

CAPTIONS

Official Newsletter Publication of the Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters
P.O. Box 40664, Denver, CO 80204, www.coloradointerpreters.org

1st Quarter 2006

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CAPI Goals for 2006

CAPI's Board of Directors continues to be committed to providing services that fulfill the needs of both the interpreter community and those who use interpreter services. Recently CAPI Board Members shared their organizational goals for the new year:

- ✓ Assign specific project ideas to a board member in order to provide better follow-up
- ✓ Enhance/overhaul/redesign the website so it really becomes the major source of information and communication for CAPI members and others, including a "forum" section for CAPI members to voice their opinions, make suggestions, etc.
- ✓ Provide more resources for our members such as practice materials and equipment that could be housed at one of the courthouses
- ✓ Advertise CAPI events more effectively
- ✓ Continue to organize CAPI social events
- ✓ Encourage more members to participate on the CAPI Board or in working groups, specific events, etc.
- ✓ Offer more continuing education opportunities (formal or structured courses and workshops), and organize networking and business opportunities for members (more informal, unstructured meetings) so members and non members can meet on weekends or evenings to listen to a "guest speaker" and also do networking.

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We welcome your ideas for CAPI for the new year, and welcome you to join us in the working groups which will be formed to accomplish these goals!

CAPI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!

Saturday March 18, 2006 - 10 am

Schlessman Branch of the Denver Public Library
100 Poplar St. Denver, Colorado (1st and Quebec) • Upstairs in the Community Room

Join us for an update on CAPI activities, planning for the future, and board elections. Members and non-members are welcome to attend all CAPI meetings.

TWENTY-ONE DAYS TO A BETTER SIMULTANEOUS

Agustín De la Mora

Reviewed by Daniel Sherr

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"I used to think that when I interpreted in the courts, my Spanish sounded like that of a movie star," stated federal interpreter and exam rater Agustín Servín De la Mora in his presentation **21 Days to a Better Simultaneous**. "Until I recorded myself. Listening to myself that first time was really sobering."

In the course of an entertaining and instructive three-hour minicourse at the NAJIT Annual Conference, De la Mora gave practicing interpreters of all levels an obvious, but little followed, piece of advice. In order to improve her interpreting skills, the interpreter must know what her baseline is.

"Once a colleague asked me what I thought of his interpreting," he recalled. Such a request always puts the second interpreter in a quandary. Should he respond with a soothing platitude or should he point out something the interpreter said incorrectly, because after all, all interpreters make mistakes? Or should he admit that as it turned out, he really wasn't listening when his colleague was interpreting? When a colleague confronted De la Mora with precisely that dilemma, he responded, with as much expressiveness as possible, "It was good!"

That is why, De la Mora concluded, recording oneself is so important. It is objective. It pulls no punches. I was delighted to hear De la Mora emphasize the value of self-recording. I started to record myself at every conference I have worked at over the course of the last year. I have never seen any other conference interpreter do it, and the only reaction of any of my boothmates to date has been, "Just make sure you don't record me!"

De la Mora had brought a recording of a judge's remarks in a drunk driving case. He split the participants up into groups and asked volunteers in each group to simultaneously interpret the text, while the rest of the group took notes. I viewed this as a fantastic opportunity, but was surprised at how nervous I was when interpreting with five people a few inches away from me listening to every word.

De la Mora told us that the tape was recorded at 138 words a minute, virtually the same rate as the federal exam. I found the text slow, and then understood why I have problems interpreting some judges in the federal courts, whose cruising speed is obviously well in excess of 138 words a minute. One of the terms that came up during the recording exercise was "having one's faculties impaired." One interpreter rendered that as "con las facultades mermadas." Another interpreter said, "You know, I always translate that as 'facultades alteradas,' but I like 'mermadas' better. I am going to say 'mermadas' from now on." She immediately proceeded to translate the same text using the very verb she had just renounced: *alterar*.

To me, this further reinforced De la Mora's point that we often don't realize how we sound or what we say, that we are often not good at self-monitoring. Self-recording is an excellent way to objectively evaluate oneself.

De la Mora reminded participants that the term "simultaneous interpreting" is a misnomer. If an interpreter finishes exactly at the same time as the original speaker, he either has eliminated part of the text or had the text in advance and jumped ahead of the speaker. But normally, there is a lag, a *décalage*. "The longer the *décalage*," said De la Mora, "the better the interpretation."

De la Mora's *21 Days to a Better Simultaneous* is based on a series of exercises one can do to improve one's mental agility and processing capacities, leading to quicker and more accurate interpretation. All the exercises involved shadowing, the repetition of an original text. Gradually, the course introduced multitasking: shadowing while one writes numbers from 1 to 100, shadowing while one writes even numbers from 2 to 10, shadowing while one writes his name, address and social security number.

I found this excruciatingly difficult, much more difficult than anything I have ever interpreted.

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To me, the pivotal question with regard to shadowing is: in what language? If an interpreter is to interpret from English into French, should she shadow in English or shadow in French? According to De la Mora, she should shadow in French. To me this seemed totally counterintuitive. If, as Holly Mikkelson once posited in a course in Buenos Aires on simultaneous interpretation, the interpreter is an information manager, decoding the source language and encoding the message in the target language within a limited amount of time, a good shadower should be able to rapidly decode the source language, and thus have more time available to determine how best to encode the message in the target language.

A Spanish interpreter working in the courts will do most of her simultaneous interpretation into Spanish. Therefore, it would seem to me, it behooves her to do most of her shadowing work in English, so that she can quickly process the English and then devote most of her energies to the best possible rendering of that message into Spanish. Doing shadowing exercises in Spanish, French, Japanese or any other language being paired with English, as De la Mora suggests, would, it seem to me, be a valuable preparation technique for interpreting into English.

What is incontrovertible, however, is that the shadowing and dual tasking exercises definitely help "work the brain muscle," as De la Mora recommends. And self-taping allows the interpreter to monitor her progress. One of the most humorous moments in De la Mora's presentation, which allowed for ample audience participation, was when he emphasized the importance of intonation (one of the aspects that can be effectively monitored by self-recording). The same three

Spanish words can vary in meaning depending on their delivery:

- A husband to his wife on the morning after the wedding night: "¿Cómo amaneciste, vieja?" "How ya feeling, honey?"
- The same husband to his wife one morning ten years later "¡Cómo amaneciste vieja!" "Man, do you look old this morning!"
- The same husband to his wife twenty years later: "¿Cómo? ¿Amaneciste? ¡Vieja!" "I can't believe it! You actually woke up! You old hag!"

De la Mora cautioned his audience of Spanish-language interpreters about the dangers of code-switching in casual conversation. Resorting to an English term in a Spanish conversation because one does not know the proper Spanish term or because it simply involves less mental effort could mean that in an actual interpretation situation, the interpreter might be unable to come up with the true Spanish equivalent.

To combat what he called "the perils of code-switching," De la Mora has organized Spanish-only conversation sessions at the interpreters' office in Florida's 9th Judicial Circuit, where he is chief interpreter. No critique of a presentation can substitute for the presentation. No article can encapsulate Mr. De la Mora's wit or engaging personality. And nothing can match the challenge of tackling the various interpreting exercises while interacting with other course participants. For that, there is but one solution: sign up for the course and see for yourself!

[Daniel Sherr, a federally certified Spanish interpreter, works in the U.S. and Spain as a conference interpreter in Spanish, Catalán, French and English. He writes often for Proteus.]

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAPI lists job opportunities for interpreters on its website, be sure to check there regularly for updated postings.

Check the Colorado Judicial Branch webpage for updated listings on employment opportunities with the state: <http://www.courts.state.co.us>.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Spanish Interpreter Elia Simón Martín and her husband Jeff are the proud parents of Marc, their first child!

Spanish Interpreter Rafael Gutiérrez is not only a grandfather for the fifth time to a little boy, but he married Natalia in our Denver Courthouse in February!

Training Opportunities Training Opportunities

CAPI announces Court Interpreter Skills Building Course, Spring 2006

The Court Interpreter Skills Building Courses are offered by the Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters. They are meant to assist interpreters who wish to increase their professional skills and are not a prerequisite for taking the court interpreter certification exam. While the court interpreter orientation is recommended before registering for a skills building course, it is not required.

The Skills Building Courses to be offered this Spring:

April 22-23, 2006	Consecutive Interpretation
May 6-7, 2006	Sight Interpretation
May 20-21, 2005	Simultaneous Interpretation

Location: University of Colorado ,
Auraria Campus, Denver

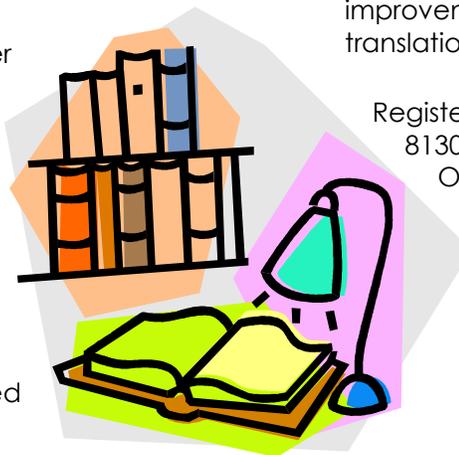
Cost: \$150 each course

Registration: To register, please fill out and mail in the Registration Form on the CAPI website.

Attendance is limited to 30 people. Classes may be cancelled unless a minimum of 13 students enroll

For complete course information and Registration form, visit the "Keep Learning" page at the CAPI website, www.coloradointerpreters.org.

For additional information, write to skillscourses@coloradointerpreters.org



We like to share information on upcoming events organized by different organizations that may be of interest to CAPI members.

The National Center for Court Interpretation at the University of Arizona announces

FCICE Written Test Prep Seminar - Denver, CO, - June 2,3,4, 2006

These seminars, based on the UA National Center's more than 20 years of experience, will cover topics in both the English and Spanish portions of the exam, including: Test-taking strategies and techniques, Vocabulary building, including legal terminology, Self-study techniques, Reading skills improvement, Identifying most appropriate translation and grammatical usage.

Register: Phone: (520) 621-3615, Fax: (520) 624-8130 email: ncitrp@u.arizona.edu Register Online: <http://nci.arizona.edu>

NAJIT 27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE May 19-21, 2006

National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT)

J.W. Marriott Hotel on Westheimer by the Galleria - Houston, TX

Special focus: medical interpreting and translating as it relates to judiciary interpreting and translating

The conference will include a special focus on medical interpreting and translating as related to judiciary interpreting and translating. For more information, visit www.najit.org



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Interpreting In Legal Settings

A qualified RID certified interpreter can bridge the communication gap between legal professionals and deaf individuals they encounter. In legal settings, clear and accurate communication among all involved parties is essential. When the legal professional and the consumer of legal services do not share a common language or communication method, a hazardous gap exists. The legal professional can jeopardize an entire legal process or proceeding by using an unqualified interpreter.

Deaf individuals appear in all kinds of legal settings and on both sides of the legal fence. Whether complainants, defendants, victims, or the accused, or simply taking care of personal business that involves legal issues, deaf individuals have the right to full and clear communication. Attorney-client meetings, settlement conferences, real estate closings, administrative hearings, depositions, and the courts are some of the legal settings that may require sign language or oral interpretation by a qualified interpreter.

Who is responsible for providing interpreters?

State and local courts and administrative agencies are subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other state and federal statutes. They are required to provide interpreters or other auxiliary aids and services for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Under Title III of the ADA, law offices are places of public accommodation that must provide interpreters when necessary to render effective communication. Neither courts nor attorneys may pass along the cost of interpreting service to the individual who is deaf, either directly or indirectly. Law offices may be entitled to an income tax credit for interpreter fees expended in compliance with the ADA.

In instances of court ordered activities, such as alcohol and drug assessment, domestic violence group sessions, and traffic school, the responsibility for providing interpreting service is not so clearly placed. The provision of interpreting services may be the responsibility of the ordering court, under Title II. Or, the agency providing the court ordered services may be responsible under their own Title III obligation. For complete information on the ADA, contact the U.S. Department of Justice, ADA

Information Hotline at 1-800-514-0301 for voice or 1-800-514-0383 for TDD. ADA Technical Assistance Manuals are also available from the Department of Justice.

In addition to federal laws such as the ADA, some state and local jurisdictions may have statutory requirements relating to the use of interpreters in the legal system. Federal, state, and local statutes requiring use of interpreters may apply to legal situations in which deaf persons are not direct parties, but are related to the situation in some significant way. An example of this would be the deaf parent or guardian of a minor or person who is incompetent and becomes involved in a legal situation. In addition, people who are deaf may serve on juries and attorneys who are deaf may use interpreters in many job-related situations other than the courtroom.

What are the responsibilities of the interpreter?

An interpreter's first responsibility is to weigh the information regarding the circumstances judiciously to determine whether or not she/he is qualified for the particular situation. Some reasons for declining the assignment could be related to the communication mode of the deaf people involved or personal knowledge or bias in the case. Once the interpreter has accepted an assignment, he or she has the responsibility to facilitate communication accurately and impartially between the parties. The interpreter must execute this role with total absence of bias and must maintain strict confidentiality. Whether communications are covered by legal privilege or not, the interpreter is under professional obligation to maintain confidentiality. The professional ethics of the interpreter requires that the interpreter maintain a singular role. If an interpreter in a case is asked to provide expert testimony, such as on language, deafness, or matters related to the case, or to act as advocate or consultant for any involved party, the interpreter must either decline to do so, or withdraw as an interpreter from the case. As professionals, interpreters are responsible for making arrangements in advance for compensation.²

How many interpreters are needed?

Each situation requiring interpretation should be

1-800-514-0301
 1-800-514-0383
 www.coloradointerpreters.org

The Broader Interpreter World (cont.)

needed. Often, because of the length or complexity of an assignment, interpreters will work in teams of two or more.³ Interpreting is more mentally and physically demanding than most people realize, and the first thing to suffer as a result of interpreter fatigue is accuracy. Besides fatigue, there may be legal or logistical reasons to have more than one interpreter. For example, if more than one deaf individual is involved, one team of interpreters may be interpreting for a witness while a second team is at the defense table with a deaf defendant and the defense attorney. In some instances, the communication mode of an individual who is deaf may be so unique that it cannot be accessed by interpreters who are hearing. Such cases may require the use of a Certified Deaf Interpreter who is able to meet the special communication need.⁴

How do you know if an interpreter is qualified?

In the field of interpreting, as in other professions, appropriate credentials are an important indicator of an interpreter's qualifications. The RID awards certification to interpreters who successfully pass national tests. The tests assess not only language knowledge and communication skills, but also knowledge and judgment on issues of ethics, culture, and professionalism. The most common RID certifications are:

- CI-Certificate of Interpretation
- CT-Certificate of Transliteration
- CSC-Comprehensive Skills Certification
- IC-Interpretation Certificate
- TC-Transliteration Certificate
- CDI-Certified Deaf Interpreter
- OIC:C - Oral Interpreting Certification - Comprehensive

An interpreter who obtains a CI, CT, or CSC, and meets other requirements through training and experience, and passes a rigorous testing process, can obtain the SC:L - Specialist Certificate: Legal. The best choice for any legal situation is an interpreter who possesses an SC:L. Unfortunately, the supply of SC:L interpreters cannot meet the demand. If an interpreter holding the SC:L is not available, an interpreter with previously mentioned

generalist certifications and training in legal interpreting should be able to provide satisfactory service.

How do you find a qualified interpreter?

You can engage a private practice interpreter directly or through an interpreter service agency that will find an interpreter to meet your needs. If you are unable to find qualified interpreters in your area, contact the national RID, who can refer you to a contact person or agency in your area. In some instances, a person who is deaf can provide names of interpreters or agencies. What can you do in order to work effectively with an interpreter? As you work with an interpreter, you can facilitate communication in several ways:

- Allow the interpreter to become familiar with the matter at hand through discussion of the case and provision of materials. This preparation enables the interpreter to render a more accurate interpretation.
- Realize that there are legal requirements and codes of conduct affecting interpreters in your jurisdiction.
- Recognize that the interpreter will interpret all that is said in the presence of all individuals and will not edit out anything spoken or signed as an aside or anything that is said to others in the room.
- Realize that the interpreter is bound by a professional code of ethics not to provide any information or opinions about the individual who is deaf or about the situation, except in regard to communication issues.
- Expect that the interpreter may occasionally pause to ask you for an explanation or clarification of terms in order to provide an accurate interpretation.
- Work with the interpreter to determine the best possible physical placement for all parties in the situation.
- Speak directly to the individual who is deaf rather than saying to the interpreter, "Ask him..." or "Tell her..."

The Association believes that the only way that the legal rights of deaf people can be assured and the integrity of the legal process be safeguarded is by having qualified RID certified interpreters who have received rigorous training in legal interpreting interpret in legal settings.

RID has a series of Standard Practice Papers available upon request. Footnotes frequently reference these materials.

¹see *RID Code of Ethics*

²see *Business Practices: Billing Considerations*

³see *Team Interpreting*

⁴see *Use of a Certified Deaf Interpreter*

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VISIT TO THE CRIME LAB:

Putting a Face with a Name

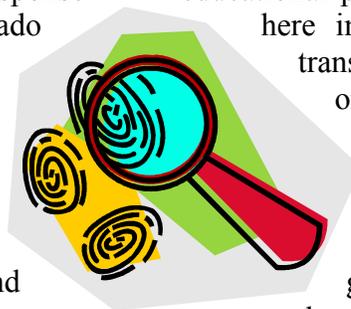
by Alice Brook



Fax transmissions, email messages, voice messages and text messages are common forms of communication these days.

Everyone is in a hurry to get on to his or her next job. It is no wonder that so many interpreters and translators never actually see those for whom they have provided services. Unless we are fortunate enough to contract our services to people or companies based here in Colorado, we may never see the faces of those responsible for our livelihood. It's a part of the work process that some freelancers, like myself, find difficult. I like to visualize the person with whom I am speaking whenever possible, particularly if a business relationship is to be formed and maintained.

The same is true for the vast vocabulary expectations of the varied discipline areas covered by so many of us in different languages. A visual would be nice. CAPI responded to this need and gave 58 attendees the gift of visualization on February 8, 2006, when due to the positive response to this event, two separate tours of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's Forensic Laboratory took place, one at 4:30 and one at 6:00 PM. Each group was divided into smaller groups of 6 or 7 people in order to visit seven different Departments of the Laboratory. Suddenly words had faces, and words that I previously had only learned and produced in Spanish through rote practice were finally put into my mind in image form. The tour was invaluable to all who attended; it was fascinating.



Understanding the tight security procedures of the evidence room was a wonderful start. The meticulous detail with which firearms can be inspected to find matching striations on ammunition surfaces had us begging for more. Seeing the amazing achievements and cases solved by fingerprinting experts, geneticists duplicating DNA strands, chemists separating and isolating molecular structures, and all of the advanced equipment used to accomplish such tasks was enough to make me want to go back to school and enroll in science refresher courses immediately. We now know what in the world a GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry) apparatus looks like and why it is so popular. The serology lab where we learned of crime scene investigations, blood spatters, hair samples and more brought the whirlwind tour full circle and I believe left everyone satisfied, if not exhausted.



Thank you to all CAPI organizers, especially to Anna Kelsey, and to Laurel Farrel from CBI who beautifully coordinated the visit. The most educational part may have been learning that right here in Lakewood we, as interpreters and translators, have allies. Everyone involved on site with the CBI tour offered their help and invited us, without reservation, to simply give a call to clarify enigmatic words or procedures. Our profession is making great strides and it is through such educational activities that we are able to continue honing skills and expanding vocabulary, both of which are so essential to what we do.