

# The TRANSLetter

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A Publication of the Society of Translators & Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC)

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## President's Message

Walaiporn (Ellen) Chaisiriut  
(Laoha), C.Tr.

Dear Colleagues,



It is a great pleasure to serve on the STIBC Board and be part of this great organization. Our first meeting with the new Board for 2009-2010 was held on June 15, 2009. Several tasks and responsibilities were discussed and divided among the Board members. We have now planned nine Board meetings, including the AGM, for the current fiscal year. In addition, fourteen committees/projects (including three mandated by STIBC by-laws) are in place, with Board liaisons and members assigned, and timelines have been allocated. Over the next year, we will concentrate on the following three key areas: education and training; STIBC member benefits; and revenue enhancement.

**Education and training:** At least six workshops and seminars have been planned so far.

**Member benefits:** The Member Benefits Committee is reviewing current benefits and investigating other opportunities, such as telephone plans, health and fitness discounts, Costco membership, etc.

**Revenue enhancement:** There is positive trending in our financial statement to date. New revenue opportunities are being explored.

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Should you have any comments, questions or input, please do not hesitate to contact the Office. Any support you can give would be greatly appreciated. ◇

*Walaiporn (Ellen) is a freelance translator with over 20 years of experience in translation. She has been a STIBC member since 2005 and became certified as a Thai-English translator in 2006. She has served on the STIBC Board of Directors since 2006, and has also been President of the Thai Association of British Columbia (TABC), and Director of the Southeast Asia Canada Business Council (ASEAN).*

*Born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand, she obtained a law degree and practiced law in Thailand before moving to Sydney, Australia, with her family. They lived there for a number of years, then came to Canada in August 1988. Walaiporn (Ellen) is also a Certified General Accountant and works full-time as Director of Finance and Human Resources for a private firm in the South Granville area in Vancouver. In 2006, she completed the Canadian Immigration Consulting Program at UBC. She is also a part-time Thai language instructor at UBC, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Walaiporn (Ellen) can be reached at [president@stibc.org](mailto:president@stibc.org).*

## Executive Director's Message

Joann McKinlay, C.Tr.



Dear Colleagues,

On September 10, 2009, STIBC had 501 members: 310 certified, 177 associate, 5 retired and 9 listed as founders. Two of its members are now entrusted with the administration and operations of the Society. The two office staff are myself, Joann McKinlay, in the position of Executive Director, and since September 1, 2009, Bekircan Tahberer, who has been hired as Office Clerk.

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome on behalf of STIBC to Bekircan, who is originally from Adana, Turkey. He studied to be a teacher of German, and learned English at the same time. He has tutored

German and English but mostly Turkish, and still teaches Turkish at the Turkish-Canadian Society. He has an M.A. in History and worked as a freelance translator for many years. His passion is collecting ancient coins; he is the author of a number of articles and books, and has taught courses in ancient numismatics (study of coins). As Office Clerk, Bekircan is taking on administration and reception duties, and ensuring that members and the public feel welcome at the STIBC office.

As for myself, I have been a STIBC member since 2000 and became certified as a Spanish-to-English translator in 2001. In 2003, I was also President of the Mexican Business Association of Canada. After that time, I served on the STIBC Board of Directors for several years, and resigned from the Board when I started to work in the office.

I was born in North Vancouver, B.C. After completing my B.A. at Simon Fraser University in Latin American Studies and Contemporary Dance, I moved to Mexico for 12 years. My first formal work in Spanish-English translation started in 1992 in Mexico City at a financial newswire. While in Mexico, I worked as a translator, financial journalist, ESL teacher and contemporary dance choreographer. Since I returned to Canada, my occupations have included bookkeeper, consultant and high school counselor.

The position of Executive Director has two roles. One is the task of looking inward in order to oversee the day-to-day administration of the office, and continue to increase its efficiency. At the same time, the Executive Director looks outward to see the various external factors that affect STIBC in order to ensure that the Society provides the best service possible for its members. The ultimate goal is the same: to increase the value gained by members—whether Certified, Associate, Student or Retired—by belonging to STIBC over the years.

As Bekircan (John) begins his new position with STIBC, the Office extends a special good-bye and deepest thanks to two other STIBC members: Bin Gu, who worked part-time in the office from last February until the end of August, and Gisela Cantu, who volunteered and was available whenever Bin was busy or travelling. ◇

*Joann McKinlay and Bekircan (John) Tahberer can be reached at [office@stibc.org](mailto:office@stibc.org).*

## Your Primary Question

By Sophie Bizeul

One of the simplest concepts that seem to deeply impact one's quality of life is that of a "primary question." According to Anthony Robbins, this is the dominant question we keep asking ourselves and that determines what we consistently notice and experience in life.

First, let me explain why that might be. Some of you will be familiar with the foundational idea that "what you focus on, you get more of." In other words, whatever filter we apply to a given situation will shape our experience of that situation. Let's consider for instance the situation of people with a history of "failed" relationships. As a result of how they view their history, they might approach any new relationship asking, "Is this relationship going to fail again?" This question will tend to create a self-fulfilling prophecy, whereby a person will focus on whatever might go wrong with the new partner, rather than pay attention to what might be going well and what could be done to improve areas that are not perfect yet.

Now, our primary question is said to apply in a range of different contexts, and is most noticeable in stressful situations. Going back to the example above, we could extrapolate that people might apply the "failure" filter to a number of other contexts besides intimate relationships. Their underlying primary question in life could be, "Am I going to fail?" Although a number of other factors come into play as well, this primary question will undoubtedly have an impact on the course of action chosen when people are presented with what might be perceived as a stress-inducing opportunity, such as a promotion at work. If they strongly value change and adventure, they might still choose to accept the promotion despite their fear of failure. However, if they value certainty and security instead, they will probably prefer to stay within their comfort zone and are likely as a result to decline an offer because that would force them to face their fear.

How can people find alternative primary questions to ask themselves in order to achieve more of what they want? As a general rule, studies suggest that the best types of questions are solution-focused "How" and

"What" questions that have the end in mind. Notice what comes up for you when you ask yourself, "How could I succeed?" or "What can I do to make this work?" Now compare this with what comes up when you ask closed "Yes/No" questions or justification-prone "Why" questions, like: "Am I going to fail?" or "Why do I keep failing?" I wouldn't be surprised if Anthony Robbins' words, "The quality of our life depends on the quality of the questions we ask ourselves," started to make real sense... ◇

*Sophie Bizeul is a professional English-French translator who has transitioned into the world of life coaching. For more information, visit [www.essencialcoaching.com/en](http://www.essencialcoaching.com/en). Sophie can be reached at [sophie@essencialcoaching.com](mailto:sophie@essencialcoaching.com).*

## Writing in Two Languages at Once

By Eric Spalding, C.Tr.

Some authors write their works in one language and then translate it into another. Among such writers, Samuel Beckett and Milan Kundera come to mind. Until recently, however, I had never heard of an author who wrote books in two languages at once. Anne Weber is such a writer. She was born in Germany, and writes in French and German. In the following passages, she describes her method:

*I always establish two versions of a single book, one in French and one in German. Originally, it was the French version that I wrote first. Now it's the German because, as time goes on, I've renewed my ties to my first language. I think that, strangely, German intimidated me at first more than French, of which my knowledge was less deep.*

I like what Weber says about changing levels of affinity for German and French. I think that those of us who speak two or more languages can think back on our lives and recognize periods of fluctuating affinities for one language over the others. Weber continues:

*The second version of a text is a very free translation, with no obligation of*

*faithfulness. I may, for example, add, cut or change sentences; often, this process allows me to return to the original version and correct it. Translation is like reading with a magnifying glass, and translating your own work is a particularly unforgiving enterprise since all of the weaknesses in a sentence leap right out at you.*

Weber's process seems sensible to me. For one thing, an author who can publish her works in two languages can increase the size of her audience. For another, I recognize as a translator myself that the act of translating forces me to study a text attentively. In doing so, I notice sometimes that a turn of phrase that is acceptable to a casual reader can pose challenges to a translator. As I pore over a text, I occasionally observe that the author has expressed his idea in a vague or ambiguous manner. In this regard, it has always been much easier for me to translate carefully written and thought-out prose than to decipher sloppy writing. In the latter case, I find myself having to rewrite the original in my mind as I translate it.

Weber's method appears time-consuming, but it could be helpful on occasion for bilingual writers who want to make their prose more clear and accessible.

*Source:* Florence Noiville, "Anne Weber : 'Une chose arrivée de façon naturelle et inconsciente'" ("Anne Weber: 'Something that happened in a natural and unconscious way'"), *Le Monde des livres*, n° 19954, March 21, 2009, p. 2. I translated the excerpts from this interview from French to English. ♦

*Eric Spalding is a long-time member of STIBC, certified to translate from French to English and from English to French. He was born and raised in Greater Montreal and now lives in Greater Vancouver. His dad is Scottish and his mom Québécoise. Eric can be reached at [Eric.Spalding@ufv.ca](mailto:Eric.Spalding@ufv.ca).*

"I do not hesitate to read all (...) good books in translations. What is really best in any book is translatable - any real insight or broad human sentiment."

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## ITD: Working Together

*The Fédération internationale des traducteurs (International Federation of Translators) has issued the following news release for International Translation Day (ITD), which takes place every year on September 30. The 2009 theme for International Translation Day invites translators around the world to take a fresh look at why and how it pays to join forces.*

The days of the fiercely solitary translator working in splendid isolation are numbered, say many industry observers. Not that massive collectivization is in sight: in this language-sensitive profession—or, more accurately, set of professions—a large share of added value remains intensely personal.

But technology and changing markets have broken down barriers. Today translators from around the globe can plug into a truly worldwide conversation that casts new light on traditional ways of working—and creates new opportunities. Even as the arrival of more demanding clients, more complex projects and tighter deadlines underscores the advantages of exchanging ideas, information and best practices.

Consider:

- Personal interaction between translation providers and buyers leads to better understanding of a text's purpose and increased awareness of the impact an outstanding translation can have. From literary and technical translation to interpreting, terminology, subtitling and more, there's no doubt that clients who get involved in the translation process—be they across the road or five time-zones away—make for better quality texts, and, ultimately, better working conditions. Question: How can translation users best be brought into the process?

- New translation standards emphasize the importance of revision. At its most basic, this means four-eye review, but in practice far more people can be involved. Question: Are too many cooks spoiling the soup, or is revision an opportunity for stimulating exchange among peers?

- Multilingual projects are on the rise, encouraging coordination and interaction between language teams; a solution found in one language pair may provide insights for partners around the globe. And as more



and more projects require linguists to join forces, project management has taken on new importance. Question: How can translation providers adopt, adapt or create methods for working together quickly and efficiently?

- Practice meets theory meets information management: increasingly, translators and interpreters draw on the work of terminologists and, in some cases, academics, to better serve monolingual exporters and publishers, promote cultural exchange and enrich scientific debate.

Question: How can the insights of this multitude of players, who once worked in relative isolation, be harnessed to best effect?

- For professional associations and other bodies serving the translation industry, access to once-remote contacts has never been easier. Cross-border contacts are an e-mail away, and networking expands the reach and influence of institutions in ways that past generations of linguists could only dream of. Question: How are the most innovative associations using these new resources to raise professional standards and enhance their clout?

These and other challenges will be in the spotlight in 2009, as participating associations examine how “Working Together” in new ways, both formal and informal, can enhance translators’ ability to use the power of language to help people around the world live, learn and work together. ◇

*The International Federation of Translators is the world federation of professional associations bringing together translators, interpreters and terminologists. It has 107 members in over 60 countries and represents more than 80,000 professionals.*

## STIBC 2009 Member’s Day and AGM

On Saturday, May 30, STIBC held its 2009 Annual General Meeting and Members’ Day at the SFU Segal Graduate School of Business. About 50 members attended the workshops and AGM. The first workshop, “Current Trends in the Media”, was presented in the morning by Kathryn Gretsinger, who has been a radio journalist for almost 20 years (see report below by STIBC member Mary Pike). The

second workshop was entitled “Mentoring and Sponsoring: Newcomer versus Experienced Language Professional.” Joann McKinlay served as moderator. Information was first presented by Joann and a panel of STIBC certified members that included Patricia Castrillon, Joe Greenholtz, Germán Pareja, and Evelyn Radoslavova. This was followed by a group discussion on aspects of mentoring newcomers to the translation and interpretation industry, and those preparing for certification.

During the AGM, the STIBC Volunteer Award was presented to Esther Vitalis, who was given flowers and a plaque. Evelyn Radoslavova received flowers to thank her for several years of service as STIBC President. The 2009-2010 Board of Directors for STIBC was elected as follows: Walaiporn (Ellen) Chaisiriut (Laoha) as President; Fenella Sung as Registrar; and Golnaz Aliyazadeh as Treasurer; Patricia Castrillon, Mary Eady, Rachel Enomoto, Joe Greenholtz, Gian Singh Kotli, and Martha Rodriguez as Directors at Large. The various Directors were assigned responsibilities at the first meeting of the new Board in June.



**The 2009-2010 Board of Directors**  
From left to right – Back row: Rachel Enomoto, Fenella Sung, Patricia Castrillon, Martha Rodriguez, Joe Greenholtz. Front row: Mary Eady, Gian Singh Kotli, Golnaz Aliyazadeh, and Walaiporn (Ellen) Chaisiriut (Laoha).

The membership approved the motion to replace the Auditor with a Finance Committee. The 2009-2010 Finance Committee was appointed as follows: Marc Thériault, Benjamin Guo, and Tomas Almeida. The reports presented at the AGM can be found on the STIBC website in the “Members Only” section, under Documents/AGM 2009 documents.



**Members of STIBC 2009-2010 Finance Committee.  
From left to right: Benjamin Guo,  
Marc Thériault, and Tomas Almeida**

## Goodbye Evelyn and Merci!

*Evelyna Radoslavova stepped down as President of STIBC after three years of service. Below, we have reprinted the speech that she gave at this year's AGM, and we would like to thank her for the tremendous amount of work she did and all the energy she infused into the Society over these past years.*

This year was a time of transition and growth, and I would like to start by thanking all our members for their patience in seeing us through our growing pains and their help in pointing out where improvements are needed. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and all the other volunteers for countless hours of dedication and commitment!

Perhaps the achievement that I am most proud of is the number and variety of continuing education activities that we managed to organize this year. The count is up to twelve (not counting workshops organized independently by individual members and groups with the support of STIBC), all well-attended and eliciting positive feedback. A set of workshops was held once more in Victoria, and the CTTIC exam was again offered in both Vancouver and Victoria. These activities were organized on a cost-recovery basis, allowing us to pay speaker fees and recruit speakers with valuable expertise, in one case from the other coast of Canada. Their success is encouraging and shows that our members see the value of professional development and are prepared, even in

these hard times, to invest the time and money required to enhance their knowledge and skills.

A logical further step in this approach would be the implementation of a functional Mentorship system. Although there have been a few individual pairings, mentoring is not as widespread as we would like it to be, perhaps because there is not enough clarity on where to start and how to go about it. Knowing that mentoring has a proven impact in helping beginners in the profession obtain certification, it is clearly worthwhile to focus our attention on this aspect of supporting our associate members.



**Evelyna Radoslavova steps down as President of STIBC.  
Shown here with Rachel Enomoto.**

Looking for ways to increase inclusiveness in the Society for all translation and interpreting professionals in the province, the Board has decided to ask members for their opinion on adding a new membership category and seeking title protection for community interpreters. Obviously, this category will have to be subject to similarly stringent certification requirements, while taking into account the particularities of community interpretation work. Community interpreters provide a valuable service to the public in specific settings, without benefiting from the representation and support that court and conference interpreters receive from their provincial association. On the other hand, the public would be reassured by having access to professionals whose qualifications and ethics are monitored by a provincial certification body. In view of these considerations, ATIO and OTTIAQ, the two largest Canadian translator and interpreter associations, have already taken steps to include community interpreters amongst their members.

Another achievement during this year is the fact that, thanks in part to the increase in membership fees for certified members approved at the 2008 AGM, the Society is in good financial health, finishing the year with a small surplus, most of which will be used to purchase a second computer for the office.

And this leads me directly to announcing another long overdue change in our operational structure: STIBC staff will henceforth comprise two full-time employees. One is our new Executive Director, Joann McKinlay, C.Tr., a long-term STIBC member and former Board Director. The other, an office clerk, is a position currently filled by a part-time contractor, shortly to be staffed through an open competition process.

Our website is growing in fits and starts as time allows; the content management system serves our members well, giving them the ability to change their contact information themselves, and automatic registration for events with the option of credit card payments simplifies administration, allowing the staff to focus on providing more personalized member services as required.

On the national level, STIBC is still actively involved in the national working group that is reviewing CTTIC certification exam procedures; while the group has made some progress, hopefully to be demonstrated by this year's exam results, the review is far from being complete. On another positive note, STIBC was invited to nominate one of its members for the position of Secretary of CTTIC. For the first time in many years, this gives us a voice on the Executive Committee of the national translators and interpreters association. CTTIC has also expressed interest in holding its annual general meeting in Vancouver this fall, which will give our members the opportunity to meet CTTIC executives and representatives of other provincial associations and to establish closer ties with our sister organizations.

I am stepping down after three years at the helm of the Society, confident that it is well set on a path to maintaining and increasing its relevance for all translators and interpreters in the province of British Columbia, as well as for their clients and the general public. As a dynamic and diverse association of professionals committed to ethics and quality, STIBC plays a vital role in the recognition of translation and interpreting as highly skilled professions. Moreover,

it is satisfying to know that I am leaving the strategic governance of the Society in extremely capable hands, and I wish the new President and Board success in guiding the Society to further promote the interests of translators and interpreters in the Province of British Columbia. ◇

*ATA- and CTTIC-certified, Evelyn Radoslavova has been working as a full-time freelance translator from English into French and Bulgarian since 1998. She has served on the STIBC Board since 2003, including as President from 2006 to 2009, and has recently replaced Hana Kucerova as CTTIC Secretary. For more details, visit [www.TranslationBest.com](http://www.TranslationBest.com) or e-mail [evelyna@translationbest.com](mailto:evelyna@translationbest.com).*

### **Volunteer Award Presented to Esther Vitalis at the 2009 AGM**

*At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, STIBC was pleased to present Esther Vitalis with the Volunteer Award in recognition for her service to the Society. Esther is a Certified Translator with certification in two language combinations: English to Hungarian, and Hungarian to English. She graciously accepted to submit the following article about her involvement with STIBC, and we would like to add that she has been a faithful contributor of articles to the TRANSLetter over the years.*

Having a father who had studied abroad for years and spoke several Western European languages and Russian, and a bilingual mother who had done translations off and on throughout her adult life, I was born with translation in my genes. Having obtained my degree in Hungary, I came to Canada after a two-year stint in London, England. Here in Canada, I was not able to enter my favourite field before spending many useful years in various government offices that helped me to provide for my young sons. When they grew up and I managed finally to retire from government service, I joined STIBC. I have been a member since 1997, and passed my first certification exam in 1999 and the second in 2003.

Translating is an activity that I enjoy and consider to be creative. All these years, I have also been working as an interpreter: with Mosaic, for lawyers (e.g. with examinations for discovery), in the hospitals, in the Provincial Courts and even the Supreme Court. At this point, I prefer to work with written documents



and to continue translating for a number of translation agencies that regularly contact me.

Also, I enjoy the community of translators. I have seen the importance of translating in everyday life all around. That was one of the reasons why I decided to join the Board, which is a source of creative ideas for shaping the role of translators in our multicultural world. It has been my hope to contribute something to this process. Around the time that I became a Board member, STIBC was the proud winner of the competition to host the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress of FIT (International Federation of Translators) Congress in Vancouver, in 2002. Our Board members, headed by a most capable President at the time, Hana Kucerova, played a very important role in the Congress, as did the general membership of the Society.



**Volunteer Award presented to Esther Vitalis  
by Rachel Enomoto at the AGM on May 30, 2009**

As a Board member, I served as Secretary for a few years; later, I passed this role on to others, and acted in the capacity of Director at Large. I volunteered to help when and where it was needed, and was able to assist in the following ways: contacting a medical professional to speak to translators on International Translation Day about the usefulness of interpreters in looking after new immigrants; organizing our presentation for the “Word on the Street” event; and earlier, before e-mailing took over regular mail, stuffing envelopes for mail-outs from the STIBC Office.

During the past two years, personal responsibilities have made it more and more difficult for me to contribute to the work of the Board. As new and bright young translators appeared on the translation

scene, I felt it was the right time for me to step down. At the last AGM in May, 2009, I gave my notice as a Board member, not without some sadness. This naturally does not mean that I am finished as a translator – far from it. If I may say, I am hooked. It is my belief and hope that I will do translations until the end of my life. ◇

## **Kathryn Gretsinger Describes Current Trends in the Media**

*By Mary Pike, C.Tr.*

The shoe was on the other foot for Kathryn Gretsinger when she presented a workshop entitled “Current Trends in the Media” at the STIBC AGM on May 30, 2009. Instead of probing for information from others, she found herself in the position of revealing her opinion on various aspects of journalism; it was a riveting hour that demonstrated high professional standards, utmost integrity and a desire to pursue truth at all costs, a session with much relevance for translators and interpreters.

Enormous changes have taken place since Kathryn began her journalistic career. Fax machines were not in use, letters were the main means of communication, journalists had to use razor blades to prepare their tapes, and typewriters were still in common usage. The time lag between an interview in the field and when it is broadcast has been shortened dramatically thanks to modern technology such as the iPhone, but with such advances has come a diminution of time for reflection with the consequent risk of inaccuracy and error. Kathryn mentioned that we should feel a pang at seeing the name of a person or a place misspelled.

Kathryn spoke passionately about the pillars of journalism, especially about truth and independence. In a world where Google and Wikipedia are readily at hand to supply any kind of information, it is crucial that facts be second-sourced and cross-checked. She provided instances of where this did not happen, and where erroneous information was disseminated round the world within 24 hours.

Much of Kathryn’s work involves developing a rapport with the other person. This calls for a level of trust and deep, empathetic listening. She drew a distinction between scepticism and cynicism, scepticism being a healthy attitude of doubt with



regard to facts that should be checked independently, whereas cynicism is a shuttered and negative approach to life.

A wide range of modern trends was covered, such as Twitter (hmmm!), Facebook (you can make it work for you), citizen journalism (e.g. the video of Robert Dziekanski taken by a bystander in Vancouver Airport), changing generational attitudes to communication – what constitutes conversation: is it texting a friend, while you answer your e-mails on your laptop all the time sitting at the dinner table sharing a meal?

The session was then opened up to the floor; issues covered included cultural differences, "spin", the need for an independent press, and the quest for truth amongst others. It was a fascinating and very enlightening morning. ◇

*Mary Pike hails from Ireland. A certified member of ATIA in Alberta from 2000-2004, and subsequently of STIBC, she lives in Vancouver and translates from French to English. Mary can be reached at [tyrrell.trans@shaw.ca](mailto:tyrrell.trans@shaw.ca).*

## Other Past STIBC Events

### Workshops Held in Victoria

*By Mary Pike, C.Tr.*

On Saturday, February 21, 2009, three STIBC members travelled to Victoria to conduct three workshops at the University of Victoria. This event was well attended by an appreciative group of STIBC members drawn from various parts of Vancouver Island.

The first workshop was given by Claudia Eichbauer on Business Practices. She gave a wide-ranging overview of practical aspects of the work of translators and interpreters. She covered the issue of the market for our services, through community contacts, the courts and conference bodies. We learned about the importance of belonging to professional bodies. Details of marketing ourselves were discussed, including business cards and website development. Volunteering was mentioned as a good way for beginners to gain experience and establish a reputation. Finally, we discussed translation software.

The second workshop was given by Evelyn Radoslavova on the topic of preparation for the CTTIC examinations. Many helpful pointers and examples were provided with much input and questions from the participants.

The third workshop was offered by Joann McKinlay on the interpretative aspect of a document. She warmed us up first of all by some free dancing, which demonstrated how we all interpret music in our own peculiar way! From there, we moved on to looking at differing translations of various types of documents—poetry, news and work contracts for example. We worked in small groups, and the discussion was lively and informative. We learned how translation springs from the personal experience of the translator to the point where we asked if it was possible to have one 'correct' translation.

Refreshments were served during the afternoon. The atmosphere was warm and informal. The speakers were accessible and supportive. In all, it was a very worthwhile afternoon. Participants are very grateful to the speakers for committing a full day from their weekend to make this possible in Victoria. ◇

### French Translation Workshop

*By Fabienne Garlatti, C.Tr.*

Imagine that you had to translate the following phrases into your target language: "presumably", "as outlined", "is anticipated to", "noteworthy", and "of some relevance." Would this be just a piece of cake? Well, not if the target language is French. This is where "La traduction administrative... idiomatique!", a workshop on idiomatic administrative translation from English to French, came in handy. Organized by STIBC, the full-day event took place at the YWCA Program Centre in Downtown Vancouver on May 3, 2009 and was attended by 13 people.

It is indeed often a challenge to produce idiomatic sentences when translating administrative material, a challenge that François Lavallée, a Certified Translator (OTTIAQ) since 1985 and founder of Magistrad, a professional development school for translators, was not afraid to take on. His workshop was very informative, practical and lively. His contagious enthusiasm about the French language rekindled a desire to immerse myself in French. This

is helpful for recalling equivalent phrases that are so specifically French that they don't automatically come to mind when translating. Thus, a simple "But" or "However" at the beginning of a sentence can easily translate into "Il n'en reste pas moins que", while "It can be reasonably expected that..." has an equivalent in "Il y a lieu de s'attendre à ce que...", which also proves to be a good match for "Presumably".



**Participants in the French Translation Workshop on May 3, 2009, in Vancouver, including François Lavallée at the front on the left and Evelynna Radoslavova on the right.**

Supported with exercises and a participant's workbook, François expertly demonstrated that far from being an impoverishment process, translation can filter in idioms. A warm reminder of how beautiful a translation can be when it reads like an original.

The general feedback about the workshop and the presenter was enthusiastic. Following are some of the comments made by the participants: "An extremely dynamic course, full of useful information and impeccably organized"; "The facilitator was very lively and humorous, very well-informed and organized." For those interested, this workshop will be repeated on December 6, 2009, and Part II is being planned for May 2010. ◇

*Fabienne Garlatti is a Certified English-to-French Translator and has been working in different language capacities in several fields, including teaching, publishing, computers/Internet, and most recently tourism. She has volunteered as TRANSLetter Co-Editor since June 2007. She was born and educated in France, and is currently preparing a 6-month trip to Southeast Asia where she is hoping to pursue her interests in meditation, voluntary simplicity and service to others. [fabienne@shaw.ca](mailto:fabienne@shaw.ca).*

### Free Access to TERMIUM Plus!

On October 8, 2009, the Government of Canada launched the Language Portal of Canada ([www.ourlanguages.gc.ca](http://www.ourlanguages.gc.ca)), the first national website showcasing Canada's language expertise. One of the key tools in the Portal is TERMIUM Plus®, which is now available free of charge. Until now, *TERMIUM Plus®* was available only to employees of the Government of Canada and to subscribers.

According to Termium's home page, if you paid to subscribe to *TERMIUM Plus®* and are eligible for a refund, you will receive a cheque in the mail by December 31, 2009.

### Word on the Street

Rachel Enomoto organized STIBC's participation in the Word on the Street event held on September 27, 2009, at the Downtown Vancouver Public Library. In all, ten STIBC volunteers assisted throughout the day. They enjoyed meeting each other immensely as well as promoting the Society to the general public. Almost 100 people (about 10 to 18 people per hour) visited our tables during the event. Most of them were interested in becoming translators or interpreters, while some were looking for translators.

STIBC would like to thank the following people who assisted at the STIBC tables at Word on the Street on September 27, 2009: Rachel Enomoto, Susanne Hempel, Gosia Jaszczewska with her daughter, Fernando Jubany, Agnes Li, Mary Pike, Carl Rosenberg, Kaori Sato, Natasha Truhar, and Larissa Zalesnykh. ◇





From left to right: Carl Rosenberg, Rachel Enomoto, Susanne Hempel (standing position), and Kaori Saito.

## International Translation Day Open House

International Translation Day took place on Wednesday, September 30, and STIBC celebrated by holding an Open House from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. About 15 members and guests dropped by to meet the current Board of Directors and Office staff. The gathering was a mix of long-time certified members, new associate members, and candidates. As in previous years, the event was a potluck, and members brought a dish of food that represented their country or culture for sharing.



Members and candidates enjoying STIBC Open House on September 30, 2009.  
Back row, from left to right: Olga Minayeva, Evelyn Radoslavova, Susana Cevallos, Joann McKinlay, Esther Vitalis, Martha Rodriguez.  
Front row: Ilir Veshu.



Members and candidates enjoying STIBC Open House on September 30, 2009.  
From left to right: Rachel Enomoto, Gisela Cantu, Joann McKinlay, Fenella Sung and Bekircan (John) Tahberer

## Language Interest Group Update

*STIBC is supporting members who would like to start (or resume) language-specific groups and specialty discussion groups. Once such groups are formally started, the entire membership will be advised at least once by e-mail, and information will also be posted in the members' section of the Society's website. Note that attendance at events sponsored by these language groups counts towards continuing education.*

## Japanese Language Interest Group

By Agnes Li, C.Tr.

After several months of planning, the Japanese Language Interest Group held its second Annual J-E and E-J Translation/Interpreting Workshop, on April 25, 2009 at the National Nikkei Heritage Centre. The event was co-sponsored by STIBC and the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, Japanese Language Division. This year's workshop differed from last year's in that it was more practical. It started promptly with twenty-four registered participants.

The workshop opened with a warm-up led by Kumi Hardin, C.Tr., in which participants identified English equivalents of "Japanized" foreign loan words written in *katakana*. This was followed by the hands-



on English-to-Japanese translation workshop. The cultural topic for this workshop was an article on *Kodo* which was facilitated by Tatsuo Kage, C.Tr. The technical topic was an article on Toyota presented by Yasuko Garlick, C.Tr. Afterwards, the participants regrouped for the hands-on Japanese-to-English translation workshop. The cultural topic for this workshop was an article on the movie *Ramen Girl*, which was facilitated by Yuko Ikegami Lee, C.Tr. and Agnes Li, C.Tr. The technical topic was an article on ultrasound imaging that was facilitated by Stan Fukawa, C.Tr.



**STIBC members present at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Japanese Language Interest Group Workshop on April 25, 2009**

After a brief break, Masaru Nagashima, C.Tr., C.C.I., led a sight translation exercise on the topic of Tax Free Savings Accounts. This was followed by a demonstration by Masako Sharpe, C.Tr., on how to incorporate voice recognition software into the daily workflow.

The workshop met the expectations of almost all the participants. On the evaluation form, practically all the participants expressed a desire to attend similar workshops in the future. This reflects a healthy interest in and a substantial need for these kinds of workshops in the Japanese language community. The Japanese Language Interest Group feels fortunate to be able to provide a venue for people to learn and network.

Thank you to the volunteer organizers and presenters:  
Stan Fukawa – Certified J-E Translator; Former Professor, Vancouver Island University

Masaru Nagashima – Certified E-J Translator; Certified Court Interpreter; Instructor, VCC Court Interpreting Program  
Tatsuo Kage – Certified E-J translator; Past Vice-President of STIBC  
Masako Sharpe – Certified E-J translator; Past Coordinator, CTTIC Exam Committee  
Yuko Ikegami Lee – Certified E-J Translator; Past Director of STIBC  
Yasuko Garlick – Certified E-J translator  
Agnes Li – Certified J-E Translator  
Kumi Hardin – Certified J-E & E-J Translator

*Agnes Li is a Certified Japanese-to-English Translator and has been a member of STIBC since 2005. In her spare time, Agnes enjoys playing the electric guitar and bass guitar.*

[agnesakaneli@gmail.com](mailto:agnesakaneli@gmail.com)

## Spanish Language Interest Group

The second meeting of the Spanish Language Interest Group (SIG) was held at the STIBC office on Thursday, February 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The moderator, Germán Pareja, reviewed on-line tools available in Spanish and English.

One positive outcome so far is that, with group members' valuable contributions, we are compiling a list of websites of interest to translators and interpreters. The list is temporarily hosted at <http://www.spanishtranslations.ca/files/gp-links.htm> and should be moving to the Spanish SIG's blog at <http://www.stibc.org/page/blogs/SpanishSIG.aspx> (visitors need to login to view the content). The group would like to meet at a location with space for about 30 persons and wireless internet access; suggestions and tips about inexpensive venues are welcomed.

The next Spanish Language Interest Group meeting will focus on Spanish-to-English translation and will be announced by e-mail and on the blog. If you wish to be included in the e-mail list for future meetings of this Spanish-language group, please send Germán an e-mail at the following address:  
[translator@spanishtranslations.ca](mailto:translator@spanishtranslations.ca).



## Fall/Winter STIBC Events

### Proof It! It's Your Business

**Speaker: Barbara Tomlin**

When: October 22, 2009, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: Room D308, Shaughnessy Site, Children's & Women's Hospital, 4500 Oak Street, Vancouver.

Also at Telehealth sites in Penticton, Kelowna, Victoria, Nanaimo, and Prince George.

This seminar is jointly organized by STIBC and the Provincial Language Service, and is packed with tips and easy-to-use techniques for adding professional polish and accuracy to your writing, whether you work on reports, letters, or large translation projects. Some of the topics covered are why you should proofread on paper rather than on screen, and how editorial style sheets and checklists can increase your efficiency. The latest knowledge and skills in the field will be presented.

The speaker is Barbara Tomlin, M.A., ELS. She has worked as an editor, copy editor and proofreader for more than 30 years. In the past, she has served as a series editor for a textbook publisher and as a managing editor for the *British Columbia Medical Journal*. Today she writes, edits, copy edits and proofreads a range of print and electronic material for a variety of clients, including book and magazine publishers, professional associations, non-profit societies and government. Barbara has been a course developer and instructor for SFU's Writing and Publishing Program for more than 20 years and serves on the program's Editing Certificate Advisory Committee. She also chairs the Certification Steering Committee of the Editors' Association of Canada. She is a founding partner of West Coast Editorial Associates.



Other events include: "La traduction administrative... idiomatique! Part I." Facilitator: François Lavallée of Magistrad, December 6, 2009. Also, registration is now open for the next CTTIC written exams on March 6, 2010, and membership renewals will also be available online in the near future. Other STIBC events that are still in the planning stage include: A dinner banquet with CTTIC representatives on November 14, 2009 (see below); an Associate

Member Orientation, to be held on November 21, 2009; an update on translation/interpretation for the 2010 Olympics; Strategies for retiring after being self-employed; a January Social (instead of a Christmas banquet); and "La traduction administrative... idiomatique! Part II", tentatively in May 2010. Please watch the STIBC website for information on continuing education opportunities.

## CTTIC AGM in Vancouver, B.C.

For the first time in many years, the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council is holding its annual meeting outside of Montreal, Quebec. On November 14 and 15, 2009, the Sylvia Hotel in Vancouver, a historic landmark on the shores of English Bay, will be the location of the two-day meeting. A banquet dinner will be held on the Saturday night, and the CTTIC Award will be presented during this event. All current members of STIBC are invited to attend the banquet, a unique opportunity to meet the representatives from other provincial associations throughout Canada, as well as the members of the CTTIC Executive, which includes Evelyn Radoslavova, Past President of STIBC. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the dinner at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$55.00 (\$52.38 plus GST). Guests are welcome as long as they are invited by a STIBC member. Registration is now available through the STIBC website.

## Other Continuing Education Opportunities

### American Translators Association 50th Annual Conference

New York Marriott Marquis  
October 28-31, 2009

How can the ATA Conference benefit you?

- \* More than 150 educational presentations and workshops including general and language-specific sessions.
- \* Full-day translation support tools forum identifying features and functions of computer-assisted translation tools.
- \* Onsite job marketplace connecting language professionals to potential employers.
- \* Exhibits showcasing publications, software, and services.

\* Networking events and receptions with opportunities to make contacts and build business connections.

There are sessions for everyone. No matter what your language or specialty, whether you are a veteran or first-timer, you'll walk away from the ATA Annual Conference with practical, specific, detailed, and realistic ways to build, manage, and grow your business.

Refer to the ATA website for the complete conference program and registration details:

[www.atanet.org/conf/2009/](http://www.atanet.org/conf/2009/)

And if you are planning to attend the ATA Conference, please take notes and share your experience with the TRANSLetter readers.

### Thank You from the Asian Studies Department, University of British Columbia

On March 17, 2009, the Asian Studies Department at UBC hosted an outreach event called "Majors Night", and contacted STIBC to invite an Asian Studies grad who is currently working in the field of translation/interpretation to speak to current undergraduate students. STIBC received the following note of appreciation from Emily Williams, Alumni Relations Manager, UBC Faculty of Arts:

"With your help we were able to invite STIBC Associate Member, Guinevere Queenie Subaru Lee (double major Microbiology and Japanese!) to participate as an alumni panelist at the Asian Studies Majors Night. The event was a resounding success with over 100 students turning out to hear what Asian Studies alumni had to say about their degrees/careers. We were fortunate to have an amazing panel of four successful Asian Studies grads willing to share their stories with current students.

I also wanted to mention that Yuko Ikegami Lee, Clement Tong and Johnson Zhai also identified themselves as STIBC members willing to help out the UBC community. While I wasn't able to invite them to anything this time around I truly appreciate your help with making these connections."

### A special note to volunteers!

STIBC Members have been a huge help in enabling us to offer Ethics, Admission and CTTIC exams not only in Vancouver, but in other locations such as Victoria, Kelowna, Whitehorse and Indiana, USA. Thank you to all those who volunteered to be exam invigilators and do other exam-related duties:

Rieko (Rachel) Enomoto  
Stan Fukawa  
Soheil Ghaemi  
Jackie Ghim  
Yoshie Hancock  
Gian Kotli  
Clara Nino  
Christopher Olson  
Lucrecia Simon  
Tara Yadegari  
Jade Zhen

Thanks also to the following people who helped at the AGM:

Germán Pareja  
Gisela Cantu  
Rieko (Rachel) Enomoto  
Yasuko Garlick  
Jackie Ghim  
Joe Greenholtz  
Tara Yadegari

Thank you to these members who provided assistance in the Office and with workshops:

Golnaz Aliyarzadeh  
Gisela Cantu  
Rieko (Rachel) Enomoto  
Emmanuel Herique  
Joe Greenholtz  
Lucrecia Simon  
Esther Vitalis  
Xavier Vivas

And thank you to anyone we may have forgotten!



## STIBC Membership Update

### Newly Certified Members

Congratulations to the following translators who passed the CTTIC exam held on February 28, 2009, and are now certified members of STIBC.

Mahmood Ahmadi – Farsi to English  
 Luciana Bocchino – English to Italian  
 Beatriz Cortés López – English to Spanish  
 Fernando Este-Radaelli – English to Spanish  
 Michael Golden – Hungarian to English  
 Lucia Gorea – English to Romanian  
 Jaechul (Charles) Hyun – English to Korean  
 Kangri Inne – English to Korean  
 Katalin Janko – English to Hungarian  
 Seung Hee Kang – English to Korean  
 Rosita Larrain – English to Spanish  
 Ran Lee – English to Korean  
 Sun Hee Lee – English to Korean  
 Lidia Morales-Lee – English to Spanish  
 Daniel Ngai – Chinese-English/English to Chinese  
 Yong Mei Ni – Chinese to English  
 Laura-Andreea Sterian – English to Romanian

These two STIBC members were already certified, and have now received an additional certification:

Soo Woong Kim – Korean to English  
 Mariam Moussavian – English to French

### New STIBC Members – Already Certified

For some, it's a welcome back as they rejoin STIBC after being away, while others have transferred directly from other provincial associations.

Glenn Clavier – French-English/Spanish-English  
 Marc Thériault – English to French  
 Jacques Savin – English to French  
 Maria Victoria Bandol – Romanian to English  
 Stephane Dresler – English to French  
 Maria G. Petrucci – English to Italian  
 Yasuko Takeuchi – English to Japanese  
 Elisabeth Bergmann (Retired) – English to German

### New STIBC Members – Associate

From January to September 2009, 48 new Associate members were admitted to STIBC. Most were successful candidates in the Spring Admission Cycle, and joined the Society on dossier or by writing exams.

Ahmed Alami Aroussi – English to French  
 Jeanette Anderson – Spanish to English  
 Liliana Castañeda – Spanish to English  
 Neli Danelova – English to Bulgarian  
 Tejinder Dhaliwal – Punjabi to English  
 Cristina Durland – English to Portuguese  
 Florence Étienne – English to French  
 José Gómez – English to Spanish  
 David Scott Hamilton – French to English  
 Zhixiong (Jim) He – English to Chinese  
 Helen Hsu – English to Chinese  
 Catherine Huot – English to French  
 Hossein Kamoosi – English to Farsi  
 Chizu Kanadav – English to Japanese  
 Josée Kaufmann – English to French  
 Allyson Kerr – Spanish to English  
 Pernille Kienle – English to Danish  
 Kathy Landaveri – English to Spanish  
 Rebecca Lei – English to Chinese  
 Shouqiang Liang – Chinese to French  
 Hong Fei Lu – English to Chinese  
 Vanessa Matheus – Spanish to English  
 Xian Meng (Monty) – English to Chinese  
 Irina Molchanova – Ukrainian to English  
 Sophie Oliveau-Moore – English to French  
 Victoria Oppertshauser – English-Tagalog/Filipino  
 Paul Park – Korean to English  
 Patricia Peralta-Blendl – English to Spanish  
 Ashok Rattan – English to Punjabi  
 Zukhra Rozieva – English to Russian  
 Sorina Sabau – Romanian to English  
 Abdul Ghani Sana – English to Dari  
 Ana María Solana Tristant – English to Spanish  
 Daehon Song – English to Korean  
 Perihan Sucu – English to Turkish  
 Bekircan Tahberer – English to Turkish  
 Meini Teng – English to Chinese  
 Sandy Thind – English to Punjabi

Natasha Truhar-Pejnovic – English to Serbian

Adela Valentova – English to Czech

Marinus Vesseur – English to Dutch

Xavier Vivas – English to Spanish

Adnan Wasouf – Arabic to English

Jun Xu – English to Chinese

Henry TT Yau – English to Chinese

Jianqing Yu – English to Chinese

Larissa Zalesnykh – English to Russian

Li Zhong – English to Chinese

The following new Associate Members joined STIBC in the Fall of 2008, but had not been included in our new Associate Member list in the last *TRANSLetter*. Please accept our apologies.

Susanna Fawkes – Russian to English

Pornpen Kwinsakulrat – English to Thai



Past and Present STIBC Board Members wish you a Happy Fall!



#### ☛ STIBC Office Hours ☚

Monday to Friday.

10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment.

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*The TRANSLetter* is the newsletter of the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC). It is sent by e-mail or regular mail to our Founding, Certified and Associate Members as a benefit of membership. Others are welcome to request a sample copy from the STIBC office.

As a forum for exchange of views and information, *The TRANSLetter* welcomes articles on translation, interpretation, terminology or a related area. Articles should be 1,500 words or less, and should be intended for a community of practitioners in these fields. Please note that we cannot guarantee that your article will be used in a particular issue, as acceptance depends on a variety of editorial requirements.

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Our next issue will be published in early 2010. Please send all submissions to [transletter1@stibc.org](mailto:transletter1@stibc.org).