

## From The CATI President: Another year, another conference with record attendance!

by Mike Collins, [mike@globaltranslation.com](mailto:mike@globaltranslation.com)



Dear CATI colleagues:

As I write this, my 18th President's Message to the CATI Quarterly, I am pleased to be able to report that the state of our association is sound.

As Exhibit A, I enter into evidence CATI's 24th annual conference held last month at USC Upstate in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Conference attendance exceeded expectations and the presentations were well-received. We had outstanding support from USC faculty, students, and

staff, and enjoyed one of the finer venues we have had. I won't dwell on the specifics - you can read about those in Graciela White's conference wrap-up in this edition. Many thanks to her and to everyone else who contributed to this wonderful event.

What's more important is that the attendance shows that CATI continues to play an important role in the language industry field in North and South Carolina. Over the past several challenging years, CATI has boosted student

**...current and aspiring language professionals are hungry for knowledge, opportunity, and contacts in the industry.**

membership, implemented new programs, outreach, and member services, increased the number of social activities, and more. In each of the last three years, conference attendance has set a new record – a testament to the fact that current and aspiring language professionals are hungry for knowledge, opportunity, and contacts in the industry.

We still have work to do. Our overall membership continues to hover around 200 at a time when we need to be growing. The greater the number

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### Upcoming Events

- CATI Triangle Social @ 7pm (Madhatter, Durham, NC) .....Sept. 1
  - CATI Charlotte Social @ 7pm (Int'l House, Charlotte, NC) .....Sept. 1
  - CATI Triangle Social @ 7pm (Madhatter, Durham, NC) ..... Nov. 3
- CATI ([catiweb.org](http://catiweb.org)) serves North and South Carolina as a chapter of the American Translators Association ([atanet.org](http://atanet.org), 703-683-6100).



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## The CATI Quarterly would like to hear from you!

*If you have an opinion that you would like to share with your CATI colleagues on any of the ideas expressed in this newsletter, please write to the editor, Heather Hille, at [catiadmin@catiweb.org](mailto:catiadmin@catiweb.org). Submissions are subject to editing.*

The *CATI Quarterly* is a publication that is published quarterly by the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI), a nonprofit organization designed to promote the recognition of translating and interpreting as professions in the Carolinas. Opinions expressed herein are the author's and not necessarily those of the Editor, the Association, or its Board of Directors.

### Reader submissions are welcome.

Suggested length limits are:

Articles 1500 words

Reviews 500 words

Letters 300 words

Submissions become the property of the CATI Quarterly and are subject to editing. For details, see the "Submission Guidelines" at [www.catiweb.org/guidelines.htm](http://www.catiweb.org/guidelines.htm). *If you have questions or would like to submit an article, please contact the editor, Heather Hille, at [catiadmin@catiweb.org](mailto:catiadmin@catiweb.org).*

### Advertising:

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### CATI Membership & Mission:

CATI membership is open to anyone interested in translation or interpretation who supports the following aims of the association:

- To promote the recognition of translating and interpreting as professions and to defend and support the interests and concerns of professional translators and interpreters.
- To encourage high-quality service and ethical business practice among members.
- To disseminate information to the public about translating and interpreting.
- To facilitate mutual assistance among translators and interpreters and to provide a medium for collaboration with persons in allied professions.

of members, the easier it becomes to offer more activities, and to spread the volunteer effort around.

At this year's conference, we placed a CATI business card in the folder of every attendee, and urged them to pass it on to a friend or colleague in the field who is not yet a member. I hope all of you who attended have done so already, but if not – don't forget! And for those who were unable to attend, please pass the word to anyone who might benefit from membership.

## As professionals, we are compelled to keep learning, keep adapting, and to stay open to change and improvement.

The spirit of continuing education suffused the conference at USC, and we continue that spirit with this edition of the CQ. Authors share information for students and professionals in translation and interpreting in two thorough articles on those topics. They both reinforce ATA's and CATI's message that being bilingual does not qualify one to be a translator or interpreter. It is a skilled profession that requires dedication, training, and expertise.

...the demand for translation is expected to grow from \$26.3 billion in 2010 to \$38.1 billion in 2011. How big a piece of that pie we each are able to get will depend to a great extent on how well we have developed our skills and continue to develop them.

Our own Javier Castillo drives this point home in his excellent piece on education and practice. In our professions, coasting on the status quo means getting passed by. As professionals, we are compelled to keep learning, keep adapting, and to stay open to change and improvement.

A recent article in the *Raleigh News and Observer* (May 22, 2011) states that the demand for translation is expected to grow from \$26.3 billion in 2010 to \$38.1 billion in 2011. How big a piece of that pie we each are able to get will depend to a great extent on how well we have developed our skills and continue to develop them. ***That includes continuing to help build our association so that it can continue to help us.***

Enjoy the summer, and enjoy this issue of your CATI Quarterly!

# The Formula for Translating Scientific and Technical Documents

By Jackie Smith (SH3 Inc., [www.sh3.com](http://www.sh3.com)), [jrsmith@sh3.com](mailto:jrsmith@sh3.com).



Translating scientific and technical documents can be daunting for the most accomplished translators. Medical research, chemical abstracts and scientific treatises are uniquely complex, and therefore difficult to translate. To do an accurate translation, the translator must understand the subject matter and all underlying concepts. A technical dictionary cannot take the place of a true comprehension of the subject matter.

Exercise extreme care when procuring translation services for technical and scientific documents. This type of translation requires skill and experience that non-professionals certainly don't possess. Many professional translators also acknowledge that they do not have the technical expertise required.

It is particularly important to avoid the "low cost" trap. The difference in rates between a knowledgeable translator and an inexperienced one can be as little as US\$ .03 per word, yet the difference in quality can be significant. Paying less for a translation that is poorly done is not a bargain. Considering the expense of conducting research and developing scientific methods, the additional cost to procure an acceptable translation is minor.

**Translators must be well versed in the topic.  
A technical dictionary cannot replace a true understanding of the subject matter.**

## Subject matter expertise

Translators working in this field must have the experience and qualifications necessary to provide accurate translation of the specific subject matter. For instance, translating pharmaceutical research requires an understanding of medicine or chemistry, a wealth of scientific knowledge and experience, plus a command of the nomenclature and writing style of the industry. Typical documents might be studies on "Acute

## New Members

*Please welcome....*

**Kenneth Richstad, Columbia, SC**

German>English T  
Law, finance

**Paul Camarena, Apex, NC**

English<>Spanish T/I  
Family planning, health care, medicine, physical therapy, radiology, speech/hearing therapy

**Delia Lizzette Vega, Graham, NC**

English<>Spanish T/I  
Medicine, health care

**Edirel Susanna, Fort Mills, SC**

Dutch>English T, Papiamento<>English T/I,  
Spanish>English T/I  
Finance, economics, legal, IT, computer software, general business

**Isolina Council, Hopkins, SC**

English<>Spanish I  
Chemistry, hematology, urinalysis

**Teresa Sampson, Greer, SC**

English>Spanish T/I  
Law, law enforcement, criminology, politics, history, education, cuisine, tourism

**Ambrosia J. King-Wilson, Fort Mills, SC**

English<>Spanish I  
Family planning, workman's comp., general medical, community, literature, education

**Jeffrey W. Alfonso, Greenville, SC**

English<>Spanish I  
Medical, OSHA Interpreting

**DeOnna L. Gray, Winston-Salem, NC**

English>Spanish I, Spanish>English T/I  
Health care, education, medicine, journalism, human resources, immigration

**Otto Zellmann, York, SC**

English>German T/I, German>Spanish T/I,  
Spanish>English T/I  
Automotive, medical, educational, mental health, military, economics

**Ivonelly Linder, Cornelius, NC**

English<>Spanish T/I  
Insurance, legal, health care, physical therapy, neurological evaluations

**Jerry Linder, Cornelius, NC**

English<>Spanish T/I  
Medical, judicial, law enforcement, insurance, physical therapy

**Jessica Smith, Surfside Beach, SC**

English<>French T/I

**Maria White, Landrum, SC**

**Marisol Rodriguez, Lincolnton, NC**  
**Martin Heimann, Greensboro, NC**

**Jasmin Beard, Greensboro, NC**

Spanish>English T/I, Portuguese>English T/I,  
French>English T/I  
Sales, marketing, cosmetology, banking, performing arts

# ATA 52nd Annual Conference



**October 26-29, 2011**  
Boston, MA  
Marriott Copley Place  
[www.ata.net/conf/2011](http://www.ata.net/conf/2011)

#### Don't miss

- Over 150 sessions covering a variety of languages and specializations.
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- Numerous opportunities to promote yourself and your services.
- The chance to network with over 1,800 colleagues from around the world.
- Time to reunite with friends, socialize with colleagues, and have fun.

## **“I’m bilingual, and I think I’d like to be a translator or interpreter. What else do I need to consider?”**

For translation you must know the target language (the one you will be translating into) in great depth, and your grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation should be nearly perfect. *To read more of the article, **Looking Beyond Bilingualism**, please go to the CATI website.*

Sinusitis in Pediatric Patients” or “Treatment of Perianastomotic Ulcer.” These are not general business subjects and are outside the expertise of many translators.

Scientific and medical research includes many acronyms and abbreviations; translators must be versed in the terminology to recognize these. For example, SAP is understood in the business world as a brand of enterprise management software. SAP in the biomedical world means serum amyloid P, but in another scientific area SAP may refer to a sound path distance for ultrasound measurements. Conversely, subject matter expertise alone, even when combined with language fluency, does not qualify one to provide translation. Do not be fooled into thinking that medical or scientific professionals with language fluency can provide translations with acceptable results. This has proven to be a falsehood in many cases. It takes the skills of a translator to do the job right. As Maria Cornelito, an accomplished biomedical translator, comments, “In working with medical professionals, I let them know I believe in the concept of division of labor: they are medical professionals and I am a language professional. We each have our own area of expertise – theirs is medical and mine is linguistic. If you’re sick, see a doctor. If you need a translation, see a translator.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Translator qualifications**

Translators who are qualified to do this type of work are highly educated and experienced; many hold advanced degrees. To illustrate, one pharmaceutical translator who works from Japanese into English holds an M.A. in Japanese language and has completed pre-med courses. This translator’s experience includes translating full-time for an international pharmaceutical company. Another translator has more than 30 years’ experience translating scientific documents and holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

These backgrounds are typical of the education and experience level of translators who work in the scientific/technical field. Because of this education and experience level, rates are somewhat higher than for “general” business documentation.

### **What About Certification?**

Although many other countries have official certifications for translators, there is no official translator certification in the United States – no “government stamp.” Some governmental agencies, such as the Department of State, certify translators to work in a specific area, but these certifications are not related to translation of scientific documents.

The ATA – American Translators Association – offers certification tests for translators in some language pairs, such as French to English. ATA certification shows that a translator is a serious professional; taken alone, it is not a qualifier for translation work.

Another form of “certification” is a certification statement issued by the translation provider. This statement confirms that the translation was performed by professional translators and is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

## Evaluating translators

How can a customer determine if a translator, or translation company, is qualified? An excellent first step is to verify experience and references. Ask about the number of years translating, and customers for which translation has been provided. Check references, verifying the type of documents translated for a particular client. Was the translation a few pieces of correspondence or a lengthy technical report? If there is a substantial amount of translation to be done, it is acceptable to request a small, no-charge sample, and review it for content, consistency and accuracy.

Working with a professional translation company that specializes in this subject area has much to offer as opposed to working with individual translators and editors. Scientific and technical translators are in great demand and may not always be available at a moment's notice. A company has resources for specialized translation in many different languages.



With a variety of qualified resources available, a translation company is better able to respond to client requirements. Equally important is that translation companies normally follow a structured quality control process that involves several people instead of one individual.

## Proceed with care

Scientific and technical documents are uniquely challenging to translate, and translation buyers should keep this in mind. Price should not be the determining factor, even though it is tempting to save expense when purchasing translation. The best way to obtain an accurate translation is to work with experienced, quality-oriented translators. ●

## New Student Members:

*Please welcome....*

**Tiffany Alexy, Cary, NC**

*English<>Spanish T/I*

**April Najjaj, Durham, NC**

*English>Spanish T/I*

*Legal, social services, medical, education*

**Sergey Ivanov, Charlotte, NC**

*English<>Russian T/I*

*Social sciences, literary analysis, journalism, music*

**Claster Colvin, Cary, NC**

*Spanish>English T*

*Accounting, business management, human resources, medicine*

**Andrea Ortiz, Durham, NC**

*Spanish<>English I*

*Insurance, education, accounting, family planing, legal*



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1 "Beware of the 'Bilingual Expert,'" *ATA Chronicle*, August 2003

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## Advice to Students Wishing to Become Conference Interpreters

By AIICT Training Committee ([www.aiic.net](http://www.aiic.net)); The board of AIICT has requested this information be published as submitted. Please note British spelling.

*You're attracted to a career that would enable you to work with languages. You've heard about conference interpreting but you're not sure exactly what it involves, what studies to pursue, or what opportunities may be available. Here are some questions to consider, and some further information that may point you toward finding your answers.*

### How can I study to become a conference interpreter?

- What do conference interpreters do?
- Can I be a professional conference interpreter without proper training?
- What will a conference interpretation training programme teach me?
- What kind of personal traits do I need to be a conference interpreter?
- Choosing a school: what should I look for?
- How can I prepare?
- Will a professional conference interpreter's lifestyle suit me?
- Will my languages be in demand when I have finished training and start looking for work?
- Will I find work after training?
- What other questions should I ask before taking the plunge?

### What do conference interpreters do?

Conference interpreters:

- bridge the gap in all kinds of multilingual settings where speakers want to express themselves in their own language and still understand one another (conferences, negotiations, press briefings, seminars, depositions, TV broadcasts: you name it!)
- do not do written translation: translators work with written texts, interpreters convey ideas orally
- do not just parrot: they convert ideas expressed in one language (the source language) into another language (the target language) as smoothly and idiomatically as possible, preserving the meaning, tone and nuance of the original speaker
- interpret “consecutively”: i.e. the interpreter is in the same room as the participants, listening carefully to what is said, perhaps taking notes; when each speaker pauses, the interpreter conveys the same message from source to target language
- interpret “simultaneously”: i.e. the interpreters work in a team sitting in a soundproof booth; they take turns conveying each speaker's ideas from source to target language in real-time; the audience in the conference room listens through headsets
- interpret using “chuchotage” or “whispering”: i.e. the interpreter is in the same room as the participants providing a whispered interpretation in real-time to a small number of listeners

## Can I be a professional conference interpreter without proper training?

Perhaps: some have managed it, some still do...

- the interpreters who provided the first simultaneous interpretation at the post-World War II trials had to sink or swim: they had no choice but to train themselves, but you don't have to reinvent the wheel!
- since the 1970s, interdisciplinary research has helped us better grasp the complex processes involved in interpreting and develop new and effective teaching methods
- systematic training today is the surest route to expertise and successful practice in any profession
- many hours of effective practice with other trainees and with guidance from experienced teacher/practitioners is essential
- AIIC promotes best practice in schools by surveying training programmes and providing hands-on support to teachers.

## What will a conference interpretation training programme teach me?

To interpret ... or more specifically

- to understand what the speaker wants to say
- to grasp what lies behind the speaker's words
- to keep the message in context
- to convey it consecutively or simultaneously
- to learn a special note-taking technique
- to practice concentration, discourse analysis and fast reaction
- to build useful glossaries
- to develop public speaking skills
- to prepare for different types of assignments
- to manage stressful situations
- to observe a code of conduct
- to prepare for entry into the profession

## What kind of personal traits do I need to be a conference interpreter?

These are some of the key skills that interpreters make use of at one time or another:

- a polished command of their own native language over a range of registers and domains
- a complete mastery of their non-native languages
- a familiarity with the cultures in the countries where their working languages are spoken
- a commitment to helping others communicate
- an interest in and understanding of current affairs, plus an insatiable curiosity
- world experience away from home and school and a broad general education
- good training (and usually at least an undergraduate university degree)
- the ability to concentrate and focus as a discussion unfolds
- a pleasant speaking voice
- a friendly, collegial attitude
- calm nerves, tact, judgment and a sense of humor
- a willingness to adhere to rules of conduct (e.g. confidentiality)

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## Student Contribution Memberships

Students can earn a year's membership by making a contribution to CATI in the form of an article for the *CATI Quarterly*, volunteering at a CATI event like the annual CATI Conference and/or workshops, or submit a 500-word essay on a topic related to the translation and interpreting professions. Students are encouraged to come up with own contribution. The board is open to suggestions.

Please contact Heather Hille, CATI Administrator, with your suggested contribution, at [catiadmin@catiweb.org](mailto:catiadmin@catiweb.org).

## Choosing a school: what should I look for?

- Choosing a school is one of the most important steps you will take on your path to becoming a trained conference interpreter. In order to assist you with your research and decision-making, AIIC regularly contacts many schools worldwide which offer conference interpreting training programmes and asks them to respond to a series of questions; the last time the survey was conducted 178 schools were contacted. The schools' answers are published on this website. For a variety of reasons (e.g. curriculum in transition, incorrect contact address, etc.) some schools did not respond to the survey questionnaire. This means that, for the present, you may not find them listed on the AIIC website.
- If you have not already done so, you might want to check out the online Directory of Schools. This Directory will provide you with basic information about any school that has responded to the survey, and give you a link to its own website, if available.
- When comparing schools and training programmes, you might establish a list of specific criteria which are important to you (location, scholarship support, etc). You might also consult our guide to best practice in training and add some of the considerations below to your personal shopping list:
  - Don't be in a hurry! Conference interpreters need to have accumulated quite a broad general knowledge as well as an excellent command of their languages (this is one profession where age is in our favor!).
  - Spend some time living and studying or working where your languages are spoken before applying to any training programme. The more you are familiar with the relevant cultural context, the stronger your understanding and expression will be.
  - Opt for a graduate training programme rather than an undergraduate programme. Graduate programmes assume that applicants have a solid command of the languages in their combination and can therefore focus more on skill acquisition as well as advanced language enhancement and an introduction to the theoretical basis of interpreting.
  - Don't be put off if the school you like best requires you to take an aptitude test! This is intended to help both you and the teachers on the jury get a glimpse of your current abilities in order to assess your readiness to start the programme...and is nothing personal! In some countries, the local legislation does not permit aptitude testing.
- Take a look at the school's curriculum:
  1. Does the school provide any advice on career prospects?
  2. Are the classes offered going to cover your specific training needs?
  3. Are classes designed and taught by practicing professional interpreters?
  4. Do some of the teachers share your native language?
  5. Does the programme offer classes in both consecutive and simultaneous interpreting?

6. Is there a class which explains professional practice (ethics etc.)?

7. Do outsiders, especially potential employers, attend final exams?

- Final suggestion: you might consider the possibility of visiting one or more schools and observing a couple of relevant classes. You might also arrange to meet some of the instructors and speak to current students or graduates.

### How can I prepare?

Some things you can do to increase your chances of success before starting a training programme:

1. to enhance all of your languages, selectively and actively read, watch TV and listen to radio in all your languages
2. expand your range of command of your native language
3. go and live where your languages are spoken and immerse yourself in the culture
4. learn more about your planet and your immediate environment
5. increase your general knowledge
6. follow international affairs
7. learn to use a computer
8. learn to take care of yourself and to manage your stress well
9. develop good study skills
10. cultivate patience and the ability to integrate feedback
11. research your training options carefully

### Will a professional conference interpreter's lifestyle suit me?

Try this self-quiz to test your preferences! (There are no wrong answers!)

Will I have to pass a test or competition to get work?

yes (staff), probably (freelance)

Will I have to develop my own competitive professional profile?

no (staff), essential (freelance)

Will I be responsible for finding my own work?

no (staff), yes (freelance)

Will I usually work for the same institution/s?

yes (staff), your choice (freelance)

Can I work with agencies or a range of employers?

unlikely (staff), yes (freelance)

Will my employer schedule my workdays?

yes (staff), no (freelance)

May I decline assignments?

not usually (staff), yes (freelance)

Will I get a regular pay check?

yes (staff), no (freelance)

Will I get benefits?

yes (staff), it depends (freelance)

Will I have to assess my own tax liability?

no (staff), yes (freelance)

Can I live where I wish?

doubtful (staff), yes (freelance)

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## Learning the Ropes

In 2008, the Board of Directors of CATI established the “Learning the Ropes” Program in an attempt to encourage translation and interpreting (T&I) knowledge exchange among CATI members. The goal of this Program is to promote the leadership of more experienced CATI members by making themselves available to student members or less experienced CATI members who are presently working or are planning to work in the fields of translation and interpreting.

### Program Participants

- Coordinator: a focal point of contact for this initiative.
- Mentors: CATI members with a minimum of 5 years of T&I work experience, who are willing to share their time and wisdom with individuals recently initiated into the professions of translation and interpreting.
- Mentees: CATI regular or student members in need of professional support.

Email [catiadmin@catiweb.org](mailto:catiadmin@catiweb.org) if you have questions.

Will I have to travel extensively for work?

not necessarily (staff), more likely (freelance)

Will I have to travel for language enhancement?

maybe (staff), maybe (freelance)

Will I have in-house opportunities for career development and training?

often (staff), less likely (freelance)

Will I need to belong to a professional network or association?

preferable (staff), important (freelance)

*To find out more about the professional conference interpreter's lifestyle, check out VEGA.*

## Will my languages be in demand when I have finished training and am looking for work?

A very important question... and hard to predict!

- plan your profile BEFORE you train: some combinations are more “useful” and more portable than others; beware of a flavor-of-the-month push to add a language which is likely to be dropped in the future
- the tsunami of English continues on its course, no doubt about it: English is more widely used than ever, in all its permutations - and you probably want it in your language combination, especially if you plan to work on your local market
- your decision to work in-house for an international organization or free-lance will probably affect your choice of languages
- the good news: A recent study by the AIIC Staff Interpreters Committee shows that, as the impact of staff changes and retirements becomes more serious, international institutions now are cooperating with schools to try to predict future training needs and cater to a changing kaleidoscope of interpreting needs

*If you are interested in working for an international organisation, visit their websites to find out more about their current and future staffing needs; see how often there is a competitive exam for applicants with your language combination. Scroll down to find a list of organisations.*

## Will I find work after training?

AIIC provides all kinds of advice and support for newly trained conference interpreters entering the profession, even offering you the chance to ask questions.

## What other questions should I ask before taking the plunge?

The AIIC Training Committee will do its best to answer any specific questions you may have. Please post them on the message board [on the AIIC website]: we will try to help you find the answers.

*AIIC Training Committee*

*April 2006*

## Education, Practice and our Profession

by Javier Castillo, [javier@castillolanguageservices.com](mailto:javier@castillolanguageservices.com), is a CATI board member and president of Castillo Language Services.



The purpose of this article is to remind and motivate all of the readers to pursue constant education and to underscore how important it is to continue practicing and refining our skills.

*Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter went to work for a timber merchant. The pay was good and so were the work conditions. For that reason, the woodcutter was determined to do his best. On the first day, his boss gave him an axe and showed him the area*

*where he was supposed to work. The first day, the woodcutter cut down 18 trees. "Congratulations," the boss said. "Keep it up!" Very motivated by the boss' words the woodcutter tried even harder the next day but found that he was only able to cut down 15 trees on day two. The next day he tried even harder but, at the end of day three, he had only cut down 10 trees. Day after day he found himself cutting down fewer and fewer trees. "I must be losing my strength," the woodcutter thought. He went to the boss and apologized saying that he could not understand what the problem was. "When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" the boss asked. "Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been too busy cutting trees..."*

Too often in our profession we find ourselves plugging along working and we have no idea what it is that we are doing; we find ourselves cranking out another and another and another document, repeating, drilling, practicing, learning new vocabulary, using memory tips and note-taking exercises and studying, studying, studying.

How many of us did these religiously as we prepared to take a certification exam, or before we applied for a job as a staff interpreter or translator? How many of us stopped the day that we got back our results?

It's great to show up that first day on the job with a shiny new axe. But if we don't take care and continually improve, our work suffers.

**If we want to perform at our best, we have to practice and be in a constant learning mode.**

**Ours is a profession of constant learning and improvement.**

In every field there are advances and new technology that bring new terms into existence, and ours is no exception. That is why it is essential that we stay on top of these changes and continually relearn what we have forgotten. If we don't, we will be left behind and others will pass us up.

I remember back when I was just starting out in this profession, I would make dozens and dozens of flashcards a day. When I came across

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CATI gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following Silver Sponsor:



### **Bilingual Communications, Inc.** English/Spanish

Bilingual Communications, Inc., has been facilitating communication between Spanish and English in North Carolina since 1989. As an expression of its commitment to the objectives of the Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters and of its desire to support the organization, Bilingual Communications is pleased to be a Silver Sponsor.

Bilingual Communications offers services in Spanish and English exclusively. By concentrating its time, energy, and resources on a single pair of languages, the company is able to offer expert services in its specialty areas.

The company's president, Jackie Metivier, is from Mexico and travels there often. This enables her to keep up with her native language and culture, a necessity for service to the local North Carolina Hispanic market, 69% of which is from Mexico.

While most of the company's work is from English to Spanish, Bilingual Communications uses qualified native speakers of English for translation from Spanish to English.

[www.bicomms.com](http://www.bicomms.com)

## CATI Book Club Blog

The CATI book club blog provides a format for informal discussions on books and recommendations of books. If you are a CATI member and are interested in joining the CATI Book Club blog send an email to [catiadmin@catiweb.org](mailto:catiadmin@catiweb.org), state your name and indicate that you are requesting permission to join the book club blog.

a new term or if I heard a different way of expressing an idea, I would write it down. I looked up terms, found two or three synonyms, made flashcards and drilled, drilled, drilled.

I'll be honest; I've become a little slack. I still make lists and still look up terms, but I'll look them up once, and *maybe* remember them again.

If we want to perform at our best, we have to practice and be in a constant learning mode.

I heard a speaker at a conference in Tennessee once say that if I'm not getting better in my profession, I'm getting worse. It really impressed upon me the importance of continued improvement.

### How do we get better and stay on top?

- Take every course that you can.
- Read constantly.
- Devour books voraciously.
- Stay on top of trends and changes in the profession.
- Attend conferences.
- Review a grammar book regularly.
- Study with friends and colleagues.
- If you have a daily commute, turn off the radio, turn off the news, and listen to audiobooks.
- Listen to the the classics.
- Take notes on what you read. Really pay attention to the content and the author's use of expressions and phrases. It might present a better way or more succinct way of expressing an idea. And for anyone who interprets simultaneously, being succinct is crucial.

I recently listened to the entire collection of business audio cds at my local library. It took about 2 weeks of driving 4-5 hours a day. Then, I began to download audiobooks in Spanish and listened to the classics. Last week it was "The Count of Monte Cristo" and the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," by Steven Covey. This week, it's a John Grisham novel and "Les Miserables". I realized that I was hearing literary words and phrases that I don't come across usually in my day-to-day work.

- Sign up for a course at your local university or community college. Many professors will allow you to audit a course for free.
- Practice daily.
- Spend ten minutes a day doing memory exercises.
- Review old vocabulary lists. As we all know, the key to interpreting is not how much you know, but how quickly you can access the information that you have.

Once you have achieved a certain level in your professional careers, you have to be careful and work extra hard to MAINTAIN that level. As I tell all of my students, one of the scariest days in my life was the day that I passed the Federal Court Interpreter Certification exam. I knew that from that day onward, everybody that saw my work would be passing judgement on ALL court interpreters.

*I WANT YOU, DEAR READER, TO BE INSPIRED TO CONTINUE LEARNING AND IMPROVING YOUR MIND AND YOUR SKILLS.*



### Language and Culture Studies (LCS) at UNC Charlotte

The Department of Language and Culture Studies (LCS) at UNC Charlotte offers a well established curriculum in translating and translation studies (TTS):

- **Undergraduate Certificate** in Translating (CT in English-French, English-German, and English-Spanish)
- **Bachelor of Arts in Spanish** (B.A.)
- **Graduate Certificate in Translating and Translation Studies** (GCTTS in English-Spanish)
- **Masters of Arts in Spanish** (M.A.)

[www.languages.uncc.edu/](http://www.languages.uncc.edu/)



### Panoltia Interpreter Training

Panoltia, in partnership with Berkana Language Center, brings you interpreter training that is simply the best available anywhere. **How do we know?** Because our clients tell us so!

Panoltia interpreter seminars and workshops consistently get rave reviews from both professional interpreters and those just entering the field.

Our programs are the best because every one is based on more than 50 years of professional interpreting experience and 25 years of state of the art instructional design and delivery experience; so you know you're getting first rate real-world content presented in a way that makes it interesting and easy to learn.

[www.panoltiatraining.com](http://www.panoltiatraining.com)

# CATI Goes South: 2011 Annual CATI Conference

by Graciela White, is a CATI board Director and Conference Committee Chair.



What started with the firm desire to head down south and reconnect with our membership in South Carolina turned into our best conference ever. And, yes, we said that last year but we have outdone ourselves once again!

Our 24th Annual Conference was held on April 9th in Spartanburg, SC, on the beautiful grounds of the University of South Carolina Upstate, and with the enthusiastic sponsorship of Douglas Jackson, Instructor of Spanish, his students, and colleagues.

When the organizing committee entertained the idea of a location in SC, a few options were explored and USC Upstate was chosen for its great facilities, comprehensive services, and supportive staff.

speaker, Mrs. Eta Trabling, former CATI president and now a resident of Houston, TX, shared the highlights of her career as a conference and court interpreter that spans over more than 4 decades. It was indeed an honor to have Eta among us. The second morning session by Mike Collins, current CATI president, provided insight into the worlds of freelancing and agency ownership. Furthermore, the afternoon sessions dove deeply into several aspects of interpreting, including a review of English grammar, and interaction with the Asian-American community. It was our pleasure to have Mary Chen with us as a representative of our recently established relationship with Asian-American folks in the Triangle.

Based on the success from last year, we reintroduced the Panel for Students, which has now become a staple of our program. This was a candid and well attended forum for students to interact with seasoned professionals and get their perspective on the profession.

The conference exhibitors counted Freek Lankhof, our faithful book supplier and recurrent visitor for more than 15 years, Pio Pio Cards, AHEC, and Greenville Technical College among them. There was also plenty of coffee, superb food and time for networking to make

the day go by extremely fast.

I personally want to thank the organizing committee and volunteers for their dedication and strong commitment to our organization. Finally, special thanks to Heather Hille, our Administrative Manager, whose “can do” attitude was a key factor to the smooth sailing of this conference.

The planning for 2012, our 25th edition, is currently under way. Your suggestions and ideas are welcome and strongly encouraged. We do realize that there is still room for improvement

and, as a CATI member, your opinion is invaluable! The organizing committee is all ears.

*Graciela White, Conference Chair  
Gallery of 2011 CATI Conference Pictures*



Photo by Michael White

141 attendees heard the words of wisdom of the several great presenters who contributed their time and talent to make this conference another success. Our keynote