



InterPRESS

A quarterly publication of the Arizona Court Interpreters Association Fall 2007

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Fall Plenary Meeting Elections

Civic Center Library 3839 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale, Arizona
September 8, 2007 10:30AM – 3:00PM

THE ARIZONA COURT INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION is pleased to announce the **Fall Plenary Meeting** to be held Saturday, September 8, 2007 from 10:30 to 3:00 at the Civic Center Library, 3839 N Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale, Arizona. Elections will take place at this meeting. Two presentations will be offered on firearms: a non-language specific presentation by firearms experts and a Spanish specific presentation by an experienced court interpreter.

10:30 – 11:00

Registration

11:00 – 12:30

Non-Language Specific Presentation

Everything you ever wanted to know about firearms led by **Wally Hopson** and **Bill Hall**. **Wally**, a NRA firearms instructor for 22 years, retired with over 25 years experience in law enforcement had assignments in narcotics, stolen property, patrol, SWAT, training and liquor enforcement. **Bill**, Gabriella's husband, has 25 years of experience in law enforcement and has worked at the State Liquor Department for 20 years.

12:30 – 1:30

LUNCH / ELECTIONS

Active Members Only
Lunch will be provided

1:30 – 3:00

Spanish Specific Presentation

Armas de fuego y balística led by **Anna Huberman** a Federally Certified Court Interpreter with ten years experience in the field. **Anna**, who has a law degree from Argentina, is a staff interpreter at Maricopa County Superior Court and has been an Adjunct Professor at the College of Charleston South in Carolina for 3 years.

Pre registration is required.

To pre register leave a message at (480) 756-2135 or

Email: kathleenpenney@yahoo.com

Admission is free to members, \$25 fee for non-members

A Message from The President



Dear Members:

With the hot summer months almost behind us, we are entering the last quarter of 2007. This is an election year for ACIA and the Nominating Committee has worked diligently to prepare a slate that will be presented to the members at the Fall Plenary meeting on September 8.

In this issue, you will find a report from Karen Isbell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, as well as the list of the nominees for Board of Directors. I urge all Active Members to attend and vote. Please be sure to RSVP by leaving a message at (480) 756-2135 or e-mail kathleenpenney@yahoo.com by no later than close of business on September 5. We will need an accurate head count for catering purposes.

ACIA organized two events this past summer. The Summer Plenary was held in Bisbee in June and the Non-Language Specific (NLS) group met on July 28 for a presentation on *Professional Practices of Court Interpretation* held in Scottsdale. As a result of feedback from members attending this event, a NLS presentation on *Criminal Procedure* will be offered on Saturday, October 13 in Scottsdale. Unfortunately, the August 4 presentation scheduled to take place in Flagstaff had to be cancelled, but we hope to be able to offer it at a later date.

The Membership List is now posted on the web site. It will be updated quarterly to coincide with the distribution of the *InterPRESS*. Please send updates and corrections to [eekseegrekzed@aol.com](mailto:EEKSEEGREKZED@AOL.COM).

We continue to grow as an association, and our membership base keeps expanding. ACIA is attracting members who are excited about the profession and interested in improving their skills. These members provide valuable feedback and suggestions for future training opportunities. ACIA is your association, and you are doing great! Keep up the good work!

See you in September.

Kathleen Penney
President

WEB SITE MEMBERS LIST

If you **DO NOT** want your information posted on the web page, please leave a message at (480) 756-2135 or e-mail [eekseegrekzed@aol.com](mailto:EEKSEEGREKZED@AOL.COM).

All names and contact information will be posted unless otherwise requested

<http://www.aciaonline.org>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Guadalupe Martínez, Prescott
Bill Parks, Gilbert
Barbara Silversmith, St. John's
Renata Yawn, Gilbert
Young Helen, Cave Creek

InterPRESS to be delivered by e-mail

In an effort to reduce costs and keep up with the times, ACIA has decided to go to an electronic newsletter. Therefore it is extremely important that we have your updated e-mail address. Please make sure that it is your personal e-mail address as many courts and employers have fire-walls that would identify our mailings as Spam or Junk Mail. If you wish to continue receiving the InterPRESS through the mail please let us know by calling (480) 756-2135 or sending an e-mail to ACIAInterPress@hotmail.com to confirm your name and address.

ACIA COMMITTEES LIST

Program Committee:

Chairperson, Blanca Lucht
blucht1@cox.net

Membership Committee:

Chairperson, Gabriella Lindsey-Hall
GabiRUSERIOUS@aol.com

Education Committee:

Scott Loos
eekseegrekzed@aol.com

Ethics Committee:

Kathy Schaben
KMSchaben@aol.com

Non-Language Specific Delegate:

Juan Cordova
Juan.Cordova@cityofmesa.org

Parliamentarian:

Ricardo Gonzalez
Ricardo_gonzalez@azd.uscourts.gov

Certification Committee

Fundraising Committee

If you wish to Chair a committee,
please apply to the Board

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Karin Isbell, Chair



2007 is an election year for ACIA. The Nominating Committee was formed at the First Annual Two Day Conference held in Scottsdale on February 24 and 25 of this year. Karin Isbell chairs the committee, which also includes Blanca Lucht, Gabriella Lindsey-Hall, Elena Guijarro and Scott Loos.

The Nominating Committee is tasked with preparing a slate of one candidate for each of the five (5) elected officers on the Board of Directors. The goal was to present a slate of people with a similar vision for the Association, who would work together well as a team and would be willing and able to put in the time, effort and hard work necessary to run an organization.

After lengthy discussions and considerations, the Nominating Committee respectfully submits their slate of nominees for the next Board of Directors of ACIA:

President	Blanca Lucht, Scottsdale
1st Vice-President	Kathy Schaben, Yuma
2nd Vice –President	María García, Florence
Secretary	Scott Loos, Scottsdale
Treasurer	Sandra Feijoó-Negrón, Queen Creek

The Nominating Committee will officially present the slate to the membership at the Fall Plenary Meeting to be held in Scottsdale on September 8, 2007. Floor nominations can be made immediately following the Nominating Committee's report. The floor nominations will be subject to the same qualification requirements, i.e. the nominees must be Active Members of this Association in good standing for one (1) year who have given their consent to serve if elected. No one person can nominate more than one (1) active member for the same position. Should the floor nominations result in there being more than one candidate for a position, a vote shall be carried out by ballot. Absent floor nominations, the slate will be approved.

As an *ad hoc* committee, the Nominating Committee will then be dissolved. The New Board of Directors will be installed at the Annual Meeting to be held on December 1, 2007, and will assume its duties on January 1, 2008.

Nominees for the Board of Directors 2008-2009

President: Blanca Lucht

Blanca Lucht is currently the Scottsdale City Court Interpreter, holding a degree in Finance from the University of Arizona. She was previously in banking prior to her career change.

Blanca has been at the Scottsdale City Court for 17 ½ years. Before officially becoming the Court Interpreter, she supervised the Fines Enforcement Department for 7 years. Blanca has taught Spanish Speaking Skills for Bilingual Staff and Spanish for Beginners. She also administered qualifying exams for Bilingual Court and City of Scottsdale Staff.

Blanca has been a member of ACIA since 1997. In December of 2005, Blanca became the first Municipal Court Interpreter elected to the board of the Arizona Court Interpreters Association as Secretary. This last year she assumed the First Vice President position after Diana Yu Tull's resignation.

First Vice President: Kathleen Schaben

Kathleen (Kathy) Schaben was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona and holds a B.A. in Romance Languages from the University of Arizona. She worked as a freelance interpreter for the federal, state and municipal Courts in Yuma, Arizona for 15 years before being hired in 2002 as Senior Interpreter and Interpreter Coordinator for Superior Court in Yuma County. Kathy is certified as a Spanish Interpreter by the AOUSC as well as the Judicial Council of California. She is serving her second year as the interpreter member of the Arizona Supreme Court Judicial Staff Education Committee. Kathy has been a member of ACIA for over 5 years and is the Chair of the Ethics Committee. In addition, she is a member of ATA and currently serves as the Co-Chair of the CourTools Court Performance Measurement Design Team for Yuma County Superior Court.

Second Vice-President: Maria Elena Garcia

Maria Garcia was born in Nogales, Sonora, and raised in Phoenix. She worked as a teacher's assistant in Casa Grande, Arizona and for the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind as a bilingual parent advisor. In addition to raising her family, she found time to volunteer for the Make a Wish Foundation as a Spanish Interpreter. In 1998, she was employed part-time on call by the Pinal County Superior Court in Florence, Arizona, as an Interpreter and hired full-time in 2000. Ms. Garcia is a graduate of the Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation (2002) and has attended several training events and workshops.

She is a member of NAJIT and has been a member of the Arizona Court Interpreter Association for 6 years. Maria is a Nevada State certified court interpreter and is currently working on obtaining her federal certification. She has passed the written portion and will be taking the oral examination this month.

(Continued on next page)

Nominees (continued from previous page)

Secretary: Scott Loos

Scott Robert Loos is currently Court Interpreter Coordinator and Developer for the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education (Spanish) from Arizona State University and a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Communication from the Monterey Institute of International Studies where he also obtained a certificate in Conference Interpreting (English-Spanish-French.) Scott holds a certification from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts as a Spanish-English interpreter.

He has worked at the Superior Court for the past 28 years, developing and administering qualifying exams, evaluation diagnostics and training materials for Spanish and non-Spanish interpreters in the court setting. Scott has taught interpreting practice and skills at the College of Charleston, the University of Houston, Montclair State College and Arizona State University.

Scott received the Commendation of Excellence from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education for his work at the College of Charleston. As a member of the rating panel for the Federal Certification Examination for Spanish interpreters, he has graded examinations on seven tours, including the one currently in progress. He co-founded the Arizona Court Interpreters Association in 1981 and has served as its President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. Scott is co-author of the Bilingual Dictionary of Criminal Justice Terms (English/Spanish) and editor of a series of glossaries and term listings for use by interpreters and instructors of interpreting. He is currently the Education Chair for the 2006-2007 Board of ACIA and assumed the Secretary position vacated by Blanca Lucht when she was appointed First Vice President last year.

Treasurer: Sandra Feijoó-Negrón

Sandra Feijoó - Negrón is currently an Interpreter with Maricopa Superior Court, working on a BA degree from the University of Phoenix. She attended the Professional Career Institute of Paralegal Studies in Southfield, Michigan. Sandra is Consortium Certified through the State of Michigan. Sandra has been a court interpreter for the past 13 years. Prior to her employment at Maricopa Superior Court, Sandra worked at the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Kissimmee, Florida, 3rd Judicial Circuit Court and 36th District Court in Detroit, Michigan. Sandra was sole proprietor of Villarruel Heating and Cooling Co. and Hair Impression Hair Salon before her career change over 20 years ago.

Sandra planned and organized the very 1st training on “How to Pass the Federal Written Exam in Michigan”. She also served as the liaison between the certified court interpreters and the courts.

Sandra has been a member of ACIA since her arrival in Arizona in 2005. Sandra assumed the Treasurer position after Olivera Horwath’s resignation.

Yuma Meeting Takes Place in Courtroom

On April 28, 2007 at the U.S. Magistrate Court Building in Yuma, ACIA offered *Intermediate/Advanced Level Skills Workshops*. Scott Robert Loos, Interpreter Training Developer at Maricopa County Superior Court and Ricardo Gonzales, staff Interpreter at the U.S. Magistrate Court in Yuma led a hands-on workshop for each of the three interpreting modes: Simultaneous Interpretation, Consecutive Interpretation, and Sight Translation using texts at advanced and intermediate levels.

The event was well attended by the local interpreters and members who traveled from other countries. Ricardo Gonzalez made the arrangements for the location and it was held in a courtroom, which provided a very realistic setting for the workshops.

Each workshop consisted of a lecture followed by a practice session during which the attendees demonstrated their skills. It was a lively event with lots of participation and discussion and it got rave reviews from the attendees. This proved to be such a positive experience all around that ACIA will definitely hold future meetings in Yuma.

Our thanks go the Yuma interpreters for inviting ACIA to offer these workshops, to Ricardo Gonzalez and Scott Loos for all of their hard work and patience, and to Dolce Vita for providing the snacks for the meeting.



Pictured left to right: Kathy Schaben, Scott Loos, Kathleen Penney, Blanca Lucht, Marcela Testai, Ricardo Gonzalez. Seated in front is Norma Caucas.



Left to right: Perla Orozco, Luz Hoyos, Esther Neblina, Socorro Gonzalez, Kathy Schaben, James Newlin, Tamara Al-Kasey



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERPRETATION: Past and Present

Dr. Roseann Dueñas González

In the last issue of *InterPRESS*, I discussed a bit about the University of Arizona National Center for Interpretation's background, projects, and approach to the interpreting pedagogy that we apply to all our training seminars. Our pedagogical approach, refined over the last 25 years, seeks to maximize the impact of relatively short training sessions on interpreters—both improving their skill and enabling them to build on that improvement after the training was complete. To this end, all our training programs are intensive and practice-oriented. At least 60% of all the contact time in our seminars is devoted to simulated interpreting exercises that are based on real world situations and incorporate authentic language—i.e., the kind of situations and language an interpreter is likely to encounter in the field.

This approach provides a realistic context in which legal jargon, medical terminology, and the like have greater meaning and are more readily internalized by the interpreter. Similarly, this approach provides some substance for the interpreter's developing conceptual understanding of the sociolinguistic schemata at play in different settings. As a result, interpreters can bring a greater array of linguistic and conceptual resources to bear on an interpreted encounter, improving their processing time and, ultimately, their ability to accurately and faithfully render an equivalent message in the target language. This is the goal of all our interpreter training seminars.

About Our Programs—Court Interpretation

The Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation was the first training institute of its kind in the country and remains among the best. Since 1983, we have trained nearly 2,000 interpreters, including many leaders in the field of specialized interpreting.

The **Agnese Haury Institute** is an annual, three-week (120 hour) training institute offered every July at the University of Arizona. During these three

weeks, participants are run through our intensive, practice-based pedagogy with a focus on court interpretation. Much of the instructional time is taken up with practice in simultaneous and consecutive interpretation, and sight translation, including individual critique and analysis of each participant's efforts. In addition, the Agnese Haury Institute covers such diverse topics as the legal system, ethics and protocol, slang and regionalisms, specialized areas ranging from immigration to forensic pathology to firearms, and a great deal more. Partial scholarships are available for successful candidates. More information can be found at <http://nci.arizona.edu>.

We also offer three-day **Introduction to Interpreting** and **Advanced Interpreting** seminars, which focus on court interpreting, as well as a translation workshop, which uses authentic legal, medical, and business-related texts. These are offered in Tucson or Phoenix every year in October/November, and again in February/March.

Thirdly, we hold **Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exam Prep Seminars** every year, with a focus on the portion of the FCICE (written or oral) being administered that year. For 2007-2008, we will hold approximately ten seminars focusing on the written exam around the country in April, May, and June, with at least one seminar in Arizona. In these seminars, participants take two sample FCICE written exams and then, working with a federally certified interpreter, analyze their test performance, determining the candidate's strengths and weaknesses and looking at methods to improve language proficiency and test performance.

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THE 2007 SUMMER PLENARY MEETING

The ACIA Summer Plenary Meeting was held June 9, 2007 in Bisbee at the Bisbee Women's Club. Two workshops were offered, ***Interpreting from the Witness Stand*** led by Scott Robert Loos, Interpreter Training Developer at Maricopa County Superior Court followed by a panel answering questions from the attendees: ***I heard this in Court. what does it mean?***

Though difficult to find, the Women's Club proved to be a small, very airy and charming building located near the courthouse. The aptly named Thelma and Louise Catering Service provided the refreshments, and The Schoolhouse Inn set aside rooms for ACIA members at a discounted fee. Most of the out-of-towners made a weekend of it and stayed to explore Bisbee.

The meeting was attended by close to twenty members including the local interpreters. The presentations were very well received. We were also fortunate to have Lucía Ventura and Frances Simmons, local Bisbee interpreters, talk to us about their jobs and the different courts they cover and the huge distances they have to drive to cover them. They very much appreciated having an ACIA meeting in Bisbee.

Our thanks to Scott Loos for his usual hard work in preparing the materials for the workshop. Also a very special "Thank You!" to Lucía Ventura for helping with the arrangements.

MEMBERS LISTEN INTENTLY AT THE MEETING.



THELMA AND LOUISE CATERING



PROFILE

Sabine Michael
 Senior Court Interpreter
 Pinal County Superior Court
 Florence, Arizona

Pinal County Court Interpreters, left to right: Sabine Michael, Maria Garcia and Danira Mariñez. (Not pictured: Alisha Olivarez)

Q: What is your position and how long you have been with the court?

A: My position title is Senior Court Interpreter and I have been with Pinal County for 11 years, it will be 12 years this August.

Q: How is the office set up?

A: The 4 of us, Maria, (7 years with the court) Alisha (1.5 years), Danira (6 months) and I handle all court hearings and share the task of scheduling the appointments in our Outlook Express database to which we all have access. It really helps as we all can see what needs to be done on any given day. Administrative and personnel matters are usually handled by me, as well as contracting interpreters for other languages. However, when I am not in the office and something comes up, the other ladies assume this responsibility as well, as they have all necessary lists and paperwork (billing sheets and directions for travel) available to them. The reason this is working well is that the communication among us is really great, and since we are still small, this has proven to be a great asset to the smooth functioning of the court.

Q: How many courts do you cover?

A: 10 Divisions (Criminal, Civil, Juvenile) plus Child Support plus 8 Justice of the Peace precincts, some of them as far away from Florence as 1.5 hours driving time.

Q: How many interpreters does the Court employ?

A: We are all full-time staff interpreters and we supplement with contract interpreters for Spanish, ASL and other languages as needed.

Q: What are the qualifications for employment as an interpreter?

A: Applicants have to pass a written exam (multiple choice, Spanish and English, testing grammar, some court terminology, synonyms, antonyms, proverbs etc) and a mock Change of Plea procedure in front of a judge. Candidates with a passing score in the oral advance to an interview. The chosen candidate then undergoes a criminal background check. If applicants have a certification (Consortium or Federal) the testing procedure is waived. However, we most usually recruit at the Interpreter I level.

Q: Do new interpreters receive any kind of training before they are given assignments?

A: Yes. Court procedure, overview of the court system, canons of ethics, judicial conduct and a lot of reading materials such as the 'fundamentals' and other reading materials I have accumulated over the years. Then there is observation, legal vocabulary and finally the first 'steps' in court, with a mentor interpreter.

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Profile (continued from previous page)

Q: Does the court offer on-going training for interpreters?

A: We are very fortunate in that the court pays for one training per interpreter per year. Additionally, participation in ACIA is encouraged (and paid for) for the newer staff members and the goal is for them to also get consortium certification as a first step. Alisha's attendance at the U of A is being paid for by the court, and both Maria and I have already benefited from our 'turn'. Danira's turn will come next year or the year after, depending on court and/or personal schedules. Both the presiding judge and Court Administration are and have consistently been over the years very much in favor of us receiving training, as it will ultimately benefit the court.

Q: Is there education/orientation for Judges and Court staff regarding use of interpreter and/or interpreter issues?

A: Over the past several years I had the privilege of presenting at the New Judges Orientation sponsored by the AOC (general jurisdiction judges) and it has been well received. Our own judges in Pinal are all very knowledgeable about working with interpreters and when new issues come up, the doors are always open to discuss procedures.

Q: At what point in a case are interpreters assigned?

A: At the initial appearance stage, when the bailiff walks in and says 'we have a party who needs an interpreter' or if anyone walks into our offices requesting one. We actually don't assign interpreters to a specific case, we attend all hearings in which an interpreter may be needed and take care of all matters, then we move on to the next courtroom. The only thing we don't do is civil trials, counsel has to bring their own interpreters and we make our list and ACIA's list available if they need to locate a freelancer.

Q: How cases are assigned to each interpreter?

A: We are still fortunate enough to pick and choose our assignments on a daily or weekly basis. The Justice of the Peace precincts are also covered that way, we know in advance which days we are needed, get a calendar from their chief clerk and every one of us has a 'favorite' JP court or one that is 'practical' from the point of view of the commute to one's home. We work trials in pairs, but lately, most everything pleads out. The thing I want to stress is that what makes working here so much fun is a dedicated team whose first responsibility is to the court. It is not unusual for a bailiff walking into our office and all of us getting up collectively (if we are there, or those who are) to get to cover the assignment. We usually get a lot of laughs over that habit, but we haven't been able to break away from it. As individuals, we are also fortunate to get along great, you will often see us 'eating in' and enjoying each other's company.

Q: Are interpreter cases tracked?

A: We keep daily statistics that are compiled once a month into a form breaking out the amount of total cases interpreted and in which area. Lately, Juvenile cases have been on the rise, as have Dependencies.

Q: What do you consider the most important interpreter issues faced by your court at the moment?

A: Competent and reliable coverage by contract interpreters. We have been working for many years with great service providers for Spanish, ASL and other languages, the only draw-back is the steady increase in demand due to Pinal County's growth and sometimes we are just not able to satisfy all demands or do so in a timely manner. ACIA is a great helping tool, as I have met many of the interpreters I use as contractors at various ACIA or NAJIT events.

Unofficial ATA Examination Rehearsal a Success

Juan Vaquer Jr., ACIA Active Member



The unofficial American Translators Association (ATA) Certification Exam Rehearsal held last June 10th at the Scottsdale Library was a successful meeting. We actually had to rearrange our chairs and tables in order to seat the eleven colleagues meeting there. Seven more were unable to make it; otherwise, we would've had to use the second room we'd reserved. Altogether, this was a considerable jump from the 3 to 4 people we would've expected initially. With that much interest in practicing for the exam, we're confident we'll meet our 5-candidate minimum for the September 30th ATA Exam sitting in Phoenix. We should also encourage those who may not be able to take the next test in Phoenix to consider our planned sitting in Tucson's next year. Patrick O'Connor has been working with a fine team of colleagues for several months now to set up that second sitting next year. These two events will give us a double chance in our own State of Arizona to test our skills as seasoned translators; it has already brought us to ATA's attention as more than just flyover country when it comes to translation.

We made a mistake inviting people earlier to the test for registration and the ever-welcome chat among colleagues: the Scottsdale Library doesn't open until 1:00 PM on Sundays. It's an important scheduling lesson to keep in mind for future rehearsals that may be held around the states as other sittings are scheduled.

After an initial thirty minutes of general orientation closely emulating what we'd come to expect from an actual exam (I'm not an ATA proctor or grader, so I acted based on available ATA information and my experience as a candidate last year), we provided unofficial practice tests to any person interested in them. They were unofficial in the sense that these passages couldn't be sent back to the ATA for grading, since they weren't purchased by the candidates. We also provided alternative yet valid practice passages for colleagues who, like me, may've been acquainted with the original ATA practice test, which would've defeated the purpose of the document. In any event, we closely followed actual examination procedures: a 3-hour limit; translating a mandatory general passage and either a legal/financial/business or a medical/scientific/technological passage;

each person using only his or her respective hardcopy resources, no online resources, no typing; no stepping out of the testing room with the test; and so forth.

Since unofficial tests may not be sent in for grading, we suggested that candidates meet later with a trusted and capable colleague to grade the exam (ideally, following publicly available ATA grading criteria) and pinpoint strengths and weaknesses. Anything from getting too tired to keep writing all the way up to actual language issues may crop up during the rehearsal and help us focus on what to boost and what to work on.

Of course, any colleague who'd brought his or her own official test passages would've been more than welcome to translate them in that verisimilar testing environment and eventually send them in for official grading.

In this particular rehearsal, everyone tested either going into English or going into Spanish. We must stress, however, that there's no such limitation to attending an official or unofficial exam rehearsal: the actual sittings are open for examination in any of the ATA language combinations available. We look forward to the day when Arizonan translators may take

practice tests and certification exams in several combinations: a sure sign that organized outreach would be bearing fruit.

All in all, each one of us came out with a clearer understanding of our respective performance and how to cope with sitting requirements. For example, from observing our performance at that test, we could add to our standing list of suggestions that, although 3 hours is enough time for faster hand writers to draft their translations and then write a clean copy, more sedate writers may not have that much time to get fancy. For those, a simple piece of advice would be to write in pencil, instead of ink, and so erase mistakes and rewrites off their original document instead of writing everything over in new forms.

Since we're also looking forward to establishing a statewide translators association aimed at becoming an ATA Chapter, all our current efforts at rehearsals and sittings bear double fruit: not only for each candidate, but also for our professional standing in Arizona as a whole. It's yet another aspect of our work we're committed to improving.

(Continued on next page)

University of Arizona (Continued from page 7)

In addition to training in court interpretation, we have had the privilege of testing the proficiency of potential interpreters for several state and municipal courts, including Los Angeles County Superior Court, Maricopa County Superior Court, Yuma County Superior Court, and municipal courts in Goodyear, Glendale, and Tempe. We have developed and validated specific tests for both Superior and Municipal courts that have performed well in each setting.

About Our Programs—Medical Interpretation

We also offer our **Medical Interpreter Training Institute**, with both a three-day curriculum and a six-day curriculum. As with our shorter court interpreter trainings, we offer the three-day training in October/November and again in February/March, with at least one three-day seminar in Arizona each year. The six-day (48 hour) Medical Interpreter Training Institute is always held in July at the University of Arizona.

As many of you know, there is no national certification for medical interpreters at this time (neither is there an Arizona state certification). In response to this need, we offer our own Medical Interpreter Competency Exam (MICE) to participants in our medical interpreter training institutes. The MICE was developed by a panel of experts in the field of medical interpretation, and is designed to assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities that were identified as essential to proficient medical interpreting, including consecutive interpretation, sight translation, knowledge of anatomy and medical terminology, and so on.

Built into the different sections of the exam are important aspects of language that tend to be particularly challenging or important for the faithful transmission of the source language message into the target language, including issues of register and idiomatic expressions. In addition to the validity evidence accrued through expert development and review, the MICE was validated through a criterion-referenced pilot study of its performance with participants in our Medical Interpreter Training Institute. To date, it has performed extremely well across all of its administrations.

The MICE is an option available to those who wish to establish their qualifications as medical interpreters. Frequently, hospital groups who contract with us to hold training for their staff also contract to assess their staff, though the exam is open to anyone. In fact, all of our seminars can also be specially requested and held at any site where there are at least 12 participants.

While these are our principal interpreter training opportunities, they just begin to describe the range of projects the National Center for Interpretation is pursuing. Please visit us at <http://nci.arizona.edu> for more information, or call us at (520) 621-3615.

ATA Examination (Continued from previous page)

Information on applying for the ATA Certification Exam is available at the ATA Web site: www.atanet.org. You may contact me (jvaquerjr@cox.net) for pointers and a heads-up on what to expect at the exam. You may reach Patrick O'Connor (poconnor331@yahoo.com) for information on the Tucson sitting being planned for next year and to join our online group, TOCAZ, which is an online convention to work on founding that translators association from the ground up.

ACIA has helped our ATA Certification Sitting drive by allowing us outreach through the legacy **Communiqué** and its current and fittingly punning incarnation, **InterPress**. We've also had support at each official Association activity. Board members secured the Scottsdale Library rooms for us. We expect all our efforts in this dimension to strengthen us and our profession as a whole.

Visit ATA online at www.atanet.org



Arizona Court Interpreters Association

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.aciaonline.org

Future Events

A Non-Language Specific Workshop

Criminal Procedure, an outline of the Criminal process in Arizona, led by Scott Loos, M.A. will be offered in Scottsdale on **October 13, 2007** at the Civic Center Library in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Spanish-Specific workshops

Unraveling the pitfalls of DUI terminology, led by David Svoboda, M.A., will be offered in Florence on **October 27, 2007** at the Pinal County Superior Court, 971 N. Jason Lopez Circle, Florence, AZ 85232.

This is a follow-up to a presentation offered May 6, 2006 at the Phoenix Municipal Court: ***DUI Presentation and Workshop***, by Criminalist Chester Flaxmayer and Chris McBride, Attorney at Law.

Plea Agreements of Limited Jurisdiction Courts, led by Scott Loos, M.A., will be offered in Tucson on **November 17, 2007**.

Sight Translation workshop using actual plea agreement documents from various Municipal Courts. This workshop was previously offered March 24, 2006 at the Civic Center Library in Scottsdale, Arizona.

To preregister leave a message at (480) 756-2135 or

Email: kathleenpenney@yahoo.com

Admission is free to members, \$25 fee for non-members

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