

e-NITA

Fourth Quarter 2009

NITA

Volume 1, Issue 4



Karen Tkaczyk,
NITA's president
2009–2011

About NITA:

NITA was founded in 2008 to help elevate the quality and availability of language services in the state of Nevada. Its goals include advocacy for the profession, political action for legislation (certification), among others. NITA offers its member professional development opportunities, free quarterly meetings with presentations, voting rights in board elections, networking and much more.

Special points of interest:

- > Second and third Las Vegas get-togethers held
- > Membership up to 55!
- > First "Getting Started in Translation and Interpreting" workshop held
- > NITA represented at annual American Translators Association conference in New York City
- > Margarita Griggs wins ATA School Outreach Contest

Note from the president

By Karen Tkaczyk

Hello NITA members and friends,

We have held some great professional development events since the last newsletter came out. There are write ups for all of them in the newsletter. We are really pleased to be able to hold these events and we look forward to starting them in Las Vegas during 2010. A highlight for the season was five of us attending the ATA conference in New York in October along with about 2,300 other translators and interpreters. You can see several reviews of that inside, and we'll have a Forum during the December quarterly meeting where some of us share our experience.

At last count NITA membership was up to more than 50, and we are really pleased about that. The more, the merrier, and the better trained and prepared we will be for our work.

Members received an email from me recently about volunteering. The core team is pretty saturated with NITA work so to grow we need new help. If you are interested, please get in touch with me.

Thanks again to Judy Jenner, our wonderful vice president and newsletter editor, for her hard work.

NITA represented at ATA Annual Conference in New York City

By Judy Jenner

This year, our small organization was represented by no less than five members, including two NITA board members. NITA member Margarita Griggs, who won the prestigious ATA School Outreach Award, was honored during the conference (see page 2 for more details). Other NITA attendees were Roxane Dow from Las Vegas and Alicia Garijo from Sparks. The 50th annual conference in NYC was attended by more than 2,300 linguists and featured 150 educational sessions. Both NITA's president and vice president were chosen as speakers. We asked some of the attendees to give us their impressions on the event. For more information, please visit www.atanet.org.

Karen Tkaczyk, NITA's president, had the following experience:

The ATA conference has always been as much about networking as it has training for me. This year the networking was non-stop, from breakfast till past midnight in the hotel's Atrium bar. There was even a very well-attended, therefore somewhat chaotic and very loud, first attempt at 'speed networking'. I helped run that, and the take home was that it was fun and well-received with room for improvement—literally. We need a room that can handle the volume of hundreds of excited translators trying to talk over each other!

On the training front though, the conference was full of great substance this year. For a patent translator there were a number of high quality sessions. I wasn't able to attend them all, but consider: in language specific tracks there was at least one patent session for each of German, French, Japanese and Korean. As well as those there were sessions on Discovery, on Making the Move to Patent Translation, and another on The Anatomy of a Patent. This was a solid load of practical, specialized, subject-specific material, helpful to both aspiring and well-established patent translators.

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First-time American Translators Association conference attendee Alicia Garijo filed the following report:

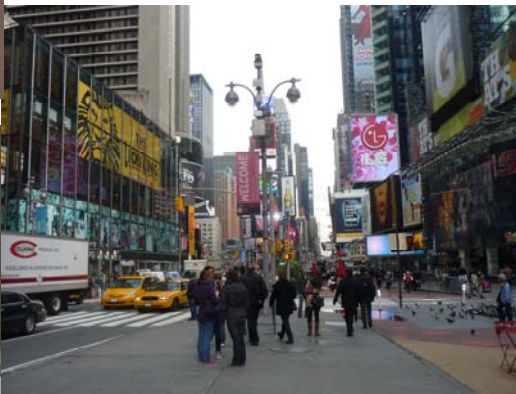
Being my first time attending an ATA Conference, I was anticipating confusion and being overwhelmed, but I was very pleasantly surprised. I commend ATA for their hard work on such a fantastic event, which contained a wealth of information, great networking opportunities and much more. The only challenge I had, which is technically a good one, is not having enough time to take in all the great speakers and presentations! I can't be in two rooms at the same time, so I had to pick and choose. I found my solution by simply purchasing the Multimedia DVD-ROM of entire conference, which is valuable educational tool for my library. This enabled me to relax and take in what I could. The sessions I was able to attend were very well presented by professional speakers. I consider attending an ATA Conference a significant part of my personal road map for the translation and Interpretation Industry. I had a clearer picture of the next steps I wanted to take towards my profession. I recommend the conference to all colleagues, regardless of their level of experience.

NITA Meets ATA: Photo Impressions of the ATA Conference

Below: NITA's president and vice president during their presentations.



Left: NITA president Karen Tkaczyk with NITA member Margarita Griggs, winner of the School Outreach Contest. Below: The Marriott Marquis was located in Times Square.



Above: President Karen Tkaczyk and vice president Judy Jenner at the NITA table.



Left: The main expo hall at the conference.

Right: The NITA table, which the ATA provided for free. The "Welcome to Las Vegas Sign" was very popular, and made our table hard to miss.



Board Reports—Some of the Decisions Made at Recent Meetings By Karen Tkaczyk

NITA Board meetings are held monthly in Reno, Nevada. All current NITA members are welcome to attend the meeting and bring their ideas and suggestions.

August Board Meeting:

- Debated offering stipends to visiting speakers who don't need to travel
- Decided on "e-NITA" as the name for the NITA newsletter
- Decided to plan Getting Started in T&I Workshop

September Board Meeting:

- Agreed to continue to meet at the Libraries for Board Meeting in spite of the new \$20 charge.
- Noted need to find free, quiet rooms with Wifi for board meetings if possible.
- Planned NITA table at ATA conference
- Acknowledged NITA's Margarita Griggs winning ATA School Outreach competition
- Agreed to make "Join NITA" more obvious on the website



September Quarterly Meeting Report

By Judy Jenner

Thanks to all those NITA members and friends who came to our quarterly NITA member meeting on September 12, 2009, at UNR. Dr. Nelson Rojas, a renowned linguist and professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he teaches Spanish and Literature, graciously donated his time to present his fantastic workshop titled “Notions on Literary Translation.” Dr. Rojas was an energetic and powerful speaker who made us all realize the tremendous challenge that literary translation really is. It’s certainly a high art form! The workshop was highly interactive, meaning that participants were asked to try to jot down their possible translation solutions for tricky passages of both poetry and fiction. Dr. Rojas presented several translation options for the passages, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each of them without discounting any of the versions. I have to admit that the poetry translation proved to be a special challenge for me, especially since I rarely read poetry. Translating literature is, to me, the Holy Grail of translation, and I was delighted to learn more about it.

After that enlightening workshop, we switched gears and I gave a presentation about new, free software tools for translators that can make our lives easier, including the document-sharing free software called Dropbox (<https://www.dropbox.com/>). Afterwards, several NITA members and friends headed to Chocolate Bar for an informal get-together.



Above: Dr. Nelson Rojas during his lively and informative presentation.

Below: Judy Jenner, Rossana Bertani-Roach, Grace Blaylock, Fabiola Volante and Graciela Flores at Chocolate Bar.



Interview with NITA member Margarita Griggs, winner of the Prestigious ATA School Outreach Award for 2009



Above: Margarita at the ATA conference in NYC, where she was honored.



Above: the winning photo.

NITA would once again like to congratulate Margarita Griggs on winning the School Outreach Contest. She's graciously agreed to answer some questions about her win for us. She gave a presentation at Reed High School in Sparks, part of the Washoe School District, where she works. Read on for her interview.

Question: What made you decide to participate in the school outreach contest?

I wanted to win the contest for the 50th anniversary. I thought it would definitely be worth a try. It was my first time participating in the contest. I did not use the ATA materials, but developed my own.

Question: Was it difficult to convince the school to let you present? Who did you have to approach to receive permission?

No, everybody knows me in the school district. So I asked the ESL teacher in this school if I could do a presentation in her class about translation and interpretation. She was very happy for me to do that, so she sent a letter to all the regular classroom teachers where her ESL Students were and all of the classes sent her students to attend my presentation. These students were from a diverse group of countries, including Thailand, China, Korea, Philippines, India, Mexico, and Honduras.

Question: What were the kids' reactions? What were they most interested in?

The students were interested in potentially working in the translation and interpretation field in the future. Overall, the class participation and involvement were excellent. They all were very interested, attentive and the history of the translation throughout centuries was fascinating to them.

Question: How long was the presentation and how did you keep the kids' attention?

The Class was 1 hour and 15 minutes long. The students came from grades 9-12. I brought a lot of materials, in which they were very interested. The materials were in different mediums and colors and easy to read. There were plenty of conversations, interactions, and questions and answers.

Question: Did you bring any specific props, handouts, PowerPoint presentation, etc?

Yes, I brought many handouts and also I prepared a colorful Power Point with real people interpreting and translating in different languages. The students wrote words in different colors in their languages on big pieces of cardstock paper. I told them to please write nice and legible because I was going to take pictures of them. They all were excited to get in the picture for the contest. The teacher was superb—she participated all the way!

Question: How much preparation time did you put into this?

I did little by little, throughout several months in my free time and after work. The cardboard as you see in the picture took a long time, and also the Power Point presentation. I used a booklet that I distributed to all the students about the history of translation.

Question: Would you recommend participating in this contest to fellow NITA members?

Yes, I absolutely would.

NITA Represented in Guadalajara, Mexico

Two NITA members, Barbara Hunt and Dr. Alvaro Vergara-Mery will be at the Mexican Translators' Association (Organización Mexicana de Traductores, OMT) Annual Conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, on November 28 and 29. Held in conjunction with the international book fair in Guadalajara, this event, titled San Jerónimo 2009, is packed with excellent presentations and seminars. And we can't help but feel very proud: NITA's own Dr. Alvaro Vergara-Mery, who serves on the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters, which heads up one of the two efforts currently underway to certify health care interpreters in the US, will be presenting a session on the certification process. Mucha suerte and don't forget to eat a torta ahogada, a specialty of the area!

NITA Making Headlines

As on November 2009, NITA vice president Judy Jenner is writing a permanent monthly column in the American Translators Association's "Chronicle" newsletter, which is mailed to 11,000 translators across the globe. Her "Entrepreneurial Linguist" column will focus on how, as freelancers, we can run our businesses more efficiently and effectively.

Note: Emilia came in from San Francisco, CA, to attend our Connecting Worlds workshop. Emilia is originally from Moldova and speaks Russian, Rumanian, and French.

2009 is the year when after much thought and consideration I decided to start my translation and interpreting career. One of the workshops that I attended for educational purposes was "Connecting Worlds" which seems to be one of the few training seminars for healthcare interpreters in the US.

The workshop, conducted by Tracy Young, was useful in many ways for both beginners and experienced interpreters. The primary goals of the workshop was to familiarize interpreters with the California Standards for Healthcare Interpreters (CHIA), its ethical principles and protocols as well as introducing techniques and tools for effective interpreting. The classes were always fun and very informative thanks to Tracy's efforts to present the material with a variety of methods and trying to engage each of us in different activities. The participants appreciated learning about medical terminology, although that was not the workshop's primary objective.

Working in groups gave the participants the possibility to get to know their fellow interpreters better and form a network of friendships and exchange experiences. Guest speaker Katharine Allen gave an in-depth presentation about biomedical culture and Healthcare Interpreting Certification, which was captivating and informative.

After attending the "Connecting Worlds" workshop, I feel that I have the required knowledge as mandated by the Code of Ethics that is essential to becoming successful and a professional within the healthcare interpreting field.

Thank you, NITA!



Above and right: trainer extraordinaire, Tracy Young, and CW participants.



**"Getting Started in Translation and Interpreting"
Workshop Report
By Gladys Paulino**



NITA's first "Getting Started in Translation and Interpreting" workshop was a huge success. The workshop was held on November 7, 2009 in the Advanced Executive Virtual Office Suite (AEVOS) at the Reno Tech Center. There were roughly 20 attendees, including professionals from a variety of different backgrounds. The speakers were Karen Tkaczyk, Ph.D, president of NITA and freelance technical translator, Tracy Young, registered nurse and freelance medical interpreter, and Carina Black, Ph.D, Executive Director of Northern Nevada International Center.

Three great sessions were presented on becoming a successful freelance translator, building your career in interpretation, and becoming involved through volunteering at the language bank.

The workshop provided attendees with resources, links and information on training, certification, volunteering, etc. in various field of translation and interpreting (e.g. health care, legal/court). Additionally, the workshop highlighted the need and importance of interpreting and translation in the community setting. It also offered a great opportunity to network with fellow attendees.

Below: Presenters Karen Tkaczyk, Tracy Young and Dr. Carina Black at NITA's first "getting Started" workshop on November 7, 2009.



**Keeping Track of Client Preferences
(Reprinted with permission from her blog, www.thoughtsontranslation.com)
By Corinne McKay**

If you've ever found yourself struggling to avoid asking a client "How much did I say I was going to charge you?", you need a client preferences file. The client preferences file (which could take the form of a spreadsheet, a text file, index cards, a notebook, just as long as you keep the records!) is especially crucial if you experiment with different rates or if you work with clients who have specific/unusual requirements for their translations.

Personally, I think that rate experimentation is a very useful way to test what the market will bear without risking your relationship with existing clients. Say that your base rate is X cents per word and you're very busy at that rate. The next time a new client approaches you, try X+10% or X+20% and see if the client bites. If so, you've got a new, higher paying client, but you need your client preferences file to help you keep track of this. Then, you can simply refer back to it and say "We had talked about a rate of Y cents per word, can you confirm that this is acceptable?"

For my client preferences file, I use a three-column OpenOffice.org document; in the first column I put the client's name, in the second column the name of the person who contacted me and in the third column information about rates, stylistic preferences, etc. If a client sends me a reference document such as a list of company-specific abbreviations, I'll just note that fact in the preferences file so that I remember to look at the reference document when I'm translating.

I also find that the preferences file helps me avoid asking "Who are you again?" with a client that surfaces only once in a great while. When the client contacts me initially, I'll make a short note about who they are, i.e. "Writing and editing company expanding into translation, specifically mentioned that they want people to work on marketing documents" or "Referral from X colleague who does German, mentioned that they might need French in the future" so that I don't look completely clueless when the client pops up again in a year and references our previous contact.

Connecting Worlds Health Care Interpreting Workshop

Mark your calendars! By popular demand, for the third time in a year, CHIA health care trainer and Connecting Worlds instructor Tracy Young and NITA present a 40-hour course in Reno. This language-neutral class will cover ethics, procedure, protocols, cultural awareness, anatomy, common medical problems, interpreter skill-building development, and much more. This is a very hands-on course with many hours' of interpretation practice in teams. The course will be held over five Saturdays (April 10, 17, 24 and May 15 and 22), from 8 am to 5 pm at St. Mary's hospital. The cost is \$350 for NITA members, which includes pre-testing and a certificate. Contact Tracy Young for the flyer and for detailed information: t.young@nitaonline.org or call her at (775) 772-9319. Approved for ten American Translators Continuing Education Points.

Quarterly December and March Meetings Planned

December meeting

Will be held at UNR on Saturday, December 5, 2009, starting at 2:00 p.m., concluding at 4:30 p.m. This meeting is free and you are welcome to bring interested friends. It will feature presentations by Andrea Krlickova on Judicial interpreting in Nevada and on "Modern History of Court Interpretation: The Nuremberg Trial of Nazi War Criminals"

There will also be a forum with NITA members who attended the recent ATA conference in New York City.

Join us for an informal get-together at Chocolate Bar immediately after the meeting.

Holiday Socials

Are planned in both southern and northern Nevada for Saturday, December 19! Watch your mailbox for upcoming details. NITA member Gladys Paulino has graciously offered to coordinate the Reno get-together.

March Meeting

Will be held at UNR on Saturday, March 6, 2010, starting at 2:00 p.m., concluding at 4:30 p.m. This meeting is free and you are welcome to bring interested friends. We will hold our annual elections for new board members, and the main feature will be a presentation by Peter Sexton of UNR on Accent Reduction.

Translator Profile : Italian Translator Giuseppina Gatta

Interview by Judy Jenner

Giuseppina Gatta has been a professional full-time translator and interpreter since 1994. Her working languages are Italian, German and English. She was born and educated in Italy (Bari), where she spent most of her life, lived in Germany (Frankfurt am Main) for three years and has lived in the U.S. since 2006. She specializes in creative translations, including literature, advertising, marketing and fashion, but she is also an experienced legal, medical and technical translator. Giuseppina has translated around thirty books and roughly 1,000 technical manuals, with an estimated 3 million words! She also works as a conference/simultaneous, telephone and liaison interpreter, and as an editor and proofreader.



How did you become a translator and language professional?

I have had a strong interest in languages since I was eight years old. That interest was still strong after I graduated from high school, so I decided to major in foreign languages and literature at the university.

Please describe your educational background.

I hold a Master's Degree in Foreign Languages and Literature (English and German major). At the time when I attended, roughly 20 years ago, there were no translation and interpretation courses, so I am pretty much self-taught. I also taught myself to use several software programs and CAT Tools.

What's the most challenging project you have worked on?

Definitely the translation of Franz Kafka's short stories collection "Ein Landarzt," (from German to Italian.) Very challenging, but at the same time a fascinating experience.

What do you enjoy the most about your chosen profession?

The fact that this profession travels with me. It is there wherever I go, and I can carry it all over the world. As a matter of fact, I "imported" most of my contacts and clients from Europe to the U.S. They keep working with me, in spite of the time difference.

How do you keep your native language skills current living in one of your source languages?

I speak daily with colleagues in Italy, read Italian newspapers, Italian blogs and literature. I watch movies in Italian and communicate in Italian with people here in Las Vegas. I am also constantly speaking Italian to my son.

What's the one dictionary (print or CD-ROM) that you cannot live without?

There is only one dictionary I cannot live without: The Internet!

What's the best piece of advice you could give a beginning linguist?

Learning to consider yourself as a professional from the beginning, so that clients will do the same. Do not underestimate yourself and always keep working on your proficiency. Read and write a lot in all the languages you speak and work with. Spend at least two or three years in the countries of the languages you are working with in order to learn the subtleties of those particular cultures. Lastly, do not take anything for granted and be humble and eager to learn. Being a linguist is a life-long learning process.

Incorporated 2008

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Note from the editor:

Many thanks to our contributors, including NITA president Karen Tkaczyk, Gladys Paulino, Emilia Hagerman, Corinne McKay, Giuseppina Gatta and Margarita Griggs.

Our NITA newsletter is published quarterly. We want to turn this newsletter into a consistent source of fantastic information for our members. The Board welcomes all contributions from members. Articles should be roughly 250 words and include a short biography and a picture. If you wish to write a piece, or would like to help with the creation of the newsletter, we would very much like to hear from you!



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Create your profile in the Member's Directory on the website!

Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn!

NITA is now part of the social media revolution with presences on both Facebook (search for NITA Online on www.facebook.com) and Twitter (@nitaonline at www.twitter.com). Join our page, read what's new with NITA, and follow our tweets! We are currently looking for an internet-savvy volunteer to manage those small projects, so if you are interested, please let us know!

Don't forget to join the NITA group on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com)!

NITA Reports from Southern Nevada

By Judy Jenner

On **October 10**, NITA held its second informal get-together at the centrally located Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. I am delighted that a new member, Dr. Jordan Miyamoto, decided to join us on the spot! Welcome! We had the opportunity to mix and mingle, and I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and joining us.

On **October 19**, NITA member and UNLV visiting professor of Spanish Iria González-Liaño extended an invitation for NITA to make presentations during both her translation and interpretation classes that she is giving this fall. As the southern Nevada board member, I jumped at the opportunity to speak, in Spanish, to two groups of very interested, highly motivated students, several of which decided to join us shortly thereafter. Welcome Kenny Eliason, Fe Hurtado, and Susan Taylor! We look forward to a new generation of linguists emerging from UNLV.

On **November 2**, I was invited to speak during a day-long professional development training for speech pathologists and interpreters at the Clark County School District. I gave a brief presentation about NITA and the benefits of professional associations.

November 14 marked yet another casual get-together at what has now become our location of choice, the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf across from UNLV on 4555 S. Maryland Parkway. Several members as well as friends of NITA (also known as FNITA) joined me for an afternoon of conversation, information about the industry, and updates on our past and future events and workshops.

Another meeting casual get-together is being planned for mid-January 2010. I will be sending out information about that via e-mail. If you'd like more information, feel free to contact me anytime at vicepresident@nitaonline.org.



Above: Speaking to a group of very interested UNLV students on October 19, 2009. Thanks to NITA member Iria González-Liaño for the invitation.

Below: NITA members and friends on November 14.

