

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

March 2002

SpanSIG Regional Conference planning nears completion

THE SPANISH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SPANSIG) of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association will host its First Regional Conference on Saturday, April 20, 2002.

The programming for the daylong conference is almost complete but a few openings in the schedule are still available for additional presenters.

If you are interested in presenting or attending, see additional information on pages 7–8. ★

School translations win gold star



Harvie Jordan's Spanish translations, *Noticias y perspectivas*, of the Hays Consolidated Independent School District's newsletter, *News & Views*, received a Gold Star Award in the 2002 Texas School Public Relations Association Star Award competition.

The evaluation criterion of "Clarity of information presented" was rated "Excellent," and the judge added a written comment, "Very well written." ★

ATA accreditation sittings scheduled

AATIA WILL HOST TWO SITTINGS of the American Translators Association accreditation exam in Austin on Sunday, April 21. Seating will be limited for morning and afternoon sittings that are open to translators of all available language pairs. Registration information for the exams can be found at www.atanet.org. ★

2001 thanks!

THE AATIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS presented outgoing President Patricia Thickstun with a thank-you gift during the January meeting. Thickstun thanked the following volunteers with certificates of recognition for their service to the Association in 2001:

Traci Andrighetti, Tony Beckwith, Albert Bork, Eric Brooks, Jane Chamberlain, Mike Conner, Andy Coulson, Esther Díaz, Frank Dietz, Crysol González, Edgar Guevara, Aura Guevara, Elisabeth Joffrain, Harvie Jordan, Patricia King Sigg, Maureen McLean, and Lisa Rogers.

Also, Ezequiel Quijano, Marian Schwartz, Howard Simms, Laurel Trevino, Deborah Turner, Joan Tuttle-Vargas, Ria Vanderauwera, Laura Vlasman, Merry Wheaton, and Emma Widener. ★

March 9 meeting

Anthology coop, medical interpreting on double bill

AATIA'S LITSIG WILL UPDATE members on the progress of its newest project "Our anthology: a literary cooperative" at the March meeting. Jane Chamberlain will provide the details in a brief presentation.

The second element of the program will be a presentation by Herb Henion: "How I became a medical interpreter," a narrative on how being in the right place at the right time can change your life.

The March topic for the Forum, a new feature inaugurated at the January meeting, will be "When dictionaries disagree, then what?"

The 2002 edition of the *AATIA Translation and Interpretation Services Directory* will debut at the meeting and will be distributed to members.

Door prizes at this meeting will include a copy of Norton Antivirus 2002 software. As usual, attendees may expect a brief round of announcements, valuable peer networking, and delicious refreshments. ★



The 2002 AATIA directory will be available at the March membership meeting. Please be sure to attend so that you can pick up your copy of the directory.

—Traci Andrighetti
Director of Membership ★

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Harvie Jordan v 441-5582 f 441-3983
hjc@texas.net

f 512-396-4835 pat.thickstun@tdh.state.tx.us

SECRETARY Laura Vlasman v 891-9207 f 891-9208
lvlasman@earthlink.net

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Esther Díaz
v & f 312-1599 mediadz@austin.rr.com

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Laura Spencer v 512-863-2612 l
spencer@cancer.org

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP Traci Andrighetti
v 454-3305 f 302-0273 traduttrice@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Ezequiel
M. Quijano v 442-7281 ezequielquijano@msn.com

Coordinators

ACCREDITATION Ezequiel M. Quijano v 442-7281
ezequielquijano@msn.com

ADVERTISING Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599
mediadz@austin.rr.com

COMPUTERS Frank Dietz v 491-6069 f 491-6086
fdietz@jump.net

DATABASE Crysol González v 438-5742 f 343-2188

HOSPITALITY Aura Guevara v 301-4531

eguevara@mail.utexas.edu; Patricia King-Sigg
v & f 266-6612 pkingsigg@aol.com; Laurel A. Treviño
v 394-0420 laurelrm@earthlink.net

INTERPRETATION Cristina Helmerichs D. v 452-5895
helmerichsc@netscape.net & Albert Bork
albertgbork@earthlink.net

LITERARY Marian Schwartz v & f 442-5100
schwartzm@sbcglobal.net

MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY INTERPRETING Esther Díaz
v & f 312-1599 mediadz@austin.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP INFO Traci Andrighetti v 454-3305
f 302-0273 traduttrice@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599
mediadz@austin.rr.com

REFERRALS Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486
candide@io.com

RUSSIAN Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486 candide@io.com

SPANISH Harvie Jordan v 441-5582 f 441-3983
hjc@texas.net

WEBSITE R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895
editor@aatia.org

WORKSHOPS Ezequiel M. Quijano v 442-7281
ezequielquijano@msn.com

The AATIA Letter

EDITOR R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895
editor@aatia.org

PRODUCTION Howard Simms v 452-4700
102036.3370@compuserve.com & Merry Wheaton
v 451-4772 f 451-1935 mcwheaton@austin.rr.com

DISTRIBUTION Efrat Schwartz v 342-9836 f 342-9891
efrats@usa.com

Website Update

THE AATIA WEBSITE IS A POWERFUL MARKETING TOOL for you, our members. Keeping this tool in working condition is one of AATIA's top priorities. This past year, our website has required many "service calls" for repair. However, we are proud to report that repairs are nearing completion and our "tool" will soon be running smoother than ever. Here's what is being done:

1) The database from which the member listings are uploaded on the website is being converted to MS Access, a more widely known and user-friendly program than the one we have been using.

2) All member information has been updated on the database and will be uploaded to the website.

3) A program is being designed to allow members to update their own directory entries online, thus resulting in more timely updates.

4) Our website will soon undergo a redesign to improve not only its appearance, but also ease of use by our clients.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Eric Brooks of Ralph McElroy Translations, Andy Coulson of Vignette Systems, as well as our members Jane Chamberlain, Crysol Gonzalez, Joan Tuttle-Vargas, Mike Conner, and Traci Andrighetti who have contributed their time to these repairs and enhancements. We also appreciate your continued patience while we get our website running smoothly to better serve you.

We could also use your help in maintaining our website. This function has grown significantly since we first went online and is becoming more and more difficult for one volunteer to maintain. For this reason, we would like to divide up the tasks and ask several members to collaborate on this project [see sidebar, next page]. While we have already received a generous offer from Ralph McElroy Translations for their new web specialist, Evan Norman, to take the reins from Eric Brooks as our webmaster, we would like to involve more members and perhaps build some back-up capacity for these functions. If you have the time and skill to volunteer in one or more of these tasks, please contact me at mediadz@austin.rr.com.

—Esther Díaz

Director of Communications ★

January meeting highlights

Forum debuts at January meeting

A NEW FEATURE DEBUTED at the January 2002 general membership meeting. President Harvie Jordan introduced The Forum, an opportunity for participants to discuss issues relating to translation and interpretation in response to a specific question.

The question for January's meeting was: "What is the translator's responsibility when he/she receives a poorly written original? Should the translator improve on it? What are the possible ramifications of doing so?"

Responses varied, but participants agreed that the translator's freedom to improve on poor source text depends on the type of translation involved. Literary translators generally have more leeway than technical and legal translators, who must stick closer to the original. Veteran medical translator Leon McMorro pointed out that sometimes poorly written originals are actually the result of bad translations of reference materials by the author. He advises technical translators to always check the language of any references cited in the source text.

The speaker for the meeting, Patti DeNucci, owns and operates DeNucci & Company, a communications talent bureau that represents freelance communicators of all types, matching them to individuals, companies, and organizations seeking their services. She is

also founder of FreelanceAustin, an organization that promotes professionalism, networking and mutual support among freelance communicators in the Austin area.

DeNucci offered freelance translators and interpreters the following tips for promoting their services and getting and keeping clients:

- Know yourself. Otherwise, you can't promote yourself properly. Take a personality test, such as the Myers-Briggs test.
- Increase your visibility. Professionalize your dress and appearance. Always carry business cards. Develop a "30-second elevator pitch," and look for opportunities to tell potential clients about your services.
- Be responsive and treat clients with respect. Return phone calls and emails promptly. Be on time for meetings and assignments.
- Ask for feedback and collect testimonials from satisfied clients. Showcase your good work (but always get permission from clients before using their testimonials).
- Charge a fair price, but don't give away too much. When you accept pro bono work, keep a record of the market value of your work and let the client know.
- Never burn your bridges.

DeNucci can be reached at ppdwriting@aol.com. Find out more about FreelanceAustin at www.freelanceaustin.org. ★

Board meeting highlights

AATIA, ACC to co-sponsor t/i training course

AT ITS FIRST MEETING on February 9, 2002 the newly elected Board of Directors approved a proposal by Director of Communications Esther Diaz for a training program in translation and interpretation to be offered at Austin Community College (ACC) and co-sponsored by AATIA.

As reported in the November 2001 *Letter*, Diaz submitted a proposal for a similar program to the University of Texas Professional Development Center, but UT declined the proposed program, deeming it too expensive. In its role as co-sponsor, AATIA will help recruit members to serve as instructors and revisers for the program and will reimburse some instructor expenses not covered by ACC.

The Board also authorized the purchase of new AATIA t-shirts in a different color scheme. The shirts will make their debut this spring. ★

Legal t/i conference set for Missouri

A THREE-DAY CONFERENCE for legal translators and interpreters will be held April 5-7 in Columbia Missouri, co-sponsored by the Mid-America Chapter of the ATA (MICATA), the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), and the International Trade Club of Greater Kansas City.

Sessions will cover subjects of interest to both translators and interpreters, including court interpreting, depositions, ethics, and forensic analysis. There will also be specific sessions for those working with Arabic, Japanese, and German.

An ATA accreditation examination will also be offered. Detailed information may be found on the MICATA website www.ata-micata.org. ★

Webmaster Tasks

- Check and maintain internal and external links on website
- Enable and support website content providers
- Enable and support online member database and editing of personal information by members
- Promote link exchange with websites of other t/i organizations
- Maintain domain registration information and check domain availability daily
- Develop and implement search engine strategy (add metatag keywords and description to each page and submit our URL to various search engines on a regular, recurring basis.)
- Conduct occasional HTML mini-workshops

THE GREAT UNKNOWN

by Tony Beckwith © 2002
e-mail: 104607.2510@compuserve.com

“And this was really the way that my whole road experience began, and the things that were to come are too fantastic not to tell.”

—Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

NOTHING WAS EVER THE SAME after a friend in a black turtleneck lent me a copy of Jack Kerouac’s book. I stayed up all night reading about those wild people who seemed to embody the freedom I yearned for. Free to do anything and go anywhere, whenever they wanted. Free to be themselves, whatever that meant, unrestrained by space or time or convention, driving across the country with the sweet night air blowing in the windows, their minds attuned to a fine madness and music pouring from the radio. By morning I knew that I had to leave home soon. I was already nineteen, and precious time was wasting.

The first leg of my journey took me west from Buenos Aires, across the pampas of Argentina and over the Andes to Chile, on the Pacific coast. From there I took the road heading north.

The bus left at dawn and by the time it lurched out of the terminal every seat was taken, with everyone’s luggage strapped on top. Two drivers would take turns at the wheel. The bus had a bathroom in the rear, which was just as well. We’d eat at a roadhouse when we stopped for gas three times a day, and be on the bus the rest of the time, mile after mile, day after day, for seven days and nights. It was the cheapest ride I could find.

The road ran north between the coastline and the foothills of the towering cordillera, and before long we were in the Atacama Desert. Since the bus had neither heating nor air conditioning we kept the windows open during the day. The desert air blasted through the cabin like a

dragon’s breath and the metal windowsills were too hot to lean on. We sprawled in our seats, with handkerchiefs covering nose and mouth, drenched in sweat. In the evening, as the sun dipped into the ocean, the deep blue shadow of the bus stretched out farther and farther across the desert floor until it finally melted into the gathering darkness and disappeared. The temperature dropped like a stone and we all scrambled to close the windows and put on warmer clothes.

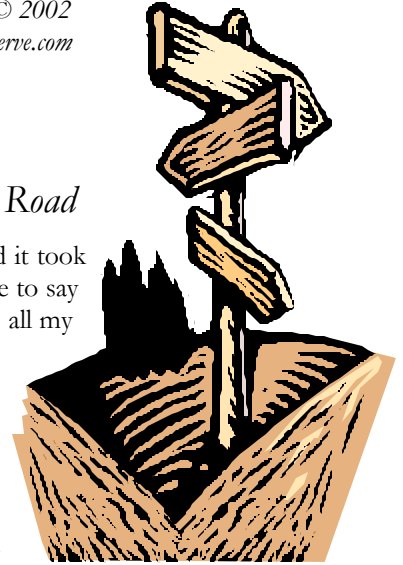
Night driving was the best part of the trip. It was sometimes so cold I couldn’t sleep, so I’d stand on the bottom step by the door at the front of the bus, leaning over the railing and peering through the windshield. The meager headlights made the night seem darker. To left and right the land was inky-black, but above us the sky was magnificent. The great chandelier of stars shimmered brilliantly over the desert and my mind drifted in a distant galaxy. “*Lo desconocido*,” the driver suddenly said, and brought me back to earth. I turned and looked at the man, his eyes smiling in the soft green glow of the dashboard. “Beyond the headlights,” he said, nodding towards them. “Out there, in the darkness, the great unknown.” I nodded, suddenly glad not to be alone.

On the seventh day we crossed the border into Peru. We drove all day near the coast, and in the late afternoon came to a crossroads a few miles from the little town of Nazca. The bus was going on to Lima, but I was hoping to hitch a ride east, to Cuzco. After a week of living together

on the road it took a little while to say goodbye to all my fellow travelers, but I finally stepped down and stood back and waved.

I watched as the bus gradually disappeared into the distance, and then I was utterly alone. I was also without a plan. There were no buildings, no billboards, only the ribbon of roads intersecting in the vast emptiness of the desert as the sun sank in the west. The words “the great unknown” echoed in my mind and I wondered what would happen when darkness came and swallowed me whole. The shadows slowly surrounded me and when the cool night air brushed my neck I didn’t know which way to turn. I thought about the freedom that lay somewhere far ahead, and weighed it against the memory of home, so comforting yet so far behind. I waited in the gathering dusk, just a tiny dot on the landscape, struggling to keep a precarious hold on my courage, trying not to panic.

And then, miraculously, a rundown old pickup truck came wheezing out of nowhere, and it was heading east! The driver asked where I was going. “Cuzco!” I said, almost weeping with relief, and he told me to hop in. The three tired men in the back looked me over with very little curiosity, and we drove on in silence as night fell and the sky filled with stars. ★



The Library, Sturgeon's Law, and the Internet

by Frank Dietz © 2001
<http://www1.jump.net/~fdietz>

SOME READERS OF PAST COLUMNS might consider me a bibliophobe, but that is a completely wrong impression. In fact, I am avid consumer of random-access, carbon-based permanent information storage systems, aka *books*. I also visit my neighborhood library frequently. Recently, I noticed that the library parking lot seemed to be getting fuller and fuller. I asked a librarian why this might be the case, and she pointed towards the four Internet terminals set up in a corner of the library. These apparently have developed into a major drawing point for libraries.

Internet terminals aren't the only way libraries are "wired" these days. You can also use your library card as an admission ticket to a world of online information, either on-site or by remote access. The Austin Public Library system, for instance, offers its patrons access to numerous online databases, among them *Academic Search Premier* ("a scholarly collection of peer-reviewed full-text journals covering nearly all academic areas of study"), the *Grove Dictionary of Art Online*, *ERIC*; *Reference USA*, and the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

While the WWW has made searches for information much easier, the Internet is very much subject to Sturgeon's Law (for those of you who don't know it, go to http://info.astrian.net/jargon/terms/s/Sturgeon_s_Law.html), because large parts of it are quite useless, as anyone can testify who looked through endless lists of hits generated by web searches. Online library resources can be more focused and thus save you valuable time.

So check out the website of your local or university library, or try one of the following resources, some of which are linked to real, others to virtual libraries:

The Internet Public Library
www.ipl.org/
The Virtual Reference Desk
www.virtualref.com/
Refdesk.com
www.refdesk.com/
NYTimes Navigator
www.nytimes.com/library/tech/reference/cynavi.html
Libraryspot.com
www.libraryspot.com/
Argus Clearinghouse
www.clearinghouse.net/
UT Libraries Online
www.lib.utexas.edu/refsites/ ★

More stupid interpreter tricks

by J Henry Phillips
interpreter@BrazilianTranslated.com

DOES DICTATION SOFTWARE EXIST for other languages besides English? The answer is yes, but it is not always produced by the same manufacturer.

In Portuguese, for instance, IBM produces something called Via Voice which actually works. Even though Portuguese is a "phonetic language," the product is not quite as versatile as the English-language version of Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred. It is amazingly accurate, however, and often includes grammatically-required accent marks even where they are undetectable from the pronunciation alone.

The box specifications claim that it will work in Microsoft Word, but we have been unable to verify that. In Word Via Voice works poorly if at all. In their own native dictation SpeakPads, however, Standard versions 8 and 9 are able to handle Rich Text Format and Word 6 documents fairly well. By copying text from any Word document and pasting it into the Via Voice dictation pad, it is fairly easy to a complete a translation, check it for accuracy and then delete the English. Fancy formatting can be restored afterward in Microsoft Word. Version 8 seems to work reasonably well at around 400 MHz, and Version 9 works fairly well at twice that proces-

sor speed.

The standard version of the Brazilian-market Via Voice costs about 80 dollars, and a Professional version can be had for about twice that much. Standard versions 8 and 9 will run under Windows 98, and version 9 claims to run under Windows ME. Both have correction features which are for the most part automatic. Neither product will run under Windows NT with service pack 6, but the USB Pro version claims compatibility with Windows 2000. The drawback here is that the Pro version seems to require a USB microphone rather than the ten-dollar headsets which plug into your sound card. It was a huge relief to discover—before filling out Customs forms—that the software is actually produced in the U.S., though I have never seen it for sale here.

Like all other dictation software, you have to read to it so that it can become accustomed to your voice. It does seem to require a little more reading than Dragon, and the more extra reading you do from the texts provided, the better the performance.

The bottom line, of course, is performance. Translator or interpreters able to dictate in clear, native-sounding Portuguese can reasonably expect to double their translation speed in less than a week with reduced fatigue and no loss of quality.

Here again we have an inexpensive product that pays for itself faster than you can say SpeakPad in Portuguese [spay AH key padgie] and yields continuous income dividends in exchange for very little time and effort invested in mastering its peculiarities. ★

Klingon-enabled search engine?

THE GOOGLE SEARCH ENGINE now offers a wider choice of interface languages. At www.google.com/preferences you will find a dropdown list of languages from Afrikaans to Welsh, including such useful items as Hacker, Klingon and Pig Latin. ★

**Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association
Spanish Special Interest Group (SpanSIG)
announces its**

FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

April 20, 2002

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Plenary Session

Donde estamos y a donde vamos: Una perspectiva del futuro de la traducción e interpretación (Dr. Francisco Perea)

Break-out Sessions

Interpretation Ethics: Comparison of Legal & Medical (Cindy Roat and Cristina Helmerichs)

El desarrollo profesional...es asunto de nunca acabar (Victor Rodriguez)

Back to Basics: Learning Spanish Grammar through Translation (Dr. Joby McClendon)

Deciphering Handwritten Texts: Seeing What Others Can't (Michael Blumenthal)

Interpretation Workshop: Legal & Medical (Cristina Helmerichs and Esther Díaz)

Proofreading Techniques for Spanish and English Translations (Katrina Kargl)

DesenREDate: una introducción a las búsquedas en Internet (Marta Blumenthal and Joan Tuttle Vargas)

Interpreter Licensing and Certification Issues (Cindy Roat and Cristina Helmerichs)

And more...

Presenters

Born and raised in the coffee-growing region in Colombia, **Marta Blumenthal** obtained a BS in Languages and a Masters in Administration/Education before moving to Austin in 1983. After working as a Spanish as a Second Language teacher, and later as an International Adoption Coordinator, she co-founded M & M Translations, Inc. In 1988, she started working as an in-house translator at the Texas Department of Human Services, where she currently manages Media and Language Services.

Michael Blumenthal completed undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and received a Masters Degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. After spending four years in Colombia, two with the Peace Corps and two teaching ESL, he co-founded M & M Translations, Inc. with his wife Marta Cecilia. In addition to serving as the director of M&M, Michael is a full-time Spanish to English translator for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission Disability Determination Services where his primary responsibility is translation of medical records from Mexico.

Esther Diaz, M.Ed., is a translator and interpreter trainer. She is a member of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care and cofounder of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association. She currently serves as Director of Communications for AATIA.

Cristina Helmerichs D is a federally certified court interpreter and conference interpreter with over 15 years experience. She presently is a member of the NAJIT (National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators) Board of Directors and has served as Chair of the Board for the last 5 years. Originally from Maracaibo, Venezuela, she presently resides in Austin, Texas.

Katrina M. Kargl currently serves as the Communication and Translation Specialist for the North American Development Bank (NADB) in San Antonio, Texas. She has 11 years of experience as a professional translator with an MA in Translation

(Spanish to English and English to Spanish) from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California.

Dr. Joby McClendon is Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguists at St. Edwards University in Austin.

Francisco Perea's experience as a translator spans several decades and several languages: Spanish, English, Italian and French. A native of Mexico, Dr. Perea earned his doctorate at the University of Rome in Italy. He has authored 15 books, several of which have been translated into English. He currently works for a local school district as a language consultant and translator.

Cindy Roat, MPH, is an interpreter, trainer, researcher and advocate for the field of language access in health care. The principle developer of "Bridging the Gap," the most widely used health care interpreter training program in the United States at this time, Cindy is also co-chair of the board of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care.

Victor Rodriguez works in the Office of Communications at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory where he supports the development and dissemination of educational materials in Spanish. His career includes having worked as a translator and reporter for the newspaper, El Norte, in Monterey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and as a media relations specialist for a state agency in Texas.

Joan Tuttle Vargas, originally from Massachusetts, received a BS in Spanish from Grinnell College, Iowa in 1977. Following graduation, Joan moved to Bogotá, Colombia, where she studied to be a bilingual secretary and began a Master's program in Nutrition at the National University. In 1984, Joan returned to the States and worked for the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts as a bilingual paralegal until her move to Austin ten years later. She has been a staff translator with the Texas Department of Human Services since 1997, and was promoted to Unit Lead in Spring of 2001

Interested in presenting? Contact Harvie Jordan, hjc@texas.net

Interested in attending? Download a Registration Form at www.aatia.org

Registration Form

Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association
Spanish Special Interest Group (SpanSIG) Regional Conference
April 20, 2002

Austin Airport Marriott South
4415 South Interstate 35

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Conference Registration Fees: Registration includes lunch for the first 150 registrants.

Early Bird before March 22, 2002 \$ 95.00

After March 22, 2002 **to be received by April 12, 2002** \$130.00

Riverboat Cruise: Seating is available on a first-come basis for a Friday night barbecue dinner during a three-hour Lone Star Riverboat cruise on the Colorado River. Cost of the cruise on this paddle wheeler with cash bar, and famous Pokey Joe's barbecue brisket and chicken is \$30. This is in addition to conference registration.

I am registering for the SpanSIG Regional Conference before March 22, 2002 \$ _____

I am registering for the SpanSIG Regional Conference after March 22, 2002 \$ _____

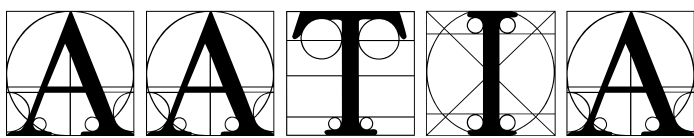
I want _____ tickets for the Lone Star Riverboat cruise and dinner @ \$30 each \$ _____

Total \$ _____

A block of 30 rooms is reserved for Friday night, and a block of 15 rooms is reserved for Saturday night at a conference rate of \$99.00. Contact the Austin Airport Marriott South directly to make reservations at 512-441-7900. To reserve one of the rooms in the block, mention the AATIA SpanSIG Regional Conference. The Austin Airport Marriott South provides free airport shuttle service.

The **deadline** to receive this Registration Form and payment by check or money order (payable to AATIA SpanSIG) is **April 12, 2002**.

Send your Registration Form **and check** to: **Michael Blumenthal**
406 Loma Verde
Buda, TX 78610-9787



Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association
PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900
<http://www.aatia.org>



AATIA WELCOMES VISITORS to the Austin History Center (AHC) at 9th & Guadalupe on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months for general meetings and even-numbered months for board meetings.

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- Mar 9 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting, AHC
1-4 p.m. AATIA regular meeting, AHC
Mar 23 1-3 p.m. LitSIG meeting,
Apr 13 10-12 noon. MCISIG meeting, AHC
12 noon. MCISIG networking lunch
1-4 p.m. AATIA board meeting, AHC
Apr 20 SpanSIG regional conference
April 21 ATA accreditation examination
May 11 AATIA regular meeting and SpanSIG meeting

Study cites endangered languages

HALF THE WORLD'S 6000 LANGUAGES are under threat of disappearing, as reported in the February 18, 2002 issue of *The Austin American-Statesman*. A UNESCO study released in February attributes this phenomenon to pressure from the more dominant tongues or repressive government policies. The 90-page study says the Americas and Australia have the worst records. ★

The new Eurodicautom

MORE USER-FRIENDLY! Simpler access! A single address! Datamigration what for?

Eurodicautom has been running on a Siemens machine since 1980 (ages

in computer terms!). The Commission, and more particularly the Data Centre, have envisaged giving up old technology in order to keep up with progress made in computer science. State-of-the-art technology will enable a step towards a more accurate methodology and processing the new PECO languages. Management will also be improved with easier, semiautomatic cleanup and harmonization routines. As a result, updates will be more regular and frequent.

In the first stage, users will face an environment rather similar to the one they are familiar with. Progressively, in the next few months, more tangible improvements will become apparent.

Read more about what's to come at <http://europa.eu.int/eurodicautom/whatsnew.jsp>.

[Reprinted from an article in *Ññ*, the newsletter of the AATIA Spanish Special Interest group.] ★

Bad bookmarks?

OBSERVANT MEMBERS will have noticed that the URLs for some of the AATIA website pages have changed and others will change as the site undergoes reorganization. This means that some bookmarks will no longer work. When this happens, both on the AATIA website and also on other sites, savvy surfers will go to the Home Page, navigate to their favorite pages, and then create new bookmarks. ★

LitSIG members: Let's talk

THE LITSIG'S ANTHOLOGY COOP group will next meet on Saturday, March 23, 1-3, at 3904 Becker.

Contact Marian Schwartz at schwartzm@sbcglobal.net for more information. ★