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I don’t know about you, but I always think of the beginning of a new year as a new start, an exciting opportunity to turn the page and open a new one. I’m not a “word-of-the-year” person, but I like to think about a focus area (or a few!) for the coming year.

**Transitioning to a New Association Management System:** One of the focus areas for ATA in 2024 will be the long-anticipated transition to the new association management system. I would like to thank the team at ATA Headquarters and Executive Director Kelli Baxter for their ongoing work to make it happen. Though the transition is ultimately going to require some time and patience, this new software will help us automate and streamline day-to-day tasks and, ultimately, serve our members better.

**Growing and Supporting Divisions:** Another important focus area for ATA in 2024 is working to strengthen our community. One aspect of this involves growing and supporting our internal communities in ATA. ATA divisions are the heart and soul of our Association, and I think we all refer to them as our professional home. Our division leaders and volunteers deserve our gratitude for all they do, and I encourage you to reach out to them and thank them for their work—or better yet, offer to help! Please consider getting involved in the ATA divisions you belong to. They need your ideas, talents, and energy to continue offering resources and learning and networking opportunities.

**Joining Special Interest Groups:** We also have other communities in ATA. As we all know, belonging to a professional community is about being around people with similar professional interests and skill sets. Not all T&I specializations and language pairs are represented by ATA divisions, so I’m very excited about our new pilot program for special interest groups (SIGs). At the meeting in Miami in October 2023, ATA’s Board approved the extension of the SIGs pilot program. The pilot will now run until this year’s Annual Conference, which takes place in Portland, Oregon, October 30–November 2, 2024.

I encourage you to join and get involved in our first three SIGs: **Financial Translators, Interpreters & Translators in Education, and Southeast Asian Languages.** If you have colleagues who would benefit from being a part of these groups, let them know! If this pilot program is successful, I hope we’ll see more SIGs in ATA.

**Increasing Collaboration with T&I Organizations:** Last but not least, my priority is to strengthen our collaboration with other translation and interpreting associations and organizations that share ATA’s mission. We can do so much more if we join forces when it comes to advocacy, professional development, and promoting the recognition of professional translators and interpreters, especially in the age of AI. We’re stronger together, and we can serve our members better, too.

As we prioritize and plan for 2024 and beyond, it’s vital for ATA’s leadership to hear from you. As we prioritize and plan for 2024 and beyond, it’s vital for ATA’s leadership to hear from you. Please get involved and share what you’d like to see more of. You can reach out to any Board member. We’d love to hear from you!
ATA65: New Place, New Model in Portland, Oregon

At ATA64 in Miami, as I wrote in the last issue, we enjoyed being back in the same hotel with much the same vibe—meeting with familiar colleagues, attending high-quality sessions, and enjoying evening activities. It was just like old times! We also met new colleagues, networked with new people, and had some new events (or old events in new places) from which to choose.

Now we’re looking forward to ATA65 in Portland, Oregon, with something completely new! As I write these words, ATA’s conference planning team is getting ready for the site visit to look at a new kind of venue—ATA65’s sessions and events will be held in the Oregon Convention Center, across the Willamette River from downtown Portland, and at our conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency Portland at the Oregon Convention Center, just across Holladay Street. Having toured the convention center as a Board member five years ago during the site selection process, I know there will be a different feel, simply because the building is designed to house many events of various sizes. We’ll be thinking hard about planning the conference sessions and events to make it easy to find and enjoy sessions and maximize networking time. We’re going to look carefully at the hotel to see which events will occur there as well.

After the site visit, I’ll be sharing more details as we finalize them and figure out what will enhance your conference experience. One of those things, of course, is the sessions. ATA’s Annual Conference offers nonstop learning and networking. Our speakers come from around the world—working translators and interpreters, many of whom are also educators, attorneys, physicians, chief executive officers, and managers. They all have much to share, and you’ll benefit from their expertise and experience. A call for speakers went out in January, and I’m looking forward to reviewing the many session proposals we’ve received. I’m confident the conference program will provide everything you need to thrive as a professional translator or interpreter.

New for ATA65!

New Attendance Choices: For the Portland conference, attendees will have the opportunity to choose from multiple attendance options—depending on your work schedule and needs, you’ll be able to choose a one-day registration for any day (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday), a two-day registration (Thursday–Friday or Friday–Saturday), or the traditional full three-day registration.

New Conference Track: A new track has been added to the list that was developed for ATA64: the New Professionals track. These sessions will focus on topics of interest for individuals starting their careers in translation and/or interpreting.

We’re tentatively looking at scheduling the New Professionals sessions into a one-day theme, probably on Saturday, so that our new colleagues can build connections by participating in a coherent track.

Themed Days: Depending on the sessions we receive and accept, we’ll be considering whether other topics will also fit into specific themed days, whether it’s a set of scientific-technical sessions or topics in interpreting (just for instance). This isn’t final yet, and very much depends on the quality and variety of the session proposals we’ll be reviewing.

Looking Ahead to Portland

As you plan your trip to Portland (the one in Oregon, not Maine!), I’m going to put on my green environmental hat, as well as my locomotive engineer’s cap, and encourage you to think environmentally as you plan your transportation out to Portland and your travel within the city. Amtrak has multiple trains arriving in Portland every day. Portland also has a great airport and a great way to get from there into the city—the MAX Light Rail’s Red Line will take you straight from Portland International Airport to the conference hotel and the convention center. As an added benefit, attendees staying at the conference hotel will receive two transit passes per room, which will make the hop over the bridge on the MAX Light Rail into downtown Portland’s exciting nightlife much easier!

At our site visit, we’ll also be meeting with our friends from the Oregon Society of Translators and Interpreters (OSTI), who will be your guides to the interesting and vibrant life, culture, sights, and dining in Portland. We’re looking forward to working with them to enable you to enjoy the best of the city! I’m very excited to be working with ATA’s dedicated team and volunteers as we plan a memorable conference. I look forward to seeing you in Portland, Oregon, October 30—November 2, 2024!

GEOFF KOBY
president-elect@atanet.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

BOOK YOUR ROOM TODAY

A limited number of rooms at the Hyatt Regency Portland at the Oregon Convention Center (Headquarters hotel) and the DoubleTree by Hilton Portland have been reserved at a discount for attendees. ATA rates are available until October 4, 2024, or as space allows. Learn more and book your hotel room now!
Your Membership, Your Voice: Making the Most Out of Your Membership

2024 is a historic year for ATA as we celebrate our 65th anniversary in the T&I industry. Since our founding in 1959, ATA has been dedicated to promoting the recognition of professional translators and interpreters, advancing the quality and availability of T&I services, and fostering the professional development of our members.

During this membership renewal season, I want to emphasize the importance of your membership and voice within ATA. Your support allows us to continue our mission and supply valuable resources and opportunities to all members. Your input and feedback are invaluable in shaping the future direction of ATA. Don’t miss the improvements in store for members in 2024, including new online networking opportunities through our monthly division virtual coffee lounge sessions, a large selection of webinars, quarterly leadership summits for our chapter and division leadership, and a virtual townhall with the team at ATA Headquarters. Consider joining a committee or division or special interest group, becoming a Voting member, or attending ATA65 to be a part of history as we meet in Portland, Oregon.

In commemoration of our 65th anniversary, our Headquarters team is gearing up for a series of internal enhancements aimed at improving the member experience. We’ll be focusing on supporting a strong and engaged membership base, listening to members’ needs and feedback, and tailoring more of ATA’s offerings to meet their evolving needs. This will involve asking for your input through member surveys, focus groups, and virtual townhall sessions with your Headquarters team.

There are many ways to take advantage of your membership and gain a return on your investment.

Gathering valuable feedback will aid in fostering a sense of community and collaboration among members. We hope that you’ll take part in improving member benefits by sharing your feedback on any of the member surveys planned for this year. As we gear up to launch the new association management system, we’ll supply communications and training opportunities to ensure a positive user experience. We’re committed to ensuring that all members have access to the tools and support they need to thrive.

We hope you’ll commit to renewing your ATA membership so you don’t miss being a part of our 65th anniversary celebration this year. By actively engaging in industry conversations about key issues and trends in the industry, ATA members will continue to play a key role in shaping the future direction of the T&I industry. There are many ways to take advantage of your membership and gain a return on your investment, including:

- Using your membership to share knowledge and experience with other professionals. This can be done through volunteering to be a mentor, writing articles, taking part in panel discussions, and hosting workshops or webinars.
- Advocating for the profession by promoting the value of professional T&I services and advocating for policies and standards that support the industry.
- Staying informed and educated with the many professional development opportunities designed to help members enhance their skills and ability.
- Become ATA-certified.

Help ATA members stay at the forefront of industry trends and best practices and remain the go-to source for information, education, and professional development in the field. Renew your membership today and get involved!

Happy 65th anniversary, ATA!
ATA recognizes that its continued effectiveness and future relevance depend on the strength and clear vision of its leadership.

By ATA’s Nominating and Leadership Development Committee

Who creates that slate of candidates we see every year? How does the nomination process work? May I nominate myself? What are the criteria used to decide who should run? This article is an attempt to shed light on a process that is unknown to much of ATA’s membership.

As the name implies, the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee’s charge is to help produce a pipeline of future leaders and to nominate a slate of candidates. The committee always consists of five people, per ATA bylaws (Article VII, Section 2d). These five people are appointed at the winter Board meeting to serve during the following year. The committee members for 2024 are Karen Tkaczyk (chair), Evelyn Yang Garland, Jamie Hartz, Elena Langdon, and Yolanda Secos. The committee continually identifies people, helps them find the right volunteer spot within the Association, keeps an eye on the quality of the work they are doing in their current role, and finds out whether they are interested in running the following year.

Leadership Development

Why is ATA interested in leadership development for its Board and potential future candidates? While historically there has been a wealth of talent on the Board from the membership that has sustained and cultivated the vibrant organization that it is today, ATA recognizes that its continued effectiveness and future relevance depend on the strength and clear vision of its leadership. In the past decade the committee has experimented with several forms of leadership development training.

Leadership training for individuals assists in assimilating new Board members, succession planning, developing high potentials, navigating organizational culture, and removing “blind spots.” Leadership training for the Board is designed to cultivate team alignment and encourage the integration of and adaptation to changing cultures. We feel this training also works to build trust and awareness among the Board to facilitate consensus, collaboration, and accountability.

A leadership development program should improve leadership competencies, such as improved engagement and more focused and increased Board productivity. In summary, leadership training is designed to help leaders discover more effective and productive ways to achieve personal and professional goals, create alignment with ATA’s organizational culture, and promote strategic objectives. ATA Board members have an opportunity to enhance their existing skills and resources and develop creative and innovative solutions to effectively address the challenges of representing the interests of ATA and its membership.

The Process

The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee is active throughout the year. Our activities for the new election cycle begin during the
Annual Conference. After the election, the committee holds a follow-up meeting to discuss the candidates’ presentations, as well as what we learned from them that can be passed on to future candidates.

Also during the conference, committee members approach people we have contacted previously as potential future nominees to see if they have any questions or concerns about the process.

The committee gets together early in the year to discuss the slate for the upcoming elections. In preparation for the meeting we contact committee chairs, division administrators, chapter and affiliated group presidents, Board members, and others to solicit nominations and recommendations.

We maintain a database of people who have been recommended, along with associated information. That includes their profession or role (e.g., interpreter, translator, educator, company owner, or employee), language pairs, and contributions to ATA and the translating/interpreting professions.

We discuss the individuals who are brought to our attention. We also examine the information provided by those who nominate candidates. The committee has developed a list of criteria an ideal candidate should meet. For instance, to cite just a few of them, we’re looking for people who demonstrate leadership, of whom others speak highly, who are articulate, and who are team-oriented. Then we ask questions like:

- How was this person active within ATA in the past?
- What talents and preferences were evident during that activity?
- What personal attributes would make them a good candidate and a good director or officer?

To present a balanced slate to the membership, we aim to include candidates from all the various areas of our profession. We make an effort to ensure that each is represented in a way that reflects reality.

Another consideration is gender. We look for a balance that means the Board will represent the Association’s membership. Other factors may include language pair and geography. We also take into account the need for diversity of backgrounds on a leadership team such as ATA’s Board.

Once we have created a list of potential nominees, we begin our deliberations. Typical of the questions we raise about each of the candidates are the following:

- What would this person wish to accomplish if elected?
- Is this person sufficiently known to have a chance of being elected?
- How would this person fit into the existing Board?

Once the committee completes the slate, the nominees are contacted and informed that we support their candidacy. Once the finalized slate is reported to the Board, the committee is available to the candidates for fact-checking written statements and drafting speeches. We also have guidelines available to prepare for the actual candidate presentations at the Annual Conference, but it’s up to the candidates to devise a way to present themselves in the best light possible.

**Nominating Forms**

We have multiple forms to allow for targeted questions. We have tailored sets of questions for those nominating or being nominated for officer positions (secretary, treasurer, and president-elect) and a second set of questions appropriate for self-nominations for director and for people being nominated for director by others. That means that we have four separate forms, each with a matching job description for reference:

- Self-nomination for Director
- Self-nomination for Officer
- Nomination for Director
- Nomination for Officer

Note that this means that it’s absolutely fine to nominate yourself. Indeed, if a conversation between a potential candidate and one of the committee members led to thinking that a role was a good fit, the committee member would ask the potential candidate to complete a self-nomination so we could take a more complete picture to the committee for review alongside other nominations.

Here are examples of questions that you’ll find on the forms, which can be completed and submitted online:

- Which areas of translation and interpreting activity are you passionate about?
- What strengths would you bring to ATA’s Board of Directors?
- In your view, which perspectives or points of view should be represented on the Board?
- What particular strengths does this person have that are necessary for the officer position for which you are nominating him or her?
- How has the candidate demonstrated commitment to the translation and interpreting professions?
- Which areas of ATA activity would you hope to become involved in?
- How do you feel your skills and abilities match the “job description” for your role?

**Conclusion**

We’re confident that these efforts to cultivate tomorrow’s leaders will ensure a strong and vibrant Association. If you have any suggestions about the nomination process or the development of the Association’s leadership, please send them to nominations@atanet.org.

The nomination period for 2024 is now open and the nomination form is online. The deadline is March 29, 2024. (See the call for nominations in this issue on page 36.) We hope that the process is now clear and look forward to receiving many great nominations this year.
On December 14th, ATA hosted a free virtual roundtable on Zoom to discuss the depiction of children as interpreters in the film *Translators*, directed by Rudy Valdez and presented by U.S. Bank.

A diverse panel of language services industry experts, including researchers, language access advocates, and former child interpreters, provided insights into the issue, explaining how the film highlights many of the challenges child interpreters can experience and how people who need professional interpreters can avail themselves of their federally protected rights to access them.

The panel also reviewed the film and the issues it presents, analyzed the challenges of offering “meaningful” language access for limited-English-proficient individuals, and suggested solutions to avoid placing the language brokering burden on children.

To maximize the dialogue, registrants were sent a link to the film to view beforehand. The panel was also presented in English, with Spanish and American Sign Language interpreting and live professional captioning.

Here is a recap of the main discussion points covered during the event.

**From Child Interpreter to Professional Interpreter**

When he was 10 years old, Nery Mazariegos was asked to interpret for his mother during a visit to her...
In the end, it’s incumbent on us all to help the children of people with limited English proficiency to just be children and ensure that language access is guaranteed whenever and wherever possible.

All this despite multiple laws that require the use of qualified professional interpreters to provide meaningful language access. In the end, it’s incumbent on us all to help the children of people with limited English proficiency (LEP) to just be children and ensure that language access is guaranteed whenever and wherever possible.

Skills: How Well Can Child Language Brokers Interpret?

Despite the title Translators, most of what this film portrays is actually interpreting. Interpreters work with spoken or signed language, whereas translators work with the written word. And although the children depicted in the film are ideal candidates for future careers in the translation and interpreting professions because of the linguistic, information processing, and interpersonal skills they gain by helping their families navigate systems in two languages, most professional interpreters train for years to acquire and hone the knowledge and expertise required to do their jobs. If more families were made aware of the opportunities that exist for children who are growing up bilingual, said panelist and researcher Aída Martínez-Gómez, the children of LEP individuals would be excellent candidates for this career path:

“In my experience, they feel really seen when they are told, ‘All these skills that you’ve developed through a lot of hardship are valuable, and you can turn them into a profession that can be really fulfilling.’”

—Aída Martínez-Gómez

The children of deaf adults (CODAs) experience many of the same struggles that children of LEP individuals do, but with the added challenge that people with disabilities are often unfairly perceived to lack intelligence, creating a dynamic that their children cannot reasonably be expected to understand or advocate against. Between this level of emotional intelligence, analytical skills, and vocabulary, it’s not hard to imagine how different the interpreting of a child is compared to that of a trained professional—and the consequences that could have for everyone involved.

“It’s important for people to know that it’s not a matter of replacing one word in one language with another word in another language. There are so many layers of complexities that translators and interpreters make decisions about. They make decisions about words, yes, but also structures, contexts, dialects, cultures, and so many other things all at once [...]”

—Yasmin Alkashef, ATA Board Member

Impact: How Does Child Language Brokering Affect Children and Their Families?

However underprepared child language brokers may be, the reality is that the work they are doing on a daily basis across the U.S., and its impact on the children themselves, are varied. Some studies indicate psychological risks, while others do not. Research does not show a direct negative impact from child interpreting, and actually indicates a positive contribution to the child’s cognitive development and cultural understanding when they act as interpreters. Anecdotal evidence, however, suggests strongly that whether positive or negative, the impact of acting as a language broker for one’s parents cannot be underestimated.

Nery Mazariegos shared that as he watched the film, the reactions of the children depicted were familiar to him: they were nervous and often doubted themselves. The film also accurately depicted a perspective shared by many children in this position, including several panelists: a desire to please their parents. Likewise, drawing on his lived experience as a child of a deaf-blind adult (CODBA), American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter Brent Tracy shared the challenges of navigating systems with parents who have disabilities. Often experiencing barriers with his deaf-blind father that people without disabilities don’t have to deal with, Brent reflected that these situations had

obstetrician. Through her discussion with the doctor, he learned a family secret his mother may not have intended for him to learn so young—that he once had an older sister who died. Not only did he have to process the information being exchanged between his mother and the provider about her current pregnancy, but he also had to contend with the enormous emotional burden of trying to process the loss of a sister he had never known.

“I was not prepared to handle that. [...] Put yourself in the shoes of a 10-year-old who doesn’t have the emotional intelligence, emotional maturity, and hasn’t lived enough to understand.”

—Nery Mazariegos

Now that he is a certified interpreter and talent acquisition manager at a language services provider, Nery realizes that his experience as a child language broker is not rare. The film cites that this is a scenario that is repeated 11 million times every day in the U.S. Most of these children are proud to be able to help, even though they are often ill-equipped to perform the task; as children, they lack certain soft and hard skills necessary for interpreting.

Research does not show psychological or educational consequences that could have for everyone involved.
the capacity to cause him embarrassment, discomfort, and even trauma.

“In my experience, [having a parent with a disability,] oftentimes […] when my parents would come on field trips and things of that nature, I’d get bullied, made fun of. You stand out a lot more because of the disability.”

—Brent Tracy

It’s important to acknowledge that many families express concern for the impact that child language brokering may have on their children, whether or not they are aware of the risks, and certainly no family intends to put their child in harm’s way. Rather, the willingness of so many children to help their LEP or disabled family members is a testament to the perseverance and grit of these communities. However, exposing children to the stress and vicarious trauma that is part and parcel to high-stakes interpreting is unfair, and it’s crucial that all involved stakeholders learn more about the rights of these children and their families so as not to feel obligated to put them in this difficult position.

Language Access Rights: Does It Have to Be Like This?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act enshrines the right of deaf persons to receive ASL services. Children may end up brokering for their parents in many ad hoc situations, this being the reality of life in a multicultural and multilingual society. But at least in theory, all LEP and deaf people have the right to meaningful language access, particularly when accessing services provided by entities that receive even a cent of federal funding.

However, noting the startling statistic shared in the film that 11 million children in the U.S. interpret on a regular basis, panelist and language access advocate Carol Velandia put it this way:

“If we were to say there are 11 million children of American citizens that are made to work, unpaid, for professional work, our society would be up in arms, right? But because the plight of immigrants when it comes to language rights, language justice, and language access continues to be invisible and misunderstood, we think it’s okay and even wonderful and inspiring that those children work.”

—Carol Velandia

Put in these terms, the situations depicted in this film can easily be categorized as discriminatory. Immigrants’ child do work that is intended for paid professionals and it’s celebrated, instead of creating outrage. The film did not necessarily misrepresent the experiences of these families; however, it did fail to share that there are better options. In many cases, including those depicted in the film, companies and organizations that work with LEPs shirk their responsibilities, and parents are unaware of what options they have for language access or the channels by which they may file complaints when their rights are violated.

Conclusion: An Opportunity to Do More and Do Better

In the end, where the film had the incredible opportunity to be an agent for change, it perpetuated unfortunate misconceptions and normalized a continued pattern of discrimination against non-English-speaking communities and disabled persons. Taking the complex issue of language access and child language brokering head on, it oversimplified experiences, overlooked non-Latino populations, and, most importantly, failed to offer solutions to the challenges faced by so many families across the U.S.

What can we do about it?

ATA encourages everyone to seek out any and all opportunities to advocate for language access. This means speaking up when you see a way to improve language access, sharing your thoughts with legislators and decision-makers, and being a voice for those in your community who communicate in a language other than English. We can combine advocacy with professional growth and networking by encouraging public and private entities to improve their language access plans. By actively working to increase awareness, we’ll be giving a voice to those who desperately need it.
Artificial intelligence (AI) has served as a disruptor in many fields recently, and the interpreting profession is no different. In the past few years, the entire world seems to have awakened to the tremendous potential of AI as well as the potential harm it could do. In fact, AI is so much of a focal point of collective human anxiety around its use that the *Cambridge Dictionary* word of the year for 2023 was “hallucinate”, with the highlighted definition for this word choice being the one specifically focused on a major shortcoming of Generative AI—that it will simply make things up (aka “hallucinate”) when it can’t find the answers to a query or prompt.

Before we delve into this subject, let’s first clarify some definitions. AI is the theory and development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that historically required human intelligence, such as recognizing speech, making decisions, and identifying patterns. AI is an umbrella term that encompasses a wide variety of technologies, including machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing. AI has also been present for some time in the T&I professions, and there is little to no risk of it disappearing. But the fact remains that both the ethical standards and the laws pertaining to AI use in general, and specifically in the field of language access, remain absent but sorely needed. As professionals, we turn to our professional ethics and to the laws for

As a profession, we must address the fact that AI is having an impact on interpreting and that there are multiple ethical issues with the use of AI in interpreting that must be resolved before it’s widely used as one possible solution to language access.

By Holly Silvestri
support in making the proper decisions in the professional sphere. But what if these guideposts were not created with AI in mind? Where do we turn then?

The distinction here between laws and ethics is an important one. While ethics deals with how decisions are made according to a theory of what’s good and what’s bad, it’s the law that sets out the rules of conduct that are recognized as binding and enforced by a controlling authority. An ethical violation leads to reputational harm, to be sure, but it’s the law that brings the all-important consequences of one’s actions to bear. Only the law can result in economic consequences and/or the loss of freedom of movement (e.g., prison or fines) for violations. However, the ethics involved in AI use are important to consider, both in general and specifically in how they impact interpreting.

What’s even more unsettling than this void in ethics and law is the fact that most of those charged with making the laws about AI likely do not have a deep understanding of how AI functions to have a critical eye regarding the topic. In short, our lawmakers are ill-equipped to create laws about a topic that is so outside their wheelhouse.

The general ethical concerns with respect to AI creation and use are many and too long to go into detail here. But as a profession, we must address the fact that AI is having an impact on interpreting and that there are multiple ethical issues with the use of AI in interpreting that must be resolved before it’s widely used as one possible solution to language access.

The ethics involved in AI use are important to consider, both in general and specifically in how they impact interpreting.

How, Specifically, Has AI Impacted Interpreting Thus Far?

AI has already infiltrated the work sphere of interpreters. At its most rudimentary, interpreting can be broken down into a three-part activity. There is the preparation phase (the before), the interpreting phase (the during), and the after, where the professional tries to analyze their performance and fix any shortcomings for the next time. Some of the positive results of the integration of AI tools have come in the before and after parts of the activity of interpreting, and in the ease of preparation of materials for training future interpreters.

Interpreter Preparation Aids

Many AI tools are already being used to help with term extraction and glossary creation to assist interpreters prepare for an event. These tools are also being integrated into the educational preparation programs of future interpreters, albeit slowly. This is not so much a factor reflecting the lack of desire to educate about AI tools as it is the nature of university programs, which have difficulty pivoting in short time frames and may have budget limits that prohibit incorporating cutting-edge tools into educational programs.

It’s also a reflection of the fact that public service interpreting (or community interpreting as we say in the U.S.) tends to come in the form of short training programs aimed at adults who largely come from immigrant communities, and thus have limited resources to pay for their training. As a result, most, if not all, U.S. community interpreter training programs are even more restricted in the tools they can incorporate due to budget constraints. An additional factor in training programs is the fact that their shorter nature (some as few as 40 hours) means that there is little time to include anything beyond the basic skill set required to interpret, specifically the three modes and some notetaking for interpreting skills.

Ethical Issues and Solution:

The aid that AI has provided in glossary preparation and term research is positive. However, it’s a given that AI can hallucinate. Therefore, if AI is used to create glossaries or add to them, professional interpreters need to ensure that there is a step included in the process to check the results for accuracy. The human interpreter must be at the center of the process and not cede the ultimate responsibility for their work to a machine. There should be an adjustment of teaching in the field to reflect this fact. Additionally, our codes of ethics should be updated to reflect the inclusion of AI in a responsible way. An important first step recently taken by ATA is a statement that reinforces keeping the professionals at the center of the decision-making process.

It’s important to note that ATA is the largest professional organization in the U.S. for translators and interpreters.

Cost: The cost of these tools is another factor to consider. Those professionals whose language pairs generate enough work to be employed full-time may have the resources to access these tools. Others, whose work is more sporadic, might not be able to invest as much. This is not a new problem in the field, just a new aspect to it.

Socio–Economic Inequality:

There will continue to be socio–economic inequality in the field and subsequent lack of access to tools like AI for some interpreters. As a profession, we have not yet come up with a solution to the inequity of pay, but we should be discussing how to do so. Language access by professional and qualified interpreters should not be limited to just a few widely used languages, and access to tools like AI should also not be limited to a few widely used languages either. On the other hand, there is perhaps a unique
Both the ethical standards and the laws pertaining to AI use in general, and specifically in the field of language access, remain absent but sorely needed.

opportunity for those working in some of the lesser diffused languages where AI has not made many inroads (likely due to a lack of available material to train AI on) to start charging more for their services.

Displacement of the Lower End of the Spectrum and Modification of Work Settings at All Levels

As AI becomes better at doing the tasks of the interpreter in relatively low-risk settings where “good enough” interpretations might be more acceptable, it’s quite clear that those jobs will disappear—at least in the language pairs where there is sufficient training data for the AI to function effectively.

Ethical Issues and Solution:

Job loss and the need to adjust to new forms of doing our work are inevitable. Because we’re primarily freelancers and a small sector of the workforce, there will not likely be a governmental reaction to these job losses in our small field. We must prepare ourselves for the coming changes by individually investing in professional development to improve our skill set so we can more easily make adjustments to the nature of our work.

As a profession, we must also continue to educate clients on the dangers of the blind use of AI to replace us—especially where any communication is inherently risky. We should also educate clients about the importance of keeping a human interpreter as the main component of any system that uses AI to improve performance.

How Does the Current Technology Work and What Are Its Weaknesses?

To be fair, the current technology used to “interpret” is recycled from the translation domain, as it is using speech to text (STT) and text to speech (TTS) technology to “interpret.” As such, it uses STT to capture the spoken word and render it as written and subsequently translates it using machine translation (MT). It also then uses TTS to read the translated text aloud with a definitively computerized voice with a very small lag time.

This form of technology has significant limits—for now. For example, with STT, the inability of speech recognition technology to recognize dialects and certain accents, and the inability of MT to properly translate idiomatic speech and have updated cultural knowledge, or just have common sense and general world knowledge on an equal level to a human brain, is limiting its use.

In addition, TTS technology also has some challenges to be resolved, like issues with proper pronunciation and fluency of speech, as well as heightened fatigue on the listener's part due to the artificial sound and monotone nature of the computer-generated voice. There are also issues with latency, in that the process must use both STT and TTS in a rather limited time frame to allow for a normal pace of conversation. Finally, with simultaneous interpreting, it’s also possible to foresee that there will be pacing issues. A human interpreter is more adept at adjusting the delivery speed of the material than any AI interpreter.

AI Is Already Starting to Replace Interpreters

AI has crept into the interpreting domain itself. With respect to the consecutive mode, in some settings AI is already replacing interpreters as a stopgap measure. For example, it’s being used with moderate success to tackle consecutive chats between stakeholders in the public service sector (i.e., immigration or social services) who do not share the same language as their clients. For example, some stakeholders in these sectors are using the conversation function in Google Translate to communicate. In fact, there is even training available on how to use this tool this way. This use has its drawbacks since the application cannot translate equally well in all languages and with all topics for the many reasons mentioned above. Given the multiple issues with this technology, it will not be as effective as
using a human interpreter in many circumstances—for now.

**Ethical Issues and Solution:**
This current use is not very widespread. It’s treated in most cases as a stopgap, not a full-on replacement for an interpreter. As a profession and individually, we must educate the client about how to use it properly (e.g., as a stopgap measure only with a human interpreter being the preferred response whenever possible). To explain why it’s so limited, we also need to be conversant about the technology’s shortcomings with real-world examples at the ready.

**The general ethical concerns with respect to AI creation and use are many.**

AI’s intrusion has made its mark in the simultaneous mode as well, particularly in the field of remote simultaneous interpreting. In this case, some U.S.-based companies have integrated AI-powered STT and TTS to create the possibility of captioning an entire session and rapidly translating it to create transcripts in another language of choice, thereby foregoing the use of a simultaneous interpreter. For now, this option is being presented as a more cost-effective solution for only certain language pairs and certain market segments that had previously been shut out of using human interpreters due to the prohibitive cost.

**AI and Interpreter Training**
It’s not only in real-life situations that AI’s effects are being felt. There are also those who are very excited to harness the power of AI to better train future interpreters. For example, there has also been at least one academic study on computer-assisted consecutive interpreting that showed promising results in improved interpreter accuracy and memory, but those results need to be reproduced by subsequent studies for it to be widely adopted. And quite frankly, the introduction of extra steps into the mix required by this method seems to make it impractical for real world use.

One professor, Claudio Fantinouli, whose teaching credits include the University of Innsbruck and University of Vienna, and whose research focuses on computer-assisted human interpreting and real-time machine interpreting (speech translation), has even gone as far as to create a sample lesson page that demonstrates how AI might help trainers and instructors create lessons that are designed to allow for more individualized instruction.

This appears to be a more promising use of AI than the previously mentioned study, but, again, more research is needed to verify any positive effects of this change in teaching style.

**AI and the Ethical Challenges: The Data**
So, what are the other ethical issues surrounding AI interpreting? The big three are transparency, privacy/copyright, and impartiality. These all have to do with what data is being used to train the AI model and the algorithm used to create the AI. Is the data used to train the model made up of personally identifiable information or copyrighted material? If so, was consent obtained/proper procedure followed? Was the algorithm vetted to eliminate bias—even unconscious bias, to the greatest extent possible? Finally, is the AI model transparent in how it makes decisions, or is it a black box?

**There is a definitive need for transparency to build trust in the users. Without a clear resolution to these ethical issues, the adoption of AI is problematic at best. But here again, the resolution to this issue is out of the hands of our profession. The best we can do is support efforts made by those in the tech sector to adopt regulations that support solutions for the responsible use of training data and transparency regarding how the algorithm makes decisions.**

**NOTES**
6. Claudio Fantinouli’s interpreter training course with AI-generated material.

**Holly Silvestri** is the senior coordinator for translation, training, and curriculum for the National Center for Interpretation at the University of Arizona. She has also taught for the Translation and Interpretation Program within the Spanish and Portuguese Department, which offers a bachelor’s degree in Spanish with a concentration in translation and interpreting. She has experience in the fields of translation and interpreting as well as training interpreters and is a member of the National Language Service Corps. Her working languages are Spanish, French, and English. She also runs her own language services provider business. estranger98@yahoo.com
Cases involving extraditions pose specific challenges for translators and interpreters. Proper language transfers require researching bilateral international treaties and the domestic laws of the respective countries. Understanding the extradition process is also key to ensuring adequate communication, and proper terminology normalization regarding legal principles often requires researching the writings of legal scholars. The following provides an overview of the fundamental concepts of the extradition process and describes the essential role of translators and interpreters.

What Is an Extradition?
Extraditions are a legal process for the surrender of an alleged criminal or convicted fugitive from one jurisdiction to another for the purpose of trying a case or imposing a sentence. Translators and interpreters generally get involved in extraditions between two countries that have different official languages. Professional translators may be involved when new treaties or other international agreements are entered into the deal with extraditions. They may also work as staff or contractors for federal prosecutors or defense counsel or, occasionally, for potential extraditees. Interpreters may also encounter concepts that are unique to extraditions during attorney/client interviews.

The following provides an overview of the fundamental concepts of the extradition process as well as strategies for high-quality translation and interpreting in international extraditions.

By Madeline Newman Ríos
Extraditions can be referred to as active (or “import extraditions”) on the part of the jurisdiction that is requesting/seeking the surrender, or as passive (or “export extraditions”) on the part of the jurisdiction that is being requested to surrender the party sought. Although this article focuses on international extraditions, it is important to be aware of the existence of a somewhat different “interstate” extradition process, which involves a surrender between jurisdictions within a single country (e.g., between Ohio and Indiana in the U.S.).

**International Extraditions: Overview of the Process and the Translator’s Task**

The international extradition process begins with a formal request from the country actively seeking the surrender of the person sought (e.g., a “verbal note” from the U.S. embassy to the ministry of justice of the country where the person sought is located). This usually occurs upon the issuance of an indictment or the equivalent thereof but can occur at a later stage due to a person’s failure to appear for court proceedings, failure to fully serve a sentence, or a probation or parole violation.

The request for extradition is accompanied by documents such as a prosecutor’s affidavit (a list of charges and a description of the facts), copies of laws violated and their statutes of limitations, evidence of the extraditee’s identity, a certified copy of the respective arrest warrant and indictment or complaint, an affidavit from the respective law enforcement agent, or a copy of the judgment and affidavit on a remaining sentence to be served. The requested country might require these documents to be translated into their language to commence their response to the extradition request.

When answering the request for extradition, the requested country will include copies (in their own language) of their domestic judicial extradition proceedings, including motions for reconsideration. They are also likely to include a decision by their executive branch on the surrender of the person sought, as well as a certificate of surrender, in which case the party receiving the response will need translation services.

**Success Depends on the Proper Utilization of Resources**

When approaching a translation or interpreting task, it is important to consult any bilateral extradition treaties or agreements, international human and civil rights conventions, international conventions on specific types of crimes, and the domestic laws of both countries regarding extraditions per se, procedural issues, and the offenses in question. Case law, sometimes from several countries, is also likely to be quoted, so the terminology may vary from country to country.

When reference is made to treaties and international conventions, it is essential to use their official target-language names, texts, and terminology. Bilingual treaties and agreements, for example, often change the order in which the countries in question are named. For instance, the Spanish-language version of the “Extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States” is named “Tratado de Extradición entre los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y los Estados Unidos de América.”

Terminology should also be translated as it is used within the specific treaty in question, and quotations of their articles should be translated exactly as found in the respective official versions, which are almost universally available online. A good example is the Agreement on Extradition between the European Union and the United States of America, which has official versions in 22 languages and can be displayed in up to three languages at a time.

United Nations conventions have official versions in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. Some of those most frequently quoted include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

*Translators and interpreters generally get involved in extraditions between two countries that have different official languages.*
When reference is made to treaties and international conventions, it is essential to use their official target language names, texts, and terminology.


Relevant domestic legislation may take the form of a stand-alone statute on extradition or may be part of a law encompassing broader issues. Ecuador, for example, has a Ley de Extradición ("Extradition Act"), while Venezuela addresses the respective procedural aspects in Title VI (Articles 382–390) of its Código Orgánico Procesal Penal ("Organic Criminal Procedure Code"). In the case of direct quotations from domestic legislation, translators should provide their own best version in the target language. Indeed, available translations of domestic legislation in hard copy and online versions are unofficial and often of poor quality.

A source-language text may include portions based on the other country's documentation. In such cases, terminology choices should utilize the underlying documentation whenever possible. For instance, **21 U.S. Code § 841(a)(1)** makes it a crime to "... dispense a controlled substance." If reference is made to that particular code and the source-language text uses a synonym for "dispense," such as the equivalent of "supply," one should back-translate it into English as it is used in the U.S. Code ("dispense"). Failure to look up the code could diminish the quality and usefulness of the translation. Source-language documents often include their own translation of the requesting country’s charging document, such as an indictment. The translator cannot always get a copy of that, but it’s worth trying!

It is important to keep in mind that bilateral extradition treaties often grant the contracting parties the power, but not the obligation, to surrender their own nationals, with language such as the following found in the **Treaty on Extradition between the United States of America and Australia**:

> "Neither of the Contracting Parties shall be bound to deliver up its own nationals under this Treaty, but the executive authority of each Contracting Party shall have the power to deliver them up if, in its discretion, it considers that it is proper to do so."

As a result, the requested state’s extradition process would require separate judicial and executive approval. First, the judiciary would have to issue a declaration of extraditability, which would permit, but not obligate, the executive branch to surrender the person sought. A court ruling would then be issued, often explicitly stating that the national government is free to act in keeping with national interests. The executive branch would then issue a decision on the surrender of the person sought, based on its own national interest. Therefore, it is vital for translators and interpreters to distinguish between a judiciary declaration pronouncing that an extradition is “proper,” as opposed to an order on the part of the executive branch that “grants” an extradition.

In a similar sense, it should be noted that the U.S. has both an “interstate” extradition procedure and an international one. The **U.S. Constitution’s Article IV, Section 2**, requires that the executive authority of the respective state (e.g., Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, etc.) "shall, on demand" deliver a fugitive from another state. The concepts of “shall” and "demand” do not apply, however, to international extraditions, which are addressed in **18 U.S. Code, Chapter 209, § 3196. Extradition of United States Citizens**, which states:

> "If the applicable treaty or convention does not oblige the United States to extradite its citizens to a foreign country, the Secretary of State may, nevertheless, order the surrender to that country of a United States citizen whose extradition has been requested by that country if the other requirements of that treaty or convention are met."

**Defenses**

Defenses against extradition are often extensively argued in judicial documentation. These include:

- **Dual criminality** (also known as “double criminality”): This means that the act must be a crime in both countries, though it need not have the same name.
- **Lapsing of the statute of limitations** in the requesting country.
- **Citizenship status** of the person sought (though the person may still be extraditable).
- **Categorization of the offense as a political (or military) crime** or politically related crime (although war crimes are not exempted).
- **A minimum sentence requirement** (the offense must usually be subject to a sentence of at least one year).
• Sentence not permitted under the law of the requested state (this usually refers to the death penalty, but can also include incarceration due to debts, life imprisonment, or exile, among other examples).

• Res judicata, which means the person was already tried and acquitted or punished for the same act. This is closely related to the concept of Non bis in idem, also known as double jeopardy.

• That the individual is not the actual person sought.

• Innocence: Facts cannot be argued during the judicial proceeding that allows for the extradition, because the extradition judge cannot “invade” the sovereignty of the requesting state. Extraditions will be blocked, however, if a final court judgment exists finding that the person sought is not guilty.

• Violation of civil rights that led to the arrest and/procution of the person sought (e.g., entrapment).

• The principle of non-refoulement: No one can be sent to a place where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Counter-Arguments
Counter-arguments, in addition to denying the applicability of the above-mentioned defenses, include, among others:

• The principle of ubiquity, known in the U.S. as the effects doctrine and subjective territoriality principle, under which a crime can be prosecuted both in the place where the perpetrator acted as well as in the place where the harm occurred.

• The principle of universality, which allows any state to prosecute certain crimes against humanity, such as war crimes, slavery, and piracy.

Written Guarantees
Extraditions are usually granted on a conditional basis, with the requesting state being required to provide a written guarantee accepting the conditions. Some examples of these guarantees are that the person sought:

• Can only be prosecuted for the offense for which the extradition was granted (known as the principle of specificity or speciality).

• Cannot be subjected to the death penalty.

• Cannot be subjected to forced disappearance, torture, or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, or to the penalties of exile, life imprisonment, or confiscation.

• Be incarcerated in dignified conditions.

• Has a right to a public trial, with adequate guarantees of rights.

• Has the right to an interpreter.

• Has the right to contact with closest family members.

Final Stage
Finally, the extradition is executed, for which the law enforcement of the requesting country travels to the requested country and transports the extraditee. The requested country issues a certificate of surrender, noting the time served since the date of arrest for extradition purposes.

Ensuring a Proper Outcome for All
Properly translating and interpreting matters related to extradition creates the basis for counsel and the courts to argue and determine the legitimacy of an extradition, calculate time served, and communicate with their clients and with their counterparts in the corresponding countries. Careful research contributes to a useful product that helps lead to a just outcome for all parties involved.

Terminology should also be translated as it is used within the specific treaty in question, and quotations of their articles should be translated exactly as found in the respective official versions.

### Madeline Newman Ríos, CT

Madeline Newman Ríos, CT is an ATA-certified Spanish>English translator and a Spanish court interpreter certified by the Judicial Council of California and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. She holds an MA in Spanish translation and interpreting from the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley and is a former university instructor of translation and interpreting. riosspanish@aol.com
Mick Jagger turned 80 last July. Have you seen him dancing lately? The man moves like a snake. He looks happy. He is in fantastic physical condition and has been producing quality music since 1968. That's over 50 years!

Every music has a beat. Take out the beat and you have no music. Some people, like Mick, have managed to keep the beat rolling for a long time. How do they do it? How can we do it?

After 23 years of a fabulous, hectic, surprising, and successful journey, I used a slowdown period to revisit my own career and look at what worked well for me and what didn’t. A rich history of ups and downs, successes and failures, good choices, and mistakes. This is what I decided to share with a wonderful audience at ATA’s Annual Conference in Miami last October. We discussed how to make it last, when it’s time to stop or redirect, how to address failure and errors, and, most importantly, how to keep the beat. It’s about maintaining a positive attitude, a thriving spirit, and a healthy balance between work and everything else. It’s about joy.

The Three Career Stages
A career usually spans three periods: starting, cruising, and settling.

Starting
First, let’s look at the starting stage. If you’re new in this industry, you’re energized, hopeful, optimistic, and somewhat unrealistic, which can be a good thing. You may have zero experience in translation or interpreting, but you have a background you want to use to launch your career as a linguist. You may be a passionate skier or a former secretary. You may have studied law or traveled the world. You may love cooking, or you’re a talented weaver. These are tools you could use in your career as a translator or interpreter. Your toolbox is your own, and nobody else has one just like it.

Note that I’m not using the word “beginner.” When you talk to a potential client, discuss what you can bring to the table rather than what you don’t have. Never use the word “beginner,” even if
you feel like one! Never say “I have no experience.” This simple trick has allowed me to win many good jobs and many great clients over the years. It’s called positive attitude.

Cruising

The second stage of a career is what I’ll call “cruising along.” You’ve learned the basics. You use the tools of the trade, and you know where to find help and training opportunities. When I hit a terrible slump after 15 successful years, I spent about a year—and a hefty amount of money—to understand why this happened and how to fix it. Mainly, the keyword was “marketing,” which I knew nothing about and avoided like the plague. So, I learned from the best, applied their methods, and tripled my turnover the next year.

Do you still do your “little” translations? Some of my friends think this is my hobby, like knitting. (Mind you, I love knitting!) But this is different, and many times people don’t see it that way. Being a translator or interpreter is not a hobby, not just a job—it’s a professional career. A business. Give yourself the tools and make sure people see you as a professional!

What do I mean by that?

• I don’t believe translation can be an activity on the side just because one is fluent in two languages. It takes much more than that.
• It requires continuous learning. Everything changes (the market, technology, yourself).
• Use the tools! Have a website, a social media presence, business cards, etc.
• Having a specialization can be a plus. However, that’s not in my DNA. I tend to be interested in everything and learn, learn, learn. That’s what works for me. I learned how to succeed while being myself.
• Honesty and transparency: I’ve never had any issues discussing my flaws and my errors. Likewise, I love to tell the world about my great achievements!

At this point, you should have reached a good level of self-confidence. So, how about venturing outside the box? Consider jobs you never thought were for you, new areas, or topics that interest you but were never explored? I’ve had a few surprising opportunities recently, including engineering, automotive, defense, and solar panel technology: new fields that intrigued me. The internet and our networks are gold mines for information and discovery. We’ve a plethora of tools available, so why not take a leap? I did, because I was fortunate that some clients trusted me even though I had little experience. I delivered top quality, while learning and growing personally. A win–win story, for sure!

Settling

The third stage happens when you start getting on in years. Since turning 70 a few years ago, I’ve been reflecting on aging, my future, and how to manage all of this with grace. Age is not in your mind. It’s your reality. If you’re 70, it really doesn’t help to think and live as if you’re 40. The choice is to endure aging as a fate or embrace it and make the best of it. Again, it’s about positive attitude and joy. Personally, I wish I had begun to think about this earlier in my life, but it’s never too late.

Every music has a beat. Take out the beat and you have no music.

Everyone’s reality is different (finance, family, health, etc.). Therefore, it’s important to stop and examine your own situation. Some questions to ask yourself include:

• How am I doing, in general?
• Do I have enough joy in my life?
• What are the good/positive aspects of my life?
• What are the unsatisfactory aspects?
• How is my health?
• Am I happy with my work/life balance?
• What about my future?

Here’s what I did (and still do, now and then):

• I made peace with some past choices and errors in my personal life that hurt people I love dearly. Some conversations were difficult and emotional, but the whole process was highly liberating.
• I reoriented my career to focus on projects that make me grow and bring me joy.
• I reduced my income objectives to be more available to my large family.
• I try to understand how my age is perceived by prospects in a market mostly composed of people much younger than me.
• I focus on the benefits of aging: the wisdom, the comfort of not having anything to prove, the joy of mentoring, the gratification from pro bono work, and the pride of still being productive.

Last October, the Rolling Stones released their 23rd album, Hackney Diamond. It topped the U.K.’s Official Album Chart immediately. To me, this says “anything is possible.” Don’t hesitate to contact me and share your own experiences, ideas, and opinions. I’d love to read them! Happy translating! 

Marguerite (aka Grite) Storm is a French-speaking Belgian native who moved to the U.S. in 1997. She is based in the Dallas, Texas, area and spends around six months per year in France. She has a college degree in journalism from a Belgian school, a certificate in translation from New York University, and a Certificat Voltaire and Certification Le Robert attesting excellence in the French language. She has been a full-time English-French and Dutch-French translator since 2000. grite@translationfrench.com
Honors and Awards Recipients

ATA and the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation present annual and biennial awards to encourage, reward, and publicize outstanding work done by both seasoned professionals and students of our craft.

Mentoring Award
Rosario (Charo) Welle

Rosario (Charo) Welle is the recipient of the 2023 ATA Mentoring Award, which recognizes a person or entity that has provided outstanding mentoring to the next generation of translators and interpreters, either through ATA’s Mentoring Program or another channel.

Rosario is an accomplished language professional with over two decades of experience in corporate and institutional communications, public relations, marketing, education, and health care in both the U.S. and Latin America. Since joining ATA in 2001, she has served in various ATA divisions, including the Spanish Language Division, the Audiovisual Division, and most recently as the administrator of the Translation Company Division.

Rosario has passionately and effectively leveraged these roles to mentor new ATA members and help them make professional connections. Colleagues look to her as a welcoming and encouraging guide for newcomers to explore volunteering opportunities within ATA, get involved in the translation and interpreting community, and further develop their skills. She also actively connects newcomers with industry leaders and peers who share similar professional goals or areas of specialization.

Described by one colleague as “a born communicator and teacher,” Rosario is always willing and ready to share her knowledge and experience with fellow translators and interpreters to help them advance in their careers. She is generous with her time, energy, knowledge, and support, advising colleagues on a broad range of issues, such as improving client communication, growing professional presence and visibility, and grappling with translation and terminology challenges. She also motivates colleagues to enroll in educational programs, attain certificates, and achieve new professional heights.

The award acknowledges the glowing testaments of admiration Rosario has garnered. Colleagues say that she is “a powerhouse with infinite energy” and “has a heart of gold and an incredible amount of wisdom.” The award also serves as a commendation for Rosario’s extensive involvement within ATA, which has enabled her to continuously mentor and impact countless colleagues. The award ultimately shows appreciation for the remarkable qualities of a great mentor that Rosario embodies: the spirit of service, empowering influence, and the ability to encourage diverse individuals to realize their own unique aspirations and potential.
ATA Student Translation Award
Yevheniia Dubrova

Yevheniia Dubrova is the recipient of the 2023 ATA Student Translation Award. The award is presented to any graduate or undergraduate student, or group of students, for a literary or sci-tech translation or translation-related project.

Yevheniia, a student from Dartmouth College, undertook the translation of Bohdana Matiyash’s poetry collection, Your Beloved Dogs and Other Animals, from Ukrainian into English. Matiyash is the author of five collections of poems in Ukrainian, none of which have been translated into English in their entirety.

In her application, Yevheniia notes, “Things that keep Ukrainian people going are hope, faith, nature, our beloved pets, and the people that we love, and Bohdana’s poetry is able to be the message of hope and light that shines through even in the midst of terrible darkness.”

Members of ATA’s Honors and Awards Committee found the translation to be a pleasure to read and were excited to see young talent. They felt Yevheniia had been particularly successful in conveying the pacing and ambiguous sense of the original, despite the dramatically different grammatical structures of Ukrainian and English.

Yevheniia is a writer and literary translator from Donetsk, Ukraine. She is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in English and creative writing at Dartmouth College. Yevheniia writes fiction and nonfiction set in her home country and in the U.S., where she found herself five years ago, and translates prose and poetry from Ukrainian.

Rising Star Award
María Paula Plazas

María Paula Plazas is the recipient of the 2023 ATA Rising Star Award, which recognizes an early-career translator, interpreter, or entity that has already “made a mark” on ATA and is seen as having great potential to positively impact ATA and the language industry.

Paula is a native Spanish speaker born in Argentina and currently based in Uruguay. She has a bachelor’s degree in English-Spanish translation from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba and a master’s degree in audiovisual translation (localization, subtitling, and dubbing) from the Instituto Superior de Estudios Lingüísticos y Traducción.

An ATA-certified English-Spanish translator, she currently serves as the administrator of ATA’s Medical Division. She is also a champion for linguists in Latin America, sharing her knowledge to empower her colleagues in the field. She has hosted localization get-togethers in Montevideo and co-organized a translation and interpreting conference (Congreso Uruguayo de Traducción e Interpretación) in Montevideo.

As a translator, she specializes in health insurance and employee benefits and helps U.S. health care providers and insurance companies connect with their patients in Spanish. She is also passionate about sharing Spanish grammar rules and translation resources with the translation community, which she does through her social media and blog.

We can’t wait to see what’s next for her in her career!
SAFIRA AMAZAN began her career in the T&I industry over a decade ago. Along the way, she earned a master’s degree in legal translation and international law from New York University. She is a certified medical interpreter, teaching English as a second language/teaching English as a foreign language instructor, and culture coach promoting Creoles (including Haitian Creole) and other marginalized languages. She has also served as a women’s rights advocate, supporting the fight to end domestic violence and rape.

MARIA GASPAR is an immigrant from Guatemala. One of the languages she interprets is Chuj, an Indigenous Mayan language from her native Guatemala. Facing the challenges of adapting to another culture and language during part of her childhood and teenage years has helped her learn and understand the struggles that many immigrants coming to the U.S. face. Being an interpreter has given her the opportunity to aid many Chuj and Spanish speakers in navigating various health care systems, courtrooms, immigration, and social services in the U.S.

NAEL HIJJO is a scholar member of the New University in Exile Consortium and a former Mellon Fellow at Columbia University’s Global Centers. He is an English>Arabic translator and interpreter with 15 years of experience in the industry. Nael has a PhD in translation studies, an MA in linguistics, and a BA in English and French.

ERIN LAFARGUE is a freelance Spanish>English translator and certified health care interpreter based in Los Angeles, California. After completing her MA in translation at Kent State University, Erin moved to LA to start her career and share her passion for language access and language justice. She is now in her second year as a full-time freelancer. In the next year, she intends to continue growing her business while expanding her knowledge through conferences, mentorship programs, and trainings.

ATA’s Membership Diversity Award is made possible thanks to the generosity of long-time ATA Member Lucy Gunderson. Click the highlighted text to learn more about the ATA Membership Diversity Award and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in ATA.
Ungar German Translation Award

Damion Searls

Damion Searls is the recipient of the 2023 Ungar German Translation Award for his translation of Trees: An Anthology of Writings and Paintings, a curated collection of works by Nobel-prize winning German author Herman Hesse.

Hermann Hesse understood trees to be symbols of transcendence and rebirth, of instinctive growth present in all-natural life. This collection of his essays, poems, and passages on trees, accompanied by 31 of his watercolor illustrations, reveals his inspired thoughts on nature, spirituality, and self-knowledge. Together, his writings and paintings mirror the seasons and landscapes as he experienced them and help remind readers that trees’ annual rings are representations of our own days’ struggle, happiness, and purpose.

Translating this book requires a great breadth of talent, skill, and knowledge. One of the particular challenges of this book is the requirement that the translator needs to be able to translate both poetry and prose fluidly, and at the same time, capably master the transition of moving seamlessly between these two voices.

The various essays and poems in this collection each have their own literary identity, although all of them are tree-centric. The vocabulary is nuanced and wide-ranging. Hesse is extremely specific in his language, so an advanced and elevated English vocabulary is required, but without sacrificing the inherent natural quality of the underlying work. The texts are fluid and rich; they read as a text should read in English and there is no awkwardness. The English translation flows very naturally, and it’s never obvious that this is a translated text. The reader is truly impressed by the translator’s ability to translate the poems and render their rhymes, meter, and content just as perfectly as the essays and reminiscences that are part of this book.

Hesse (1877–1962) was born in Germany and later became a citizen of Switzerland. As a Western man profoundly affected by the mysticism of Eastern thought, he wrote many novels, stories, and essays that bear a vital spiritual force that has captured the imagination and loyalty of many generations of readers. In 1946, he won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Damion has translated 60 books of classic modern literature from German, Norwegian, French, and Dutch, including Thomas Mann’s New Selected Stories, Victoria Kelland’s My Men, Ludwig Wittgenstein’s Tractatus, Felix Salten’s Bambi, and 11 books by 2023 Nobel Prize winner Jon Fosse. His own writing includes fiction, poetry, a biography of the creator of the Rorschach Test (translated into 10 languages), and The Philosophy of Translation.

Damion has degrees in philosophy from Harvard and English from the University of California–Berkeley, and has received Guggenheim, Cullman Center, and NEA fellowships among numerous other writing and translating awards.

The Ungar German Translation Award may be bestowed biennially in odd-numbered years for a distinguished literary translation from German into English that has been published in the U.S.
The American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) offers a limited number of $500 scholarships to students/recent graduates of translation or interpreting studies programs or related fields to help defray the cost of attending ATA’s Annual Conference.

Recipients of the AFTI First-Time ATA Conference Attendee Scholarship must be current full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students at a two-year or four-year college or university enrolled in a program in translation, interpreting, or both, or a related field (e.g., terminology management, translation project management, etc.) leading to an academic degree or certificate. The 2023 recipients were ranked by the quality of their answers to essay questions, their awards, scholarships, certificates, and other recognition, their participation in T&I activities (e.g., events, groups, clubs, programs), their grade point average, and nearness to graduation. After careful deliberation, AFTI’s selection committee chose those outstanding students who had detailed plans for a career in T&I and realistic and detailed goals for attending ATA’s Annual Conference. The 2023 recipients are:

Michelle Lampinen
Kent State University
Michelle Lampinen is an educator and translator specializing in educational translation (Spanish into English). She is a high school assistant principal at an international school in San José, Costa Rica, where she also works with the communications team translating and post-editing marketing materials and communications for students and their families. Michelle is in her third and final year of the MA in translation (Spanish) online program at Kent State University.

Stephanie (Yi) Lu
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
Stephanie (Yi) Lu received an MA in conference interpreting from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) in 2023. She previously worked as a language service intern at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, as well as a public information intern at the United Nations. Based in the Washington, DC area, she will graduate with a degree in translation and localization management from MIIS in May 2024.

Michael Renner
Kent State University
Michael Renner is a graduate student at Kent State University, where he is completing an MA in translation with a concentration in Arabic. A
veteran, he served as an Arabic linguist for eight years. During his time as a linguist, Michael attended the 64-week Modern Standard Arabic basic course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. He also participated in a language immersion program in Rabat, Morocco. He gained translation experience while participating in a joint training exercise in Amman, Jordan.

Florencia Wisner
Houston Community College

Florencia Wisner was born and raised in Bahía Blanca, Argentina, and her upbringing kindled a passion for languages. Her path led her to become an English as a second language teacher working at schools, corporations, and, after making a move to Buenos Aires, as a teacher coordinator at the British Council. She moved to Houston, Texas, in 2020, where she pursued her associate degree in translation and interpreting at Houston Community College, where she graduated in May 2023. Currently, she is a strategic solutions representative.

Founded in 1997, AFTI is a 501(c) (3) foundation affiliated with the American Translators Association. AFTI—ATA’s charitable arm—supports activities, education, and research in support of the translation and interpreting professions. AFTI promotes this objective by bestowing awards and scholarships, as well as sponsoring conference attendance and presentations.

Dynamo Award
Karen Leube

Karen Leube is the recipient of the 2023 ATA Dynamo Award, which recognizes a person or entity that has worked in a particularly energetic way to benefit ATA and/or the language professions.

Next year will mark Karen’s 20th anniversary as an ATA member. She joined ATA’s German Language Division (GLD) Leadership Council in 2012, when the position of “GLD European coordinator” was created in response to a need to boost networking opportunities for GLD members based in Europe. In 2020, Karen was appointed the division’s assistant administrator, and she has served as the administrator since 2022.

Karen is a dynamic member who has shown great dedication to our profession. She took over the GLD when its future was quite uncertain and was left without a leader. She worked tirelessly to bring the division to working order again.

In addition to her work for ATA, Karen is a freelance translator and translator trainer based in Aachen, Germany. She served on the faculty of the universities of Heidelberg and Mainz, where she offered courses on biomedical technology and general medical translation in cooperation with local hospitals and research institutions.

Since establishing her freelance business in 2004, she has taught numerous continuing education courses for translators and interpreters. Twelve of her book translations have been published to date, including Thomas Häusler’s Gesund durch Viren (Viruses vs. Superbugs). Karen also specializes in international development cooperation and has worked both in-house and as an external service-provider for a major development cooperation agency in Germany for over two decades.
Fátima Cornwall, a Portuguese and Spanish federally and state certified court interpreter, Spanish certified medical interpreter (National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters), and full-time Spanish teacher at Boise State University in Idaho, won the 2023 ATA School Outreach Contest. She received a free registration to ATA’s 64th Annual Conference in Miami, Florida, for submitting a story and photo she took with students who were visiting Boise State University for a field trip.

Serving Idaho High School Students

When a teacher from Rigby High School in Rigby, Idaho, was contemplating taking her 10th grade Spanish students on a field trip to Boise State and asked for an activity for her students, Fátima immediately had an idea. She prepared a special presentation that revolved around using Spanish for specific purposes, and more specifically medical interpreting.

The teacher said yes and the field trip was planned. The Spanish 202 students that visited Fátima at Boise State were part of concurrent enrollment, which allows high school students in Idaho to earn both college and high school credit for college courses offered at their high school. High school concurrent enrollment instructors use Boise State curriculum, books, and grading scales.

The day the students visited Fátima, they also got a tour of campus, received their student IDs, and more. “We gave them the experience of what it’s like to be a university student,” Fátima said.

An Interactive Presentation on Medical Interpreting

When asked about the presentation, Fátima’s first reaction was, “It was so much fun!” Fátima had invited a fellow interpreter to help her with the presentation, saying “Two heads are better than one!”

The presentation highlighted the shortage of certified interpreters in Idaho, interpreting as a career, the skills needed to be an interpreter, and how to work with an interpreter. The students also practiced consecutive interpreting using a short script.

“The students had to catch the bus at 6:00 a.m. for the four-hour ride to Boise, so we really had to keep things upbeat.” Fátima and her colleague started with questions along the lines of “Guess how many interpreters...?” and brought chocolate for all who volunteered their answers.

Then, they explained and modeled consecutive interpreting. Once the students had a general idea of what interpreting entailed, they were allowed to use their phones to research vocabulary and create a glossary. With glossaries in hand, students paired up for practice.

“To end on a fun note, we asked for three volunteers to play the role of doctor, patient, and interpreter and to wear the props we brought: a lab coat, stethoscope, Band-Aids, notepad, and name tags.” The students used the script to redo the activity in front of the class and Fátima and her colleague gave them some feedback.

The presentation wrapped up with an awards ceremony, where students selected the best actor. “The interpreter won!” Fátima exclaimed.

The winner got a statuette similar to those given out at the Oscars for their best performance.

When asked what the students thought, Fátima was happy to report that “Some students thanked us at the end, and the teacher...”
was very pleased with the full immersion experience.”

**Inspiration for Participating in School Outreach**

Fátima says her reasons for giving a School Outreach presentation were quite personal. “When I look back at my formative years, I remember people always asking, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ In college, the question turned to ‘What is your major and what are you going to do with it?’” Fátima never had the opportunity to attend any type of career exploration class. When she was in school, there was no such thing as take your children to work day or internships to expose students to possible careers.

“Thankfully, things have changed,” she said. “I really enjoy talking about being an interpreter. And although many students will not follow that path, they may one day have to work with an interpreter as future attorneys, nurses, doctors, etc. So maybe, just maybe, they will remember to speak slowly and clearly, use the first person when addressing the person with limited language proficiency, cut back on the jargon—you know, little things that make interpreters’ lives much easier.”

**A Cross-Continental Life that Led to a Career in Languages**

Fátima’s parents immigrated from the Azores Islands in Portugal to the U.S. during the Salazar regime. “My sisters and I were born in the U.S., but in 1974 we all moved back to the Azores.”

“And in 1992, I came back to the U.S., where I now live.” She got her BA in Spanish and her MA in Spanish in the U.S., and then stumbled into interpreting by chance. “Like many of my students, I was pursuing a major in Spanish and had no clue what I could do with it as far as a profession.”

Fátima recalls the exact moment when interpreting entered her life. Her college graduation was fast approaching, and one day her husband was reading the newspaper and saw that the Idaho Supreme Court was offering free interpreter training. “I had never heard of translation or interpreting but thought, ‘Why not?’”

Fátima loved everything about the training, especially the instructors Holly Mikkelson and Alee Alger Robbins. “I knew then that I was being taught by our professions’ giants! The rest is history.”

Fátima is now a federally and state certified court interpreter in Spanish and Portuguese and is also a certified Spanish medical interpreter (National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters). While she doesn’t necessarily think of it as a specialization, her knowledge of European Portuguese is what often gets her hired for specific jobs.

In her current position at Boise State University, her focus is on teaching Elementary Spanish 1, Introduction to Court Interpretation, and Spanish for Healthcare. This job keeps her busy, which means she mostly interprets part-time during school breaks. Since the pandemic, she’s had the opportunity to interpret remotely for court hearings. “This is especially nice because there aren’t that many certified Portuguese court interpreters. That means I can help remotely with hearing while colleagues can team up for trials, for example.”

When asked what she loves best about the art of interpreting, she said she loves to learn, and the learning never ends when you work as an interpreter. “Idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms are a big challenge for me because I’m neither a native English nor a native Spanish speaker. But then that is how I justify all my online book purchases!” She loves having the excuse to buy books and justify it by saying it’s “professional development” rather than her guilty pleasure.

But the learning doesn’t stop at new terms. “I’ve been lucky to work with amazing colleagues, judges, and attorneys who have taught me a lot.” She explained further by giving this example. “I met a public defender who spoke Spanish rather well and, while waiting for a client at the jail, he started pitching the idea of a mock trial for my students at the Ada County Courthouse, our local courthouse.” Fátima was immediately interested. “The public defender created fake documents we could use, including indictments, opening statements, direct examinations, and more. We invited another attorney to play the role of prosecutor and a uniformed police officer to come and testify.” As a result, her students had the opportunity to interpret for school administrators and guests, and the attorneys, judge, and police officer learned about the obstacles interpreters face while interpreting, including the rate of speech, acronyms, police jargon, and more. Fátima said it was really a unique and enriching learning experience for everyone involved.

**Get Involved in the School Outreach Effort**

Join our efforts! The 2024 School Outreach Contest is now open and the winner will receive a free registration to ATA’s 65th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, from October 30–November 2, 2024. Contest submissions are accepted for photos and stories from presentations to any age group in any educational setting, anywhere in the world, from pre-school to college to adult education. The contest deadline is July 31, 2024. For more information, see [ATA’s School Outreach page](#).
How I Became a Member of the “ATA Class of 2023”

I had been toying with the thought of becoming ATA-certified since I started translating full-time in 2010 and becoming an ATA member in 2011. The main thing holding me back was the intimidating statistics. Not only had I heard about the low passing rate of less than 20%, but I knew some great and experienced translators who either did not dare to take the exam or had failed it once or even twice before either giving up or passing on a subsequent try. Years went by while I convinced myself that I might not need this qualification in the first place or that I would wait for a more convenient time. As life goes, that convenient time never came. Instead, 12 years after venturing into professional translation, I decided it was time for a new challenge to kick my career into the next gear.

First Stop: Practice Test

One slow morning in November 2022, I decided to order the practice test from ATA’s website and take care of it that same day. As recommended in the instructions, I simulated the conditions for the actual exam as closely as possible by taking the following steps:

- I set aside 90 minutes of uninterrupted time (while the actual exam consists of two passages to be completed in three hours, the practice test only consists of one).
- I checked ATA’s website to see which online dictionaries and resources are allowed during the actual exam and opened the ones I intended to use, which were pretty much the same ones I like to use in my daily work.
- I downloaded Word Pad, since you are not allowed to use a spell checker during the actual exam.
- I paid the fee, downloaded the practice test, set my timer for 90 minutes, and off I went.

I delivered my translation that same afternoon by uploading it to the online portal (the link was provided in the instructions). Approximately four weeks later, I received my result and was excited to learn I had passed with 13 out of 17 allowed error points! The nice thing about the practice test is that, unlike the real exam, you get to see all the corrections with detailed explanations of why those things were marked wrong, including the grader’s recommendations for how to improve on any weak areas you may have. This was extremely helpful.
While this was definitely not an easy journey or task, I feel like it was and will be worth the effort in the long run.

2. The group member organizing the round decided who would proofread whose translations for that two-week period. We rotated the translation/proofreading pairs for each round to get different feedback from different members.

3. We had two weeks to translate our passages and send them to our colleague for review, and we met every other week by Zoom to discuss the passages, translation options, difficulties, questions, etc.

4. Another group member would then take charge of the next round.

Despite my initial apprehension, our study group got off to a great start. We were lucky to have a very committed and dynamic group of people and every discussion turned into an enriching and fruitful learning experience. Each of us brought different specializations and strengths to the table, so I felt we all learned a great deal during those months of studying together, not only for the
exam but also our day-to-day work in general.

**Taking the Plunge—but Not without Dodging a Few Curve Balls**

As soon as ATA’s exam season opened in July, I decided it was time to take the plunge. I signed up for the on-demand exam with only four days lead time, as my nerves tend to get the best of me when I leave too much time before big events. What I didn’t expect were the additional roadblocks I would face due to the technical requirements and glitches of ATA’s exam platform provider, ExamRoom.AI.

The first curve ball was learning that I would not be able to use keyboard shortcuts on a U.S. or international keyboard, which was a problem since I needed to type special German characters. Amazon to the rescue, where I quickly ordered a German keyboard. It arrived the night before the exam and I practiced on it for about 20 minutes. I discovered later that I could have made software adjustments and used my existing keyboard after all. But in my case, I still preferred to have the physical German keyboard because multiple keys (such as umlauts, question marks, colons, and others) are different between those keyboards, so I wanted to know their location, just in case.

To save time and energy, I completed all the preparatory steps on ExamRoom.AI beforehand, including the ID check, facial recognition, device check, downloading the exam app onto my phone (in addition to my computer), etc.

The morning of the exam came. After fueling up with some coffee and breakfast, I sat at the ready and logged into the exam platform about 10 minutes before the scheduled start. A tech guy joined by video chat a few minutes after go–time, checked all my devices, and had me do a sweep of my room with my phone camera, including underneath my desk and chair! After all the technical and room checks were completed, my exam proctor came on by voice call, this time without a video window. To name one of the positives first: my proctor was extremely helpful, responsive, and patient, never making me feel as if I asked too many questions.

I received the three passages and the exam room timer on my screen started running. You get to choose two of the three passages, so I started by reading all three to get a feel for them. I quickly knew which one I wanted to tackle first but was not yet sure which one to pick of the remaining two, so I left that decision for later. As I was antsy to get started, I quickly dove into translating my first choice. It was encouraging to find that all three exam passages seemed to be of a similar caliber and difficulty level as the ones we had been working on with our study group.

However, what greatly added to my nervousness was the fact that the platform wouldn’t let me click on words or sentence parts I had already translated and wanted to correct. I asked my proctor what was going on. She double–checked with her team and informed me I would have to use the left/right/up/down arrow keys to navigate through my texts. Given that you can only start scrolling at the end of each line, this caused unexpected and unnecessary delays in completing/editing my translations. This was especially time-consuming if you needed to reword an entire sentence or passage.

In addition, due to another platform glitch, I was not able to use LEO or Wikipedia, even though they were on the list of ATA permitted resources. ATA cautions that there are no guarantees that individual websites will work on the day of the exam, so candidates should be ready with alternatives, including paper dictionaries. Luckily, I was able to use Linguee, which I also use regularly in my daily translation practice, so it all worked out for me.

After finishing the first passage, I asked to use the restroom so I could get up from my desk. This short break gave me a chance to reset before tackling the second passage. I also reread my translation of the first passage after finishing my draft of the second passage, which helped me find some mistakes I didn’t notice during my first correction round. In addition, I made sure to use every second of those three hours for rereading and fine–tuning my translations.

**Tasting the Fruits of My Labor**

Given the technical obstacles that took time away from my translating and fine–tuning steps, I feared there was a significant chance I had failed the exam despite all my preparation. Knowing that the grading would take 8–16 weeks, I had to do my best to put the exam out of my mind for a while and just wait to see what would happen. About eight weeks later, I was so unbelievably thrilled to find out I had passed the exam! I’m extremely proud to be able to call myself an ATA-certified translator! While this was definitely not an easy journey or task, I feel like it was and will be worth the effort in the long run.

As an added bonus, I just learned that one of my study mates also took the leap and joined the “ATA Class of 2023” last week! Welcome to the club. I hope my story will help others who are considering taking the exam.

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**Melanie Meyer, CT** is an ATA-certified English>German translator. She began her career in the human resources department of the U.S. embassy in Germany, where she worked as an assistant and later managed the day-to-day operation of the American Personnel Support Unit for all agencies at the post. She started her own business as a professional English>German freelance translator specializing in marketing, market research, retail, cosmetics, and fitness and health in 2010, and joined ATA in 2011. She founded Word Flow LLC in January 2023. melanie@word-flow.com
Congratulations! The following members have successfully passed ATA’s certification exam!

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ATA ELECTIONS 2024:
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The 2024 Nominating and Leadership Development Committee is pleased to announce the call for nominations from ATA’s membership to fill the following positions:

- President–Elect (one unexpired position to be filled for a remaining term of one year).
- Director (three regular positions, each for a three-year term).
- Director (one unexpired position to be filled for a remaining term of one year).

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of Voting Members during ATA’s 65th Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, October 30–November 2, 2024!

Who Is Eligible to Be Nominated?
Under ATA’s Bylaws, all Active members of ATA are eligible to run for elected office. Active members are those who have passed an ATA certification exam or who are established as having achieved professional status through Active Membership Review or through the Credentialed Interpreter recognition process.

Active members must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. Other member categories are not eligible to serve as officers or directors. However, any member may submit a nomination.

Members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee are not eligible to run for elected office.

Submitting Your Nomination
Any ATA member may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are also permitted and encouraged.

Members may make a nomination using the online form on the elections page on ATA’s website. Nominations should be submitted as early as possible so that the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee can fully consider proposed candidates. The deadline is March 29, 2024.

Before submitting your nomination:
- Contact the nominee first, explaining your intention and the fact that a nomination does not guarantee a formal invitation to run for office.
- Keep in mind that ATA officers and directors serve on a volunteer basis. Please do not nominate colleagues who express serious concerns about service, or who have conflicting priorities.

If a nomination is not put forward by the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee to ATA’s Board of Directors, an Active member may petition to be added to the slate of candidates by submitting the nomination in writing along with the signatures of at least 60 Voting members endorsing the nomination. The petitions must be received by the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee no later than 30 calendar days after first publication by the Board of Directors of the names of the candidates proposed by the committee.

Make a Nomination
Questions? Need More Information?
Interested in how the nomination process works? Then read the article by ATA’s Nominating and Leadership Development Committee on page 7 of this issue! You can also contact nominations@atanet.org.
Attend educational sessions, job recruitment events, and networking opportunities designed specifically for professional translators and interpreters.

At ATA’s Annual Conference, you have the opportunity to enhance your skills and grow your business by learning practical and effective solutions to overcome the challenges you face. By discovering the latest developments affecting you, your clients, and the language services industry, you’ll be prepared for what the future brings!

EXHIBITOR & SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Reach a targeted audience needing your specific products and services. Keep watching the ATA65 website for details on promotional packages to fit any budget!

BOOK YOUR HOTEL

Special discounted rates are available at the Hyatt Regency Portland at the Oregon Convention Center (Headquarters Hotel) and DoubleTree by Hilton until October 4 or as space allows. More info here.