services

System, deploying when major disasters, such as hurricanes, occur.

The ATA-ARC partnership is a special opportunity for ATA interpreters and translators to use their professional skills for the greater good. We encourage each of you to volunteer now to get involved and learn how you can make a difference. For more information visit www.atanet.org/red_cross. ★

Working locally on remote workshop

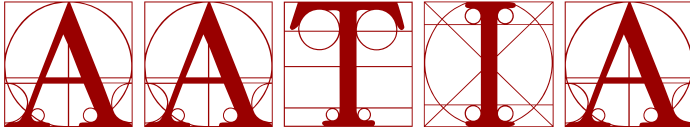
FOUR AATIA SPANSIG MEMBERS gathered in July at the Yarborough library for a local three-hour study session for an online English-to-Spanish Tip-Lab workshop. The Harvie Jordan Foundation granted each participant a \$100 scholarship toward the fee for the long-distance workshop conducted by Argentinean Leandro Wolfson.

Did I say four Spanish translators? Well, I meant three in person (Susana Roca-Smith, Vivian Vargas, and Patricia Yacovonne) and one in spirit (Maurine McLean). When members of the Austin study group can't attend, they may send their translations via another participant, as MacLean did. They also receive feedback from the others. A fifth participant, Patricia Gonzalez, was out of the country.

Each month Tip-Lab participants from many different locations translate an assigned text and send it to Wolfson, who returns it with corrections, comments, some praise, and a touch of humor. In the local meetings, the participants exchange skills, experience, and knowledge to help solve some of the most challenging parts of the text.

For more about this and future SpanSIG workshops, please email austinspansig@yahoo.com.

—Susana Roca-Smith ★



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

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- Sep 9 10:15 a.m. Spanish SIG meeting
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting
Sep 16 1–3 p.m. LitSIG meeting [see p. 3]
Oct 14 10–12 noon. ISIG meeting
1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting
Nov 11 10:15 a.m. Spanish SIG meeting
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting

BEYOND AUSTIN

- Oct 18–21 **Seattle**. 29th Annual Conference of the American Literary Translators Association
Nov 2–5 **New Orleans**. 47th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association www.atanet.org

ACC offers online localization courses

Austin Community College now offers a nine-course, seventy-two hour online program that leads to Localization Generalist certification by Pervasive Software, Lionbridge, Inc., Bridge 360, Client Side News, Common Sense Advisory, IBM/Tivoli, and Ralph McElroy Translation Company.

AATIA Members receive a \$25 discount from the \$125 fee for these courses. To obtain this discount, email a completed registration form to the Localization Program Coordinator Bob McGoldrick at rmcgoldr@austincc.edu, who will then send payment instructions.

Download continuing education registration form at www.austincc.edu/ce/files/RegForm_Win97.doc. ★

