

CAPTIONS

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First Quarter 2003

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HOLIDAY MAGIC

CAPI Co-chairs Honored at Holiday Celebration

By David Fletcher

CAPI co-chairs Julia Davis and Emy López, who could not be present, were honored for their leadership and devotion to the organization at the first annual CAPI dinner & dance held on December 7, 2002 in Denver. Both were given a gold commemorative medallion and were cited for their hard work during the past twelve months in which CAPI's membership expanded from 25 to over 70 members.

Some 55 CAPI members and their guests joined in applauding Julia and Emy during a sumptuous four course meal in a meeting room in the old Elitch Gardens that had been transformed by candlelight and warm Christmas colors. It was an ideal setting for friends and family to gather, enjoy each others' company and dance. And if you like to dance, come to a CAPI party! A great guitarist and CD music from every corner of the Western Hemisphere kept the joint jumping through the evening.

The dinner was literally a home-cooked event, a labor of love and energy inspired by Susana Cahill and the CAPI social committee. Giovanna Carriero-Contreras, cocinera extraordinaire, prepared the dinner with the help of Cecilia Castro de Anderson, Teresa López, Giovanni Galeano, Vanessa Wood and Amanda Lozano. Vivi Peña y Bachilleri graciously allowed us to use the Co-Housing meeting room.

Susana Cahill has an album of pictures of attendees at the Denver County Interpreter's office. Copies of the photos can be purchased for \$1.00 each. Contact Susana at susanacahill@attbi.com

And from our Co-chairs:

Dear CAPI colleagues,

Thank you so much for the beautiful necklaces that were presented to us at the CAPI holiday party. It is truly lovely and means a great deal to both of us as a lasting reminder of the first full year of CAPI's young life. It has been an honor to serve as the co-chairs during this exciting time in our profession and alongside people we admire and respect deeply. We trust we will have many more successful years to come, and through them all we will enjoy wearing the precious gifts we received from you on that marvelous and memorable evening.

Sincerely yours,
Julia Davis and Emy López
CAPI Co-chairs

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to CAPI members who passed the most recent Consortium Exam for Court Interpretation:

Elaine Harvey, Samir Farah, Anne Hepp, Jenni Turnidge and Kelly Musick

We applaud your continued efforts to advance in your profession!

As a benefit to our members, CAPI has published a list of Certified Court Interpreters that, to date, has included all available freelance certified interpreters in the Denver Metro Area, regardless of CAPI membership. Beginning February 15, 2003, only CAPI members will be included on this list. Please know that this list is available to the public on request and several working interpreters have passed it on to attorneys, courts and other potential employers of interpreters. If you would like a copy, please contact Teresa López at itlanguage@usa.net.

Next CAPI Meeting...

The next CAPI annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 25 at the **Jefferson County Library Belmar Branch**. The library is located at 555 S. Allison Parkway and can be reached by going south on Wadsworth from Alameda and turning right at the first stoplight. Donuts, juice and socializing will begin at 10:00 am (a coffee cart at the library offers hot drinks for sale) and the meeting will begin at 10:30. For a map to the venue, check the CAPI web page at www.coloradointerpreters.org

The Agenda for this meeting can be found on page 5 of this issue of CAPTIONS.

One of our Own

*Isabelle Houlbrèque has offered to interview a CAPI member for each of our next few issues of Captions. In this issue, the spotlight is on our very own **Irina Kamensky**:*



Irina Kamensky has been working as a freelance Russian/English interpreter and translator since her arrival in the United States in 1994. Like so many people in our profession, her life has been far from ordinary. What follows is a glimpse of her memoirs.

She was born in Moscow, the daughter of a rocket engineer. Her mother was both a journalist and an editor. Like other Jews, her family suffered from open discrimination at the end of the Stalinist era and continued discrimination thereafter. Although her parents were highly educated, they lost their jobs and relative wealth in the early fifties. Her first memories are those of hunger. At four years old, Irina and her older brother spent a great deal of time teasing each other by reading menus out loud from “The Book on Tasty and Healthy Foods” – the only politically approved cookbook available at the time.

As a child, she loved to play with the boys. One of her favorite pastimes was jumping off second floor roofs with an umbrella. At that time her greatest ambition was to be tall.

Irina’s parents expected her to be a good student and she did not fail them. She graduated from both the elite Special English School and one of the Moscow Schools of Music. Later she turned to economics and received a Masters at Moscow State University. This was followed by a Doctorate in the History of England at the Academy of Science. From her second year at the University and until the day she left Russia, Irina worked in research and translation, sometimes holding up to five jobs. She translated for Reuters, the most respectable European News Agency. She lectured, consulted, and worked as a guide with a British tour company called “Meet the Russians”. For seven years she shared her passionate love of Moscow with British visitors.

Irina wanted to travel. In the Cold War years, getting out of the Soviet Union was very difficult. Possession of hard currency was a federal crime. Irina did travel. How? Sometimes she participated in international conferences, paid for by the Academy of Science. Sometimes she financed her trips by buying and selling goods and by forging train tickets. Irina and friends would leave the country carrying Russian souvenirs, caviar and appliances such as heaters and fans. They would come back with clothes and cosmetics, which they sold to pay off debts. She and her friends visited England, France, Holland, Austria, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Greece and all the Eastern block countries.

Irina’s academic career peaked in 1994 when she was elected to the Board of the International Sociological Association. That same year, men were being drafted into the Chechen War. To protect her son from going to war, the family applied for political asylum at the American Embassy. There was no other choice. Irina, her husband Alexander and son Sergey to moved to Denver to join Irina’s brother.

Life in the US has had its challenges. She soon landed a position as assistant professor at the University of Colorado at Denver but had to return to Moscow for almost an entire year to care for her ailing mother. Upon her return, she did not go back to academia but became a full-time, freelance interpreter and translator for the courts, hospitals, and visiting medical groups. In other words, she became available to anyone who needed an interpreter, including the Pentagon. Irina goes to Russia regularly but misses her social life, her friends and her beloved Moscow.

“What are your goals now?” I asked. “Babysitting my son’s future children, being able to read the New Yorker without having to look up any words, and **having as much fun as possible.**”

Visit CAPI’s website!

Check us out at
www.coloradointerpreters.org.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO EDUCATE

On **February 22, 2003** CAPI will sponsor a half-day seminar on "Successful Business Practices for the Freelance Interpreter." Company representatives will speak on tax and insurance issues relevant to the working freelance interpreter. Professional image considerations will also be addressed. More information will be heading your way as plans firm up for the event.

On **April 12, 2003** CAPI will offer a one-day court interpreter orientation for interpreters who work in languages other than Spanish. The workshop focuses primarily on ethics and will touch on the modes of interpreting used in the courtroom and other professional improvement strategies. This program is approved by the Office of the State Court Administrator and the names of participants will be included on the roster of interpreters provided to court administrators throughout Colorado. If you are interested in attending and would like more details, please contact Melinda Gonzalez Hibner at intospanish@mindspring.com or (303) 543-9514.

TIMELINE FOR UPCOMING SPANISH COURT INTERPRETING EVENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, contact Tammy Quinn from the Colorado Judicial Department at 303-837-3645 for more information and registration.

Spanish Test #1 will be given March 8 & 9, 2003. The application deadline is February 10, 2003.

Spanish Orientation will be offered April 26 & 27, 2003. The application deadline is March 17, 2003

University of Colorado at Denver "**Interpreter Skills**" Course that will last for five 6-hour sessions (Saturdays - May 31, June 7, June 14, June 21 & June 28, 2003) from 9:00am – 4:00pm with one hour for lunch. Contact UCD Extended Studies Dept. at (303) 556-2735.

Spanish Test #2 will be given on July 26 & 27, 2003. The application deadline is June 30, 2003.

COURT INTERPRETER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

CAPI director and representative Cathy Bahr attended the December 6, 2002 meeting of the Colorado Court Interpreter Oversight Committee. Tammy Quinn announced the pass rate of the August 2002 Consortium Exam (27%). The remainder of the meeting was devoted to selecting a few interpreter issues to concentrate on during the upcoming year. Because of the very serious budget crunch in the state judiciary, the committee agreed that it could be most productive over the next twelve months by brainstorming and planning for the following:

1. Examine the question of requiring certified interpreters to renew their credentials, or to document some minimum number of hours working in the field to retain their certified status. This issue will be tied into looking at the possibility of peer review and/or establishing and requiring continuing education for court interpreters.

CAPI could play an important role if a continuing education requirement were established by the state judiciary, by providing seminars, classes and workshops that would be recognized as valid continuing education credit.

2. Establishing an "interpreter apprenticeship" as professional development for bilingual court staff.
3. Obtaining a slot at this year's Judicial Conference to offer training to judges on "How to Work with an Interpreter."

Member Ron Olson writes:

Isn't it great to have a profession in which every experience can be job-training? Yesterday, while lying back in the dentist's chair they scraped out my tooth with a "spoon" and a "spatula". They put a "matrix" around the tooth in question. When the dentist was done, he asked his assistant to remove the "flash" that had accumulated on the enamel around the work which he had done. Tools and hands in my mouth kept me from asking questions, and I have already forgotten some of the even finer words that were used. Next month I'm having eye surgery. It's going to be fun!

CAPI ESTABLISHES CONNECTION TO CRID

Greetings from the Colorado Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (CRID)! On behalf of our approximately 215 members, thank you for extending an invitation to begin a formal collaboration with your organization. We are thrilled about the possibilities a working relationship offers both CAPI and CRID, and hope that this is the beginning of a national trend of spoken and sign interpreters exchanging information about our respective fields.



For those of you unfamiliar with CRID, we are a non-profit and volunteer member-driven organization providing professional support for those working as interpreters for the Deaf and hard of hearing. CRID is run by a State Board consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, CRID currently has 4 Local Affiliate Chapters to serve its members:

- **Mile High** - serving the Denver Metro area
- **Northern Colorado**- serving the Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland and surrounding area
- **Pikes Peak** - serving the Colorado Springs, Pueblo and surrounding area
- **Western Slope** - serving areas west of the Continental Divide

These local affiliates are set up as a mirror image of the State Board, with four officers each.

The primary work of our organization is accomplished by not only the State and Affiliate Boards, but through the efforts of the following State committees:

Budget	Bylaws	Educational Interpreters
Historian	Legal Interpreting	Membership Development
Mentoring	Professional Development	Publications
Public Relations / Fundraising	State Conference Planning	Webpage

Again, each Affiliate chapter also has its own committees to accomplish work on a local level.

Sign language interpreters work in several arenas, our work is typically classified as; legal, medical, educational (K-12), postsecondary, mental health, business/technical, religious and performing arts. Due to the variety of situations interpreters find themselves, CRID's work is varied. Current initiatives are focused on improving the quality of legal interpreting, offering more support to educational interpreters, working closely with the Colorado Deaf community to provide better services and establishing mechanisms to unify members of our organization. Our greatest and most recent challenge is dealing with the effects of new technology that requires interpreters to perform their task via video.

Personal thanks to Cathy Bahr for attending our CRID State Board meeting last November. Based on Cathy's presentation, CRID is hopeful that our organizations will be able to support each other in the areas of legal interpreting, standardization of business practices in the field of interpreting, grievance and disciplinary procedures, ethics and clarification of cultural issues.

For more information on CRID, please feel free to contact: Amy Seiberlich, CRID President at (720) 341-9868 or via email, splendididea@juno.com. You can also visit our website at www.coloradorid.org.

[Note: CRID is having its statewide conference April 25-27, 2003. If you are interested, go to their website at www.coloradorid.org]

CAPI Working for You!

A few months ago CAPI members were surveyed and asked to rate several activities on a scale of what was most important to them. Results of that survey show that the top three goals our members have in mind for this organization are:

- ✳ Providing educational and training opportunities
- ✳ Advocating professional testing and competence within our field
- ✳ Representing our profession to other entities and professional groups

How proud we can be that we have begun to respond so actively to the desires of our membership in this mere

year and a half we have existed. Already CAPI has sponsored a Medical Interpretation Seminar and an Advanced Spanish Conference Interpreting Workshop. Several of our members are active in the state consortium and federal court interpreting examinations. CAPI has a seat on the Court Interpreter Oversight Committee for the state of Colorado and members of our Board have made contact with local agencies and other interpreter groups in Colorado, California and Nebraska. There are on-going dialogs with several of these other organizations with views toward cooperative relationships and reciprocal benefits for conferences and events. As a CAPI member, you can be assured that your professional interpreter association is working for you!

CAPI Annual Meeting Agenda

January 25, 2003
Jeffco Library, Belmar Branch

Approval Of Minutes From 10/26/02 General Meeting

Announcements

- ✳ Upcoming events for interpreters and translators
- ✳ CAPI dates for next year
- ✳ Time at end of meeting to discuss interpreter issues & opportunities

Old Business

Committee Updates

- ✳ Budget Committee
- ✳ Continuing Education Committee
- ✳ Publications Committee
- ✳ Membership Support & Events Committee
- ✳ Promotion & Outreach Committee

New Business

- ✳ Discuss new Nominating Committee
- ✳ Elections for Co-chair
- ✳ Voting on budget and bylaws amendment

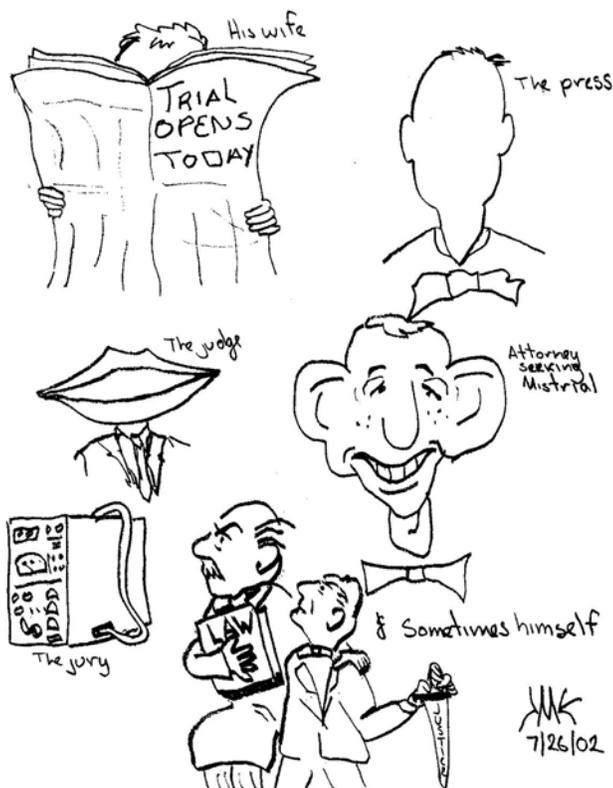
Interpreter Issues & Opportunities

- ✳ Open for round table discussion by meeting attendees

Next Meeting Date/Agenda

Adjournment

The Court Interpreter as seen by...



Cartoon courtesy of CAPI member Jorge Espinosa