

**In the e-mail:**

### **IEO at the 51<sup>st</sup> ATA Annual Conference**

I love attending professional conferences! Getting together with friends and colleagues who are as passionate about the language industry as we are is inspiring and exhilarating.

At their annual forums, the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators and the California Federation of Interpreters offer an intellectual and educational feast to court interpreters. Regional conferences bring together local communities of language professionals, and the IEO team is proud to be a part of the first Michigan Interpreters and Translators Network conference. As an agency owner, Jinny Bromberg finds conferences of the Association of Language Companies the most beneficial.

However, no conference in this country could be compared to a yearly American Translators Association conference in its magnitude and multidimensionality.

Jinny and I have just recently come back from the 51<sup>st</sup> annual ATA conference in Denver, CO. The event brought together almost 1500 language professionals from all over the world! In addition to 170 workshops and presentations, it offered unprecedented networking opportunities, job marketplaces, book presentations, and an extraordinary collection of exhibitors. Most importantly, each of us had a chance to participate in the Annual Meeting of All Members and in ATA division meetings and shape the future of the organization, of our industry, and of our profession.

We were very happy to meet many of our former, current, and, hopefully, future students! Many of you came to say "Hi!" and let us know that you enjoy reading our newsletters. Thank you! It was wonderful meeting you in person!

An attempt to describe everything that was taking place in Denver's Hyatt in those four October days would be a futile effort. Taking a more humble approach, I would like to share with you a few of my personal highlights.

### **Cross-Section of the Language Industry**

Being responsible professionals, each of us specializes in a few more or less narrow areas, and it is a seldom occurrence when we can take a peek at an unfamiliar territory, which to me is literary and media translation as well as interpreting for NASA. ATA conferences provide a unique opportunity to look closely at those professional niches we could be insufficiently informed on. It helps to broaden our view of the entire industry. Reading the list of specialized sessions, I felt like a kid in a candy store: Interpreting, Independent Contractors, Literary Translation, Legal T&I, Language Service Providers, Media, Language Technology, Medical T&I, Science & Technology, T&I Professionals, Training and Pedagogy, and Terminology. I wanted to be in all places at once!

I am a firm believer in language-pair-specific T&I professional development, and I was happy to see a plethora of language division events. Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nordic languages, Portuguese, Spanish, and Slavic languages interpreters and translators had plenty of choices. I bet the participants tremendously enjoyed talking shop with those of their peers who work in the same language combinations.

It was a pleasure to share ideas and experiences with our outstanding colleagues from Monterey Institute of International Studies, the University of Arizona, NYU, and from Kent State University. We were once again reassured that the IEO pioneering endeavor to offer online language-pair-specific training for court interpreters is valid and has a bright future. Our assortment of language combinations still is the most comprehensive.

Jinny's presentation "What Every Legal Interpreter Needs to Know" was very well received and generated a great interest to court interpretation as a specialty and to professional training as a necessary condition for successful practice.

All major players in the CAT tool field were present: SDL Trados, MemoQ, WordFast, DejaVu, as well as a few rookies. They were eager to showcase their products as well train new users.

Between tending the IEO exhibit booth and attending presentations on interpreting and interpretation training, which is my "meat and potato", I didn't have the time to go to many sessions on my wish list. However, I decided I am entitled to a "dessert" and went to a brilliant presentation by Lidia Razran Stone and Vladimír Kovner's on translating limericks and to Alex Lane's reminiscent and witty lecture on providing language assistance to the U.S. - Russia space programs. Alex made complex technical terminology sound fun and funny! I savored every moment.

### **Meeting the Masters**

A wonderful benefit of coming to the conference is a chance to meet grand masters of our trade, movers and shakers of our industry. To me, presentations offered by Holly Mikkelson, Barry Olson, Jacolyn Harmer, and Katherine Allen were of great value.

### **Shaping the Future of the Profession**

As a practicing interpreter and an educator, I enthusiastically anticipated Barry Olson and Katherine Allen's report on the 1<sup>st</sup> North American Summit on Interpreting that took place in Washington, D.C. last June. Interpret America brought under one umbrella various branches of the interpretation industry in North America: community, conference, medical, court, military, and sign language interpreting. Another goal of this forum is to raise the profile and status of interpreting profession. Three topics emerged clearly from the 1st Summit: the impact of technology, the need for a broader professional identity, and the employee vs. freelance workplace model. These issues are on the agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit scheduled next summer.

Recently, one of our students asked me whether or not attending professional conferences is beneficial. I full-heartedly said, "Yes!" Next year, you will meet IEO at the following conferences:

- April: *NCSC Interpreter Training*, April 2-3, Nevada
- May: *NAJIT 32nd Annual Conference*, Long Beach, CA May 13-15
- May: *2011 ALC Annual Conference*, May 18-21, Las Vegas, Nevada
- June: *Interpret America, Quality Interpreting in Push-Button World: How Professional Identity & Technology are Driving the Future of Our Field*, June 17 and 18, Washington, DC
- September: *TAPIT Annual Conference*, Tennessee
- October: *MiTiN Annual Conference*, Michigan
- October: *ATA 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference*, Boston, Massachusetts, October 26-29

We'll see you there!