

# informATIO

December 2005

Number 4



## BEST WISHES

The Board members and the Secretariat would like to wish all ATIO members and candidates a Happy Holiday and prosperous New Year.



*James Nolan and one of our guests*

## International Translation Day 2005

*By Nancy McInnis, Vice-President*

A glass of wine, a light buffet, and an illustrious speaker—ITD 2005 had it all! ATIO and Glendon College joined forces once again to host this year's International Translation Day festivities. It was standing room only as translators, interpreters and students came together to hear what James Nolan, formerly a senior interpreter at the United Nations and currently Chief of its Verbatim Reporting Service, had to say about the practice and teaching of interpretation.

During his presentation, Mr. Nolan outlined the key role translation and interpretation play in implementing human rights. Many were in full agreement when he listed the requirements for a good interpreter. They must have a broad vocabulary, a gift of oratory, extensive general knowledge and, to quote Colonel Leon Dostert, "above all,

they have to be able to understand what is being said even before they hear the end of the sentence."<sup>1</sup>

According to Mr. Nolan, teaching interpretation is a major challenge. Universities must find a way to provide the extensive general knowledge required, while enabling students to become completely fluent in a second or third language. At the same time, they must also teach the specific processing skills interpreters need!

*Continued on page 3*

## The Results Are In!

A big thank you to all the independent translators who took the time to complete a survey and return it to the secretariat. A preliminary analysis of the results has been completed and we are in the process of preparing a report for the next issue of InformATIO. 111 Official Language translators responded, of whom 98 were Certified and 13 were Candidates for Certification.

81 Foreign Language translators returned surveys, of whom 53 were Certified and 29 were Candidates. With these results in hand, ATIO can now provide you with current information on average translation and revision rates, preferred resources and daily productivity. Please see the next issue of InformATIO for complete details.

An effective teaching program must be found given the numbers Mr. Nolan quoted. The EU Directorate of Interpretation has 700 to 800 interpreters available to cover 50 to 60 meetings per day, some of which involve two languages and only one interpreter, and some 20 languages and at least 60 interpreters! For each new language, the EU must add about 40 interpreters. (By contrast, the United Nations, which conducts business in only six official languages, has 130 staff interpreters.)



*A full evening!*

In June of this year, the EU expanded the number of official languages that may be used to include all languages with a status that is recognized by a member country's constitution. Where, then, are the trained translators and interpreters to be found to work in all these language combinations? Studies and surveys continue to find that there are not enough skilled professionals. Those available must continually develop their talents, and universities are not teaching everything translators and interpreters need to know.

Mr. Nolan stated that since the Canadian government's formal requirements are very similar to those of the United Nations, professionals trained to those standards are in an excellent position with regard to intergovernmental work. He sought to dispel any notion that Canadian English and French are "substandard" and explained that everyone working in the intergovernmental arena uses the language of diplomacy, which he described as "a specialized code which bears little resemblance to any vernacular language."

He then outlined a possible course of study for teaching interpretation and concluded by saying that demand far exceeds supply, and our goal must be to allow our skills and talents to develop to their fullest.

The room was abuzz after Mr. Nolan's presentation as all digested its implications. Perhaps some found new direction as they planned their future career!

<sup>1</sup> Baigorri-Jalón, Jesús. *Interpreters at the United Nations: a History*, Salamanca, Ediciones Universidad, 2004, p. 60.

## International Translation Day in the Ottawa Area

*By Ken Larose, President*

The Ottawa area International Translation Day event was most successful this year. With our own David Lowe co-hosting the proceedings, we had the pleasure of hearing several interesting addresses by representatives of the Translation Bureau, the University of Ottawa, the Outaouais campus of the University of Quebec and various translator and interpreter associations.

There were too many prizes awarded to list in this short article, but I do wish to highlight the FondATIO award presented to Alexandra Rosselli, a student at the University of Ottawa, and the ATIO Award, which this year went to Michel Trahan, shown in the photograph accompanying the article on page 5, who for so many years did sterling work as secretary of both ATIO and CTTIC.



*Aline Manson and David Lowe, hosts of the event.*

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# FondATIO Awards Two \$1,000 Scholarships



by Pascal Sabourin, C. Tran. (Canada)

Chairman of FondATIO

Translation Joanne McCracken, C. Tran. (Canada)

On International Translation Day, FondATIO awarded two scholarships worth \$1,000 each in two separate ceremonies, one held in Toronto and the other in the National Capital. The two recipients were Susan Spier of the School of Translation, Glendon College, Toronto, and Alexandra Rosselli of the School of Translation and Interpretation, University of Ottawa. In addition, in June 2005, FondATIO gave two Achievement Awards of \$500 each to two graduates from these same schools of translation: Janie Bertrand of the University of Ottawa, and Jennifer Cook of Glendon College.



Rosalind Gill, Director, School of Translation, and Jennifer Cook

The Foundation Board also noted a significant increase in the number of FondATIO members in 2004-2005 (the \$5 donation you made on your membership renewal form). This growth is a sign that FondATIO is becoming increasingly integrated in ATIO's various areas of activity. In the early days, FondATIO had to count on the determination of a few members, volunteers who had decided to share their know-how and generosity with the Association. Nowadays, FondATIO has over 200 members and its Board distributes

some \$3,000 in scholarships and awards. This is quite an achievement!

ATIO members who made a donation to FondATIO when they renewed their membership (or some other time during the year) are the chief funders of this support for the next generation of language professionals. We should recall the time (or for some of us, the era!) when we were students ourselves. A scholarship of this size would have given us great encouragement in the pursuit of our studies, especially if such financial assistance had come from members of the profession we were preparing to enter!

Early in the new year, we will let you know the date of FondATIO's Annual General Meeting, which generally takes place in late January or early February. We hope that many of you will participate in this meeting, either personally or by proxy. FondATIO's vitality depends to a large extent on the level of interest and commitment by the members of ATIO. Without your support, FondATIO could not continue its work with our up-and-coming language professionals.



Alexandra Rosselli in the company of Jean Delisle, Chair of the School of Translation and Interpretation (University of Ottawa)

*I want to take this occasion to thank ATIO for their generosity. I was very pleasantly surprised when I was told that I was the recipient of the 2005 ATIO Scholarship. I had not expected to receive any bursaries since few scholarships are available for translation students and the pool of exceptional student candidates is quite large. As an international student who cannot work off campus, the ATIO scholarship was a great financial assistance that enabled me to focus on my studies.*

*Thank you*

Alexandra Rosselli



Susan Spier and Nancy McInnis

*I am really thrilled and honoured to be the recipient of this year's ATIO Foundation prize. Returning to university as a mature student has been a real challenge—both financially and academically—but certainly well worth the effort. I have now almost completed my BA honours degree, and will undoubtedly face other challenges as I search for my voice as a new translator. This generous prize offers much encouragement and motivation for the next steps. Many thanks to ATIO and to Glendon College.*

Susan Spier

# 2005 ATIO Award

By: David Lowe, C. Tran. (Canada)

It is with great pleasure that I accepted this year to present the ATIO Award for 2005. As you may know, the ATIO Award is granted every year on International Translation Day. The award was created to highlight and reward initiatives that contribute to the development of language-related professions.

Nominees do not have to be members of ATIO but must practise one of the Association's constituent professions.

This year, the recipient is an ATIO member. A certified, English-French translator with his own business, he has been a member of the Association since 1989. He is Michel Trahan.

Michel has contributed greatly to the Association over the years. If you have attended any of the Association's annual general meetings since 1995, you have probably seen Michel hard at work, taking the minutes of the meeting. In fact, he has been the Association's secretary for 8 of the past 10 years.

Michel was the secretary of ATIO from 1995 to 1999 and again from 2002 to 2004. Between 1995 and 1997, he was also its treasurer. As if this wasn't enough, Michel was the CTTIC secretary for two years. In fact, he is still secretary for FondATIO, the program that offers financial support to students completing a university program in translation or interpretation in Ontario. Michel has been its secretary for more than five years.



The 2005 ATIO Award Winner, Michel Trahan, in the company of David Lowe

A former colleague on the board of directors described Michel as a straight-talker who was very efficient and with whom the other board members enjoyed working.

On behalf of ATIO, I would like to say thank you, Michel, for your hard work and your dedication to the Association.

## *Inform***ATIO**

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*ATIO extends warm thanks to*



*for its International Translation*

*Day 2005 sponsorship.*



# ATIO Members Participate in Monterey Conference

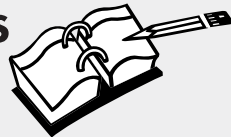
By Marielle Godbout, C. Tran. (Canada)

An international conference on Professional Education of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Translators and Interpreters took place in Monterey, California, from September 9 to 11, 2005 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation.

Plenary sessions were headed by leading academics such as Lawrence Venuti, Anthony Pym, Theo Hermans, Barbara Moser-Mercer and Marilyn Gadis-Rose. Some 200 participants came from all over the world, including Taiwan, Australia, Sierra Leone, and Israel, among others, to attend the conference.

Canada was well represented with participants from British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. ATIO members **Effrossyni Fragkou** and **Marielle Godbout** both presented papers on their current areas of research. Effrossyni Fragkou proposed changing the current prescriptive discourse in dialogue interpreting to a less victimizing one that would reflect the new realities and promote the professionalization of dialogue interpreters in Canada. Marielle Godbout presented a Canadian perspective on the evolving role of professional organizations in the education of translators. She emphasized the innovative role played by ATIO in developing a correspondence course to assist candidates for certification in preparing for the annual accreditation exams with the assistance of a tutor, a course that is also made available to other Canadian associations.

## Calendar of Events



### ✓ JANUARY 2006

#### European Training Program

UK Campus – Buckinghamshire - HP14 3XL – England  
Information:

<http://www.eurotp.org/UK/Session.asp?SessionID=120>

### ✓ MARCH 2006

#### Beyond Translation: Globalizing the Self/Other

March 2-5, 2006

2006 Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA)  
Convention

Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Information: <http://www.nemla.org/>

#### World Congress on the Power of Language

March 6-10, 2006

Bangkok, Thailand

Information: <http://www.poweroflanguage.org/>

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**CERTIFIED THROUGH  
CTIC TRANSLATION  
EXAMINATION**

*English-Serbian*

Draga Vukčević-Andjelković



**CERTIFIED ON DOSSIER IN TRANSLATION**

*English-French*

Isabelle Fournier

Pierrette LeBlanc

Geneviève Sauvé



## NOTICE!

Please note that the ATIO office will be closed for the Holidays, from 12:00 pm on December 21, 2005, and will return to full operations as of 8:30 am on January 4, 2006.