



NOTA BENE

Vol. XXVII, No. 3

May 2004

Upcoming Events:

ATA Certification Exam

Saturday, June 19, 2004, 10:00 a.m.
Satterfield Hall 112,
Kent State University

Interested parties need to apply for ATA membership by May 19th and register for the exam by June 5th.

NOTA Picnic

June 26, 2004, 2:00 p.m.
at the Brecksville Reservation

For map and directions, see pg. 8

Annual Dinner & Installation of Officers

Sept. 18, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
at Del Sangro's Ristorante
13450 Snow Road,
Brook Park, OH 44142

East Side Discussion Group:

June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, 7:00 p.m.
at Borders in Solon

West Side Discussion Group:

May 26, June 30, July 28, 7:00 p.m.
at the Tri-C West Campus

La Tertulia

5/16 (En → Sp) 7/11 (En → Sp)
5/30 (Sp → En) 7/25 (Sp → En)
6/13 (En → Sp) 8/08 (En → Sp)
6/27 (Sp → En)

Welcome to our new members:

Mr. Thierry Poirey
4421 Colorado Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20011
Tel: 202-746-0508
FAX: 208-567-1917
tpoirey@yahoo.com
Native language: French

Ms. Beatrice Loyer
10705 Governor Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44111
216-251-9198
bebloyer@yahoo.com //
frenchtranslationbybeatrice@yahoo.com
Native language: French

Ms. Natalie Itomlenskis
5251 Mayview Road
Lyndhurst, OH 44124

New email address:

Magda Buzniak - translate4you@sbcglobal.net
Nora Paulus - norcika@arcor.de

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NOTA BENE is published by the Northeast Ohio Translators Association, a chapter of the American Translators Association.

Other newsletters are welcome to reprint materials from NOTA BENE, provided they acknowledge the source and send us a copy.

2003/2004 NOTA Executive Board

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NOTA membership fees:

Individual:	\$20.00/yr
Corporate/Institutional:	\$30.00/yr
Student:	\$10.00/yr

For membership information, please contact Dr. Leland Wright at the above number or write to:

NOTA
P.O. Box 994
Kent, OH 44240-0994

President's Message

I attended an ATA conference about translating and interpreting for the federal government in Washington, D.C. in early April and can't begin to tell you what a benefit it was for me. Not only did I find a new client looking for my exact qualifications, but I also had the opportunity to meet new colleagues and catch up with some old friends. I was extremely visible for two reasons. First of all, the President-Elect of ATA, Marian Greenfield, called me several days before the conference to ask if I would write an article about the conference for the ATA Chronicle. I was honored to be asked, and my article will be published in the July issue, so be sure to look for it. ATA provided me with a red-white-and-blue press ribbon on my conference ID, which made me stand out like a sore thumb and generated a lot of questions from other attendees. Secondly, I asked one of the speakers about the benefit of my security clearance and lack of work during one of the sessions. As a result, an employee of a translation agency who had been searching for someone with my exact qualifications (top-secret clearance and German-English) approached me directly after that session to discuss a substantial proofreading job. I have already started working for them and am enjoying the texts very much. So there are benefits to attending the ATA conferences. This conference was rather small in scope compared to the annual conference, but with only 200 attendees, you had a better chance at visibility. We were also extremely lucky that the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. Several of us spent hours Sunday afternoon walking along the tidal basin and reveling in the delicate pink and white blooms and the numerous memorials. Overall, the weekend was certainly worth the expense. I stayed with some friends from college, so my only expenses were the conference registration, the rental car, and money for food, gas, and tolls. And all of that is 100% tax-deductible! My first check will more than cover my expenses. So get out there, network, and get noticed!

Our annual summer picnic is coming up soon. We will meet at the Brecksville Metroparks at 2 PM on Saturday, June 26th. As always, plates and silverware will be provided (although you are welcome to bring your own, more sturdy plates and silverware). Please bring your own beverages – and something delicious to share. Last year we had quite the spread, dining on fried chicken, spaetzle, watermelon, layered Mexican salad, various cheeses, and yummy desserts. Dogs are welcome and will certainly enjoy the trails of the Metroparks as much as their owners will. Be sure to read page 8 for the map and simply follow the signs once you are there.

As you can tell from this issue, the Nominating Committee has been hard at work. We have several excellent candidates lined up for the next two-year term. We have also published short bios of all the candidates to help you make your decision and the election ballot in this issue of NOTA BENE. Please send your completed ballot to either Karin Debelius or Reinhold Federmann by July 15th. The results of the election will be published in the August NOTA BENE – just in time for the Annual Meeting, which we will be holding again at Del Sangro's on Saturday, September 18th at 6:30 PM.

The Web site committee also met for the first time several weeks ago. Five members have volunteered to help improve the Web site - Mary

Allcorn, Magda Buzniak, Anne Chemali, Cindy Hazelton, and the new Webmaster, Klaudia Schaller. Klaudia has been working on a redesign of the site, and they are all hard at work brainstorming ideas. If you have a suggestion, please feel free to contact any of them. Since the Web site is there to serve you, the committee would really like feedback from the members as to what should be included on the site and how to improve its appearance. The database programmer is also hard at work developing the member database. Because of his close association with Anne Chemali, he is offering us his services at a substantially reduced rate. I am extremely excited about this, because you will soon be able to update your member information directly in the database.

Also, we will be holding the ATA certification exam next month on June 19th. Amanda Ennis has once again agreed to proctor the exam, and Sue Ellen Wright has volunteered to arrange the room. I hope to see some of you there with me sweating it out over mountains of dictionaries – and this time I hope to pass. Don't forget that you need to sign up three weeks before the actual test date.

I look forward to seeing you at the summer picnic and the monthly discussion groups, which will continue to meet during the summer months. I hope you all have a very successful and enjoyable summer.

Jill Sommer

NOTA Election

2004 is another election year for NOTA. Below are the statements and pictures of our candidates. On the last page you will find the ballot form. Please mark your ballot, cut it off along the line and send it by July 15, 2004 either to Reinhold Federmann or to Karin Debelius. Make sure your return address is on your envelope.

Jill Sommer (President)



I graduated from Bowling Green State University with a dual major in German and Russian in 1992 and received my master's in translation from Kent State University in 1995. I lived in Bonn, Germany for six years, where I worked in-house at a translation/software localization company as well as an Internet researcher and freelance translator for numerous direct customers and agencies, including the United States Embassy, and moved back to the U.S. in 2001. I am the current president of NOTA and have been working hard to

improve communication and educational opportunities within the group as well as improve the group's standing at the local and national level. In the past year, I have helped organize a Trados seminar for NOTA and ATA members, redesigned the web site, and organized a committee of NOTA members who will be responsible for the content of the site in the future. A searchable database should be online and operational next month. I intend to continue my work in the future and look forward to working closely with the new Executive Committee to achieve even better results in the coming years.

Dr. Lee Wright (Treasurer/Membership)



Before starting my career as a full-time translator in 1974, I taught Spanish at the university level for a total of ten years. I have been a freelance translator since 1982, focusing primarily on Spanish legal and commercial documents. I joined the American Translators Association in 1975 and passed the ATA Spanish-English certification exam the same year. I served two consecutive terms of office as an ATA director (1978-84) and was editor of the *ATA Chronicle* from 1983 to 1987, as well as serving on several ATA standing committees (currently Chair of

the Active Membership Review Committee). I am a charter member of the Northeast Ohio Translators Association (NOTA), serving as NOTA's first president and subsequently in several other elected offices, as well as newsletter editor. I have been NOTA's Treasurer/Membership Chair for the past 10 years and am looking forward to continuing in that position. In addition to my work as a freelance translator, since 1989 I also have been teaching Spanish-English commercial/legal translation in the M.A. translator-training program at Kent State University. More recently, I have joined the online faculty in the New York University translation certificate program.

Anne Chemali (Programs)



I held the position of the NOTA secretary for 2 years from 2000- 2002 and stepped down when I had my second child. I am a full-time English to French translator and have volunteered my time to organize the Trados workshop with Jill Sommer last year, which was extremely successful. I am an active member of

ATA and attend the ATA conference every year.

I would like to run for the program chair position. I feel NOTA should offer more continuing education events to help us effectively use the translation tools of the future. I plan to offer the Trados seminar on a regular basis, be part of a team to work on an Internet research seminar, and possibly develop an XML seminar for translators. I truly believe that exchanging experiences is an important mission for NOTA and I look forward to hearing some more program requests from members! Please vote for me.

Natasha Curtis (Programs)



Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I have been a Professional Translator and Interpreter for ten years. I hold a BA in T&I from Universidad del Salvador, and am currently completing my MA in Translation at Kent State University. I have been a

member of ATA and Nota since 2000 and am currently

leading the Spanish discussion group *La Tertulia* where I promote the advancement of professionalism in the practice of translation and, especially, in Court Interpreting.

I would be honored to serve as the Programs chair person in our Association, and hope to have the opportunity to bring about the realization of fresh new ideas that aim at the furtherance of the T&I profession.

Amanda Ennis (Public Relations)



I have been a member of NOTA and of ATA since 1995, and I received my MA in German Translation from Kent State University in 1997. I have worked as an in-house translator/ project manager and am currently a full-time freelance translator. I earned

ATA accreditation (now certification) in 2001 and became an ATA Certification Exam grader in 2004.

I have been the NOTA Secretary since 2002. I have been a member of the ATA Public Relations Committee since 2000 and received special media training in September 2003. I have written several

national and local articles on various PR topics. My most recent project at the national level (in cooperation with Lillian Clementi and Jill Sommer) was the School Outreach Initiative, a Web-based collection of ideas and exercises to use when making presentations to schoolchildren of all ages. The pages are at http://www.atanet.org/ata_school/welcome.htm. I would like to be your next Public Relations officer so that I can apply the techniques I am learning at the national level to benefit us locally in Northeast Ohio. I would like to bring about more activity on the PR front: presentations to schools, placing articles in publications, and getting press coverage whenever and wherever possible.

Dr. Cynthia Hazelton (Secretary)



I have worked as a French teacher for 29 years, with the past 18 years being at Beachwood High School. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in French and Spanish from Kent State, a Master's Degree in French from Middlebury College, a law degree from the University of Akron, and a Master's Degree in Translation from

Kent State. I completed a translation internship at Ernst

& Young in Paris (2003) and will work at the French Ministry of Justice in June and July 2004.

After I finish my teaching career next year, I am looking forward to working full time as a legal translator. I live in Beachwood with my husband Bob. I have been a member of NOTA for four years and feel that I am qualified to serve as Secretary because I enjoy attending our meetings and social functions and I am organized and diligent with my responsibilities.

Honing Translation Skills through On-line Courses

by Lee Wright

As many of you know, I have been teaching Spanish-to-English translation part-time in the Kent State University (KSU) graduate-level translator-training program since 1989, specializing in legal and commercial translation. This has provided an excellent opportunity for me to stay abreast of current trends in translation methodology, as well as to have regular contact with the younger generation, some of whom will undoubtedly be taking my place if and when I ever decide to retire. Although the KSU class that I teach normally meets just once a week for 2½ hours, I must also take time for reviewing and grading the students' weekly projects, consulting with individual students on class-related matters, etc., but this has rarely proven to be an obstacle. Instead, it's usually quite enjoyable. In addition, over the past 15 years at KSU I have supervised 40 translation case study projects (the equivalent of an M.A. thesis).

Earlier this year, however, quite unexpectedly I was contacted by Guylaine Laperrière, who is the Translation Studies Coordinator at New York University (NYU). She explained that one of the people who had been teaching the on-line course in Spanish>English legal translation was not able to continue doing so during the spring semester, so she was looking for a replacement. After Ms. Laperrière provided a general description of NYU's on-line Translation Studies program to me, as well as giving me an overview of the specific course involved, I decided that it would be very interesting to find out how the on-line teaching experience differs from that of traditional "live" classroom instruction.

ATA members of NOTA may have read the article published in the November/December 2003 issue of the *ATA Chronicle* (pp. 41-45), titled "Academic Responsibility, High-level Pragmatism, and Real World Situations," by Dr. Milena Savova, who is director of the Center for Foreign Languages and Translation at NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies. This article was written in anticipation of the program's 20th anniversary in 2004, making it one of the longest running in the U.S. For a more in-depth description of how the program is designed, I suggest that you read this article. Due to its length, however, I am not going to summarize it here.

To make a long story short, I sent off a copy of my professional résumé and shortly afterwards received another phone call inviting me to take over the course. Consequently, I "enlisted" as what NYU calls an "On-line Facilitator Consultant" and started teaching the 10-week Spanish>English Legal I course at the end of February. Since then I have also agreed to teach another course in technical translation during the summer, and I'm looking

forward to doing so because it will give me an opportunity to find out whether I still have what it takes to work in technical fields. To be sure, I'm certainly not doing this for the money because, like most public universities (including KSU), NYU has a relatively low pay scale for part-time instructors like me. I estimate that I'm probably making between \$10 and \$12 per hour, based on the amount of time involved in teaching the course.

Since teaching an on-line course was a totally new experience for me, it took about a week to become fully oriented in the system, which is called "The Virtual College" ("VC" for short). I was pleased to discover that the VC system is really very well-designed and quite sophisticated from the standpoint of both the instructor and the students, who can also call on the help of highly trained technical staff for dealing with any computer- or system-related problems.

At the beginning of each course, the instructor and the students introduce themselves to one another. In advance of starting the course the instructor will have uploaded weekly assignments (readings, texts for translation, lectures) to the VC, and changes can be made to these whenever desired or necessary. In fact, having taken over from a previous instructor, I quickly discovered that I wanted to substitute some of the texts for translation and to supplement some of the reading material that had been used in earlier classes.

The instructor also has access to two bulletin board-like components of the VC. One of these, called "Announcements," is for the instructor's use in providing supplemental information on a regular basis to all of the students. The instructor can also communicate directly with the students (both individually and collectively) by e-mail. The second major VC component is the "Forum," which allows both students and the instructor to ask and answer questions, post comments, etc. for everybody to read and respond to on a regular basis. I normally check the Forum for my class at least once a day to find out what sort of problems the students have encountered in their weekly translation assignments.

A third component is the weekly "chat" session. In this particular course, every Thursday evening between 7:30 and 9:00 the students and I log on to the VC's chat room for my course, and we have an on-line round-robin discussion of the questions and problems that have arisen while working on the current week's translation assignment. The chat sessions, at least for me, have become an enjoyable substitute for a face-to-face class meeting. After a while the instructor becomes more acquainted with each student and finds out where

individual students might need more guidance in their work, since not all of the students have the same background and preparation in either the language pair or especially the subject area.

In some of the courses offered (both in translation and in many other fields) the instructor can actually conduct real-time discussions with the students or give lectures using a headphone connected to the computer. I am not taking advantage of this option, however, but I might do so in a future course.

Over the 10-week course the students are required to prepare and submit a total of nine relatively short weekly translation projects dealing with a variety of typical legal documents. In addition, a short paper and a terminology file are due for delivery at the end of the course. (The assignments will, of course, be different for each subject area.) Every Monday the students send me their translations as MS Word files by e-mail (although they could also be delivered via the VC). I review and grade the translations before returning the revised version to each student, also by e-mail. In order to facilitate the grading process, I have implemented a special but simple layout to be followed for delivering the translations. In fact, this approach has proven to be so successful (at least for me) that I am planning to adopt it for my KSU class starting this fall. After grading and returning the weekly “homework” assignments, I then post the individual grades to the VC’s gradebook component.

Although I started out with a fairly large class – 13 students, for various reasons several of them decided to drop the course after the first week or two, so as I’m writing this toward the end of April, with less than two weeks left in the course, nine students remain in the class (which is actually still more than I often have in my KSU class!), and two of those students opted to audit the course for no grade or credit toward the certificate. One of the students already has obtained her translation certificate from NYU but is taking the legal translation course just to get better acquainted with the subject.

Students enrolled in the program can take just a few selected courses, or they can seek a Translation Certificate in one of six language pairs or in general translation. The language pairs are French, German, Spanish, and Arabic to English, and English to Portuguese and Spanish. The German and Arabic to English and the English to Portuguese programs are only offered on-line, but the others can be taken both on-line and on-site at the university. (NOTE: The Arabic program is new and still in development.) Core courses include commercial, legal, technical and medical translation, plus electives in several different subject areas. There is a possibility that an on-line project management course will also be developed in the near future.

Admission to the certificate program requires a free entrance exam for each language pair. The 1½-hour exam consists of a general passage of approximately 300 words to be translated into the target language plus a short essay written in the target language. The exams can be taken either on-site or by e-mail. After passing the exam, each student must take the Introduction to Translation Studies course, which must be passed with a grade of B or better in order to continue with any of the other courses, and the students must maintain a B average throughout the 6-course certificate program. The General Translation Certificate requirements are somewhat different and involve two language pairs instead of just one.

The courses are offered year-round (i.e., fall, spring and summer). The introductory course is offered every semester, so students can start the program at any time during the year except in Portuguese and Arabic. Other courses are taught on a rotating-schedule basis. At the time this article was written, NYU charges a fee of \$740 for each 10-week course taken, but this fee is subject to change. For more detailed information, just send an inquiry by e-mail to Ms. Laperrière at gl218@nyu.edu.

An obvious advantage to taking an on-line course is that the students do not have to be physically present in a classroom at a specific time on a given day. This can also be a plus for the instructors, of course. There is, however, a certain degree of structure, which I have described above. In the case of the course I’ve been teaching, three of the nine students actually live outside the U.S. (Mexico, Colombia and Bolivia), and the other six are located at various places around the country. One of the students even went off to Europe for a week during her spring break and still maintained regular contact via e-mail and the VC.

So, you may well ask, what does all of this have to do with me? The answer is quite simple. The NYU program offers a relatively inexpensive and generally painless way to hone your translation skills right from your own computer. Even if you aren’t interested in obtaining a translation certificate from NYU, you can benefit from the input of several experienced professional translators in each language pair. In addition, if you currently hold ATA certification in one or more language pairs or if you become certified in the future (and if you wish to retain that certification), you will undoubtedly be aware of the recently implemented continuing education requirement. By taking just one of the on-line NYU courses every year, you can earn up to 5 continuing education points toward the total requirement of 20 points over a 3-year period. But no matter whether you would just like to hone your existing skills, learn more about translating certain text types, or seek a non-degree translation certificate, the NYU program certainly offers a wide range of alternatives for professional continuing education and development via its on-line courses.

NOTA Executive Committee Meeting – April 16, 2004

In attendance were Jill Sommer (President), Amanda Ennis (Secretary), Karin Debelius (Public Relations) and Margaret Nevits (Programs). Lee Wright (Treasurer/Membership) was unable to attend.

Items of business were as follows:

- 1) The **NOTA Web site** is undergoing a **redesign**. The new site will allow members to edit their own personal information whenever necessary.
- 2) The **TRADOS seminar** held at Kent State in January netted a **\$400 profit**, which has been deposited into the NOTA account. Thanks to **Jill Sommer** and **Anne Chemali** for volunteering their time and expertise!
- 3) Beginning with the 2004-2005 year, a **late fee** will be assessed to those failing to renew their membership by the end of September. The membership fees will also **increase** by **\$5**, making the new annual membership fee **\$25** for individuals, **\$35** for corporations, and **\$15** for students.
- 4) We now have a **room number for the ATA Accreditation Exam** being held June 19th at Kent State University. The exam will begin at 10 AM in **Satterfield Hall 112**, on the ground floor of the building.
- 5) The East Side and West Side discussion groups will **continue all summer**. We'd love to see you at our July and August meetings!
- 6) The summer picnic will be held at the **Brecksville Reservation** (Harriet Keeler Memorial Picnic Area, same location as last year) on **Saturday, June 26**, at **2:00 p.m.** See page 8 for a map and directions.
- 7) We will be returning to **Del Sangro's** in Brook Park for our **Annual Dinner Meeting** on **Saturday, September 18**, at **6:30 p.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Please cut along this line

NORTHEAST OHIO TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Please vote for one candidate in each category and return your ballot to

Karin Debelius
10501 Lake Shore Blvd., #3
Bratenahl, OH 44108-1015

or

Reinhold Federmann
3085 Brush Rd.
Richfield, OH 44286-9630

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| President | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jill Sommer |
| Treasurer/Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dr. Leland Wright |
| Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Anne Chemali |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Natasha Curtis |
| Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amanda Ennis |
| Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dr. Cynthia Hazelton |

Directions to the Brecksville Reservation

Our annual summer picnic will be at the Brecksville Reservation, Harriet Keeler Memorial Picnic Area, which is right off the main road.

How to get there:

I-77..... FROM THE NORTH OR SOUTH

Exit at Rt. 82 east (Royalton Rd.) to Rt 21 (Brecksville Rd.)

I-271..... FROM THE NORTH

Take I-480 West to I-77 South, then follow I-77 directions

I-271..... FROM THE SOUTH

Take I-77 North, then follow I-77 directions

I-71..... FROM THE SOUTH

Take I-271 North to I-77 North, then follow I-77 directions

I-71..... FROM THE NORTH

Take I-480 East to I-77 South, then follow I-77 directions

I-480 or I-90..... FROM THE EAST OR WEST

Take I-77 South, then follow I-77 directions

TURNPIKE..... EXIT 11

Take Rt. 21 (Brecksville Rd) north, you will then see the park entrance on the right

