

Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program (CIP) Newsletter

Spring 2013
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CIP News: Education Updates

Continuing Education

For sign language interpreters certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), continuing education is a mandatory requirement to maintain their interpreter certification. Two years ago, Wisconsin started to explore implementing continuing education requirements for spoken language interpreters who appeared on the roster of interpreters. It was determined that more affordable educational opportunities needed to be available locally before such a requirement was mandated.

Even though Wisconsin does not yet require continuing education for spoken language interpreters, many certified interpreters join professional associations, take courses, and attend conferences because they realize the value of further education. Like every other profession, court interpreting is no different. It is vital for practitioners to expose themselves to new developments within the field, familiarize themselves

with best practices, and participate in needed refreshers on ethics.

In an effort to recognize the professional development measures interpreters have taken, the CIP worked with the court's information technology department to restructure the roster so it now has the ability to display courses or specialized trainings an interpreter has completed. Individuals using the roster can click on an interpreter's name and view all relevant events in an effort to assist the seeker in making a decision as to which interpreter to hire.

To report educational activities or membership in a particular trade association, a form has been developed for use by interpreters. The form and instructions can be found at this link <http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/contedu.htm>. Interpreters are encouraged to begin reporting activities immediately. For this initial reporting period, past educational activities starting from July 2012 are eligible.



Courtroom-to-Classroom Project

Interpreter candidates working towards their certification can take advantage of a new educational pilot program known as "Courtroom-to-Classroom." Fourteen circuit court judges around the state have opened up their courtrooms to aspiring interpreters to provide practical training on legal terminologies and concepts. Individuals set up a date and time to observe actual court proceedings and then afterwards spend time with the judge one-on-one going over the specifics of the hearing. The interpreter candidate is able to ask the judge clarifying questions about terminology, protocol or procedures. Judges might pose questions to the interpreter to ensure the interpreter candidate understood the proceedings. Interested individuals should contact the court at least two weeks prior to the desired

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date. This link provides a listing of participating courtrooms and contact information around the state.

<http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/courtroomtoclassproject.htm>

Team Interpreting Input Session: Fri., Sept. 6 Dane County

The Committee to Improve Interpreting is seeking input from interpreters on a position paper for team interpreting and will hold an informal meeting at the Dane County Courthouse at noon on Sept. 6. All are welcome to attend. This meeting will count towards continuing education.

Related Organizations

National Association of
Judiciary Interpreters and
Translators (NAJIT)
www.najit.org

American Translators
Association (ATA)
www.atanet.org

Registry of Interpreters for
the Deaf (RID)
www.rid.org

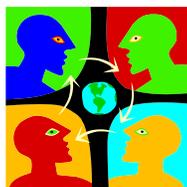
Midwest Association of
Interpreters and Translators
(MATI)
www.matiata.org

Upper Midwest Translators
and Interpreters Association
(UMTIA)
www.umtia.cloverpad.org

InterpretAmerica
www.interpretamerica.net

Cross Cultural
Communications
www.cultureandlanguage.net

Critical Link International
www.criticallink.org



Online Interpreter Training Opportunities

de la Mora Interpreter
Training
[www.interpreter-
training.com/index.html](http://www.interpreter-training.com/index.html)

Interpreter Education
Online
[www.site.interpretereduc
ationonline.com/](http://www.site.interpretereducationonline.com/)

New Mexico Center for
Language Access
(NMCLA)
[www.nmcenterforlangua
geaccess.org/](http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/)

Meet Newly Certified Russian Interpreter: Yulia Mielke



a BA in English and German
landing my first job a month
before I earned my diploma in
2006. I worked for two years at
a large steel mill in
Chelyabinsk as a technical
translator and interpreter
which provided an excellent
opportunity to work and learn
from a wide range of experts,
engineers, managers, financial
advisers, lawyers, and bankers.

I grew up in a small Russian
town at the foot of the Ural
Mountains already knowing I
wanted to be an interpreter.
After high school I received a
full scholarship and graduated
magna cum laude from
Chelyabinsk State University
with an MA in Linguistics and

I translated and interpreted
simultaneously and
consecutively at equipment
assembly and installations,
audits, negotiations, business
meeting, seminars, workshops,
exhibitions, TV interviews,
hospitals, corporate events. I
was eventually subcontracted

by TKPS, a Dutch company, for
the installation project at the
plant where I started my
interpreting career. During the
time at TKPS, our “linguistic
team” translated more than
8000 pages of manuals,
drawings, instructions and
other data and interpreted for
the company CEOs and
employees.

Currently, I work as a medical
and court interpreter in
Wisconsin and teach Russian at
a Sunday school. I became
certified in December 2013. I
enjoy learning languages (I
speak four: Russian, German,
Italian and English), reading,
and horseback riding.

Legal Case: Mendez vs. State of Arkansas, 2011 Ark. 536 (2011)

In 2011, the Arkansas
Supreme Court overturned
the conviction of Jose Luis
Mendez who had been
sentenced to 60 years for rape,
attempted murder,
aggravated burglary and
aggravated assault. Mr.
Mendez, who only speaks
Spanish appealed on the
grounds that the circuit court
erred in admitting the State’s
translation of a statement he
gave to the police because it
was not prepared by a
qualified certified translator as
required by the AR Rules of
Evidence.

A translation of Mr. Mendez’s
recorded interrogation with

Det. Jared Pena was prepared
by Joseph Thomas, an
employee of the prosecutor’s
office who had attempted and
failed the state’s interpreter
certification exam. Mr.
Mendez offered an alternate
translation that had been
prepared by Nicholas
Durand, a state-certified
interpreter.

The key discrepancy between
the two versions was an
alleged admission from Mr.
Mendez when Det. Pena
asked him, “Did you try and
kill her?” Mr. Thomas
translated the appellant’s
response as “I did that”
whereas Mr. Durand

translated his response as “I
didn’t do that.” The trial court
admitted both versions
concluding that a
determination of which
version was more accurate
was a matter for the jury to
decide.

The AR Rules of Evidence
provides that a translation of a
foreign language document,
including transcriptions, shall
be admissible upon the
affidavit of a “qualified
translator.” The state Supreme
Court ruled that Mr. Thomas
was not a qualified translator
and therefore, the court
should not have admitted that
translation.

Meet Veteran Spanish Interpreter: Alexandra Wirth



I was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador. From a very early age I was fascinated with languages. I was educated in a Jewish school where learning three languages was mandatory. In college, I majored in

Linguistics and earned a Masters of Arts degree in Applied Linguistics. The area of research I concentrated on was Psycholinguistics with an emphasis on First and Second Language Acquisition Theory. My first job upon finishing college was as an interpreter and translator for a petroleum corporation in the Ecuadorian rainforest. It was an amazing experience that furthered my interest in languages and cross-cultural

training. Soon after, I relocated to the United States where I pursued my career as a freelance translator and interpreter. I first started to work as a conference interpreter, and in 2001 I began to work as a court interpreter in Milwaukee. In 2004, I was a member of the first group of interpreters in Wisconsin to become certified. During the last 5 years, I have been featured as a guest speaker in several colleges in Wisconsin and Illinois

where I have lectured on topics such as the Modes of Interpretation, Ethics for Court Interpreters and Legal Terminology for Spanish Interpreters. I recently became Federally Certified, and I continue to work on my research on second language acquisition in children with Asperger's syndrome.

See Alexandra's article below "Our False Friends."

Our False Friends

by Alexandra Wirth

For years, I have campaigned against the use of false cognates. In fact, when I was teaching court interpretation I devoted a good portion of the semester to teaching my students the distinction between a true cognate and a false one. However, the use of false cognates seems to be one of the biggest temptations, even the most seasoned interpreter falls for. False cognates are words that look similar or sound similar in two different languages, but

have different meanings.

Why do we use false cognates? To quote Dr. Bernard Hamel "[the interpreter] thinks he knows the exact equivalent and translates it instinctively rather than reflexively." This means the interpreter quickly chooses a false cognate because of its resemblance with the word in the source language and thinks the false cognate is an appropriate option to render his/her interpretation. However, this can be a risky practice as illustrated in the dialogue

below taken from a real life observation of an interpreter in court:

Judge: *You are being charged with battery.*

Spanish interpreter: *Te están cargando la batería (They are charging the battery for you)*

Defendant: *De qué batería me habla si yo no tengo ni celular" (What battery are you talking about, I don't even have a cell phone)*

For a complete guide of Spanish false cognates see the "Comprehensive Bilingual Dictionary of Spanish False Cognates" by Bernard Hamel.

Newsletters, Blogs, & Other Websites on Interpreting and Translating

Proteus
www.najit.org
Quarterly newsletter about judiciary interpreters and translators

Intersect: A Newsletter about Language, Culture and Interpreting
www.cultureandlanguage.net

The Chronicle
www.atanet.org/chronicle/
Published 11 times a year and is included in annual membership fees.

Interpreter's Launch Pad
<http://www.interprenaut.com/>
Free monthly newsletter bringing resources, tips and a bit of fun to the lives of professional interpreters

The Interpreter Diaries
<http://theinterpreterdiaries.com/>

Interpreter Trainers Network
<http://itn.aslia.com.au/InterpreterTrainersNetwork/Welcom.html>

Translation and Interpretation in America
www.translationandinterpretationinamerica.blogspot.com.es/
Blog on teaching interpretation and translation in America

US Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor & Statistics (BLS)

An Occupational Outlook Handbook report from the Department of Labor's BLS showed the annual median salary of interpreters and translators to be \$43,300 in May 2010. The report

predicts a 42% growth in employment for interpreters and translators in 2010-2020 which is faster than the 14% average rate of growth for all occupations. The rapid growth reflects an

increasingly diverse US population. For the complete report, see <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Media-and-Communication/Interpreters-and-translators.htm#tab-1>

Contact:

Court Interpreter Program
Office of Court Operations
110 East Main St. #410
Madison, WI 53703
608.266.8635

Carmel Capati, Manager
carmel.capati@wicourts.gov

www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm

2013 Schedule Orientation

Madison: Aug. 17-19

Written Test

Madison: Sept. 20

Oral Test

Madison: June 25-26

Madison: Oct 29-30

Members of the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the WI Courts

Hon. John Damon, Chair
Hon. James Daley
Hon. Barbara Key Hart
Hon. Dan Koval
Hon. Stephanie Rothstein
Ct. Commissioner Ann Sayles
Heather Pantoga
John Powell
Sheila Reiff
Jacqueline Thachenkary
Tamesia Sosa
Debra Gorra-Barash

The committee serves the Director of State Courts office by setting policy and procedural guidance on interpreting and translation issues throughout the Wisconsin court system.

Fall Meeting: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 | 11:30 am-3:30 pm | 110 E Main Street | Madison WI 53703

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Community Interpreting Certificate Program

Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI

www.viterbo.edu/interpret/

Graduate Program in Translation

UWM, Milwaukee, WI

www4.uwm.edu/letsci/translation/

Next Madison Get-Together for Interpreters & Translators

Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 pm | Location in Madison TBA,
Contact Diane at didawhit@gmail.com for more information
or find on Facebook

2013 Conferences

Sept 21 | 11th Annual MATI Conference | Chicago, IL

Nov 6-9 | American Translators Association (ATA) | San

Antonio, TX

Nov 15-17 | Wisconsin RID Annual Fall Conference |

Racine, WI

Aug 9-14 | Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) |

Indianapolis, IN

More Resources

The Speech Repository

Project is an online learning system of students of conference interpreting. It provides students with high quality video recordings from real-life situations such as EU meeting.

<http://www.multilingualspeeches.tv/scic/portal/index.html>

Speechpool is a website that allows users to access video clips of speeches suitable for simultaneous interpreting practice and to upload their own material to share.

<http://www.speechpool.net/en/>

"Found in Translation: How Language Shapes our Lives and Transforms our World"

by Nataly Kelly and Jost Zetsche. This book will help you see how the products you use, the freedoms you enjoy, and the pleasures in which you partake are made possible by translation.

"Translation & Interpreting: Special Issue on Certification"

by Alan Melby. Ed. Vol. 5, No. 1, 2013. The current issue of the free online journal is dedicated to certification.

<http://www.trans-int.org/index.php/transint>

Interpreter Marketplace

If you are looking to sell or buy used interpreting or translating related resources or study materials (books, CDs, DVDs, practice exams), you can post it in this newsletter.



Do you have a resource to share with your colleagues?

Glossaries

Searchable Online Spanish-English Glossary
www.sdnjinterpreters.org/glossary.php

Legal Glossaries: Arabic, Western Armenian, Hmong, Mien, Mong, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, Vietnamese
www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/legal-glossaries.aspx

Legal Glossary: Somali and Mandarin
www.mncourts.gov/?page=461