



Newsletter: Spring Edition

“Perspectives and Reflections” March 2011

“Together we move forward with unity, strengthening partnerships in the Deaf community, raising the bar in quality of service and improving communication at all levels.” - Cheryl Moose

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“It was interesting to gain a peek into the world of spoken language interpreters and hear ... the effect that this technology would have on our spoken language colleagues.”

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“Sometimes no feedback is the best solution as we find out ourselves - through reasoning, trial and error or modelling - the best strategy to apply.”

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“The recent economic crisis has challenged the provision of sign language interpreters and put their employment opportunities at risk.”

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From left to right:

Stéphane Gobert, secretary (AFILS, France)
Maya de Wit, president (NBTG, Netherlands)
Marinella Salami, vice president & head of training department (ANIOS, Italy)
Liivi Hollman, member (EVKTÜ, Estonia)
Paul Pryce-Jones, treasurer (ASLI, England, Wales & Northern Ireland)

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www.efsli.org

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If you have any sign language interpreter news, what is happening with your national association, details of your Annual General Meeting or your Conference, knowledge of upcoming training events or other related events, then please share them with us. Send details to the Editor at newsletter@efsli.org

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Perceptions and Reflections

by Tim Curry Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to another edition of the efsli Newsletter. I am happy and excited to be the new Editor and look forward to reading articles from so many perspectives. First let me briefly introduce myself. I am originally from the USA and was educated as an astrophysicist, actor and later as a sign language interpreter. I worked as a certified freelance ASL/English interpreter until 2006, when I moved to the Czech Republic. Here I continue to be involved with the Deaf and interpreting communities, teaching interpreting courses, mentoring, and interpreting. I have since gotten over the feeling of being a “stranger in a strange land” and find it fascinating to know from experience that we as interpreters are not just bilingual-bicultural; rather, our work is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual profession with many facets on which to reflect.

The theme for this issue is “Perceptions and Reflections”. As it has been said, “history repeats itself”, unfortunately that includes the good, the bad and the ugly. Luckily, it’s not always a perfect repetition. Plus, history is like our present reality, it is different from each individual perspective. Thus, when we reflect on our history, whether it is the interpreting profession or the last interpreting assignment we did, we should also view it through as many eyes as we can. My perception of my own interpretation is different than that of those I’m serving. That is an obvious reason to accept and hope for feedback. It is also the feedback of our professional peers, from which we gain so much.

Cheryl Moose’s article takes us on a tour of the oldest interpreting organisation and how they have grown by leaning on each other and gaining strength from the multiple perspectives of their membership. Reports from our board and members that have participated in various conferences and events give us inspiration that we may not have had before or a new understanding that enables us to strive for improvement. The two articles of introduction by efsli’s newest full members allow us to have an



even broader vision of our profession. The latest reminder of this year’s efsli conference in Italy will have us all longing for such spectacular views, to be sure.

As you read each article and browse the calendar of upcoming events, look back at where you were last year, three years or ten years ago. Compare that time to this year and the soon to be tomorrows. It’s hard to see the future, but it’s easy to dream. As Edgar Allen Poe said, “Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.”

Letters to the Editor or articles can be submitted to newsletter@efsli.org.

Deadlines for submission:

Spring Edition: February 15

Summer Edition: May 15

Winter Edition: November 15



The efsli year 2011 started with the efsli board meeting in Amsterdam, where the efsli board met for three days to discuss the activities and plans for 2011. Thanks to the EU operating grant efsli has grown tremendously during the last year with three new full member organisations, 4 associate members and 51 individual members. This brings efsli now to 211 individual members, 16 associate members, and 27 full members. In December 2010 the efsli board applied for an operating grant for the coming three years. During March 2011 the efsli board will be informed of the result of this application. The results of 2010 have been delivered in an extensive report to the EU at the end of February.

To be able to carry out all these tasks the efsli board has had, since the end of November, administrative support by Minke Salomé from the Netherlands, which has proven to be very successful and helpful. Minke joined the efsli board for one evening at the meeting in Amsterdam to get to know each board member better and to discuss any open and future issues.

Not only has efsli grown in membership and activities, but also in the number of persons devoting their time to efsli tasks. The last issue of this Newsletter was developed by the efsli board, but since then we are happy that Tim Curry has taken on this role in providing all efsli members with an excellent edition of this Newsletter. The committee on membership fees, which was established at the last AGM, have carried out surveys and had online discussions in order to make a new proposal at the upcoming AGM. In addition, our new efsli Research Fund (eRF) has been promoting applications and so did the Special Attendance Fund (SAF). Efsli would not be efsli if not for the enthusiastic involvement of all these volunteers and members who contribute to our growing network across Europe.

The organisation of our annual highlight, the efsli conference, is well underway. This will be the first time the efsli conference will take place in Italy and hosted by ANIOS. The scientific committee has worked hard to put together a promising programme that matches the topic and the interest of all participants. Prior to the conference, EUMASLI will provide a two day seminar with the MA presentations of the first EUMASLI pilot group. This event will take place at the same venue as the efsli conference. For our efsli individual members we offer the special boat cruise along the Amalfi coast on Friday evening for free. So if you are not an individual member of efsli, join now online at www.efqli.org.

The efsli board is very much looking forward to seeing you all in Italy!

Maya de Wit
efsli president

Performing Arts Interpreting: efsli winter school 2011

Foreword by Marinella Salami – Head of efsli Training Department



From left to right: Anna Smehilova (EFFETA), Zane Hema (trainer) and Marinella Salami (efsli)

Curtains open and an illuminated stage is revealed. Whatever a performance may be (a theatre play, a concert or a poetry reading), a sign language interpreter might be there, ready to face a new professional challenge. The latest efsli school put performing arts interpreting under the spotlight. Being aware that sign language interpreters are trained differently across Europe, efsli chose this specialty interpreting hoping to draw common theoretical principles and practice.

Zane Hema, former efsli Board member and a professional sign language interpreter and trainer based in the UK, shared his longstanding experience with a group of 15 highly-motivated colleagues coming from different European countries. The result was an inspiring training with effective group work, hands-on practice of great impact and ... a lot of fun. The feedback collected from participants marked the training as "excellent" and praised the preparatory work done by efsli and EFFETA, our partner-organiser. The event was fully covered by local and national Slovak media with articles and television filming. Mirjam Stolk from the Netherlands took part in efsli winter school and kindly accepted to tell her own experience to our readers.

The next efsli schools are scheduled in 2012. Please keep an eye on the efsli website for the latest updates.

efsli winter school – My Own Experience

By Mirjam Stolk

During the weekend of 21-23 January, fifteen interpreters from all over Europe (including myself) joined the first efsli winter school ever in Nitra, Slovakia. The school's theme was 'Performing Arts Interpreting'. Under the competent guidance of experienced expert Zane Hema, the workshop leader, everybody soon came to discover his/her 'inner performer'. Already on the first day, we were asked to introduce ourselves, pretending to walk the cat-walk and striking poses while revealing more and more information about who we were. This was a fun way of getting to know each other, but also a very good way to break the ice so we would feel comfortable with each other for the rest of the weekend. And it worked!

We felt a little less comfortable about our homework though. A couple of weeks before the school, Zane had sent us a whole bunch of PDF, Word and Youtube files to prepare. Although everybody was very much looking forward to this winter school, the amount of preparation material was a bit of a shock to most of us ;-). So on the first day it turned out that hardly anybody had managed to finish all the homework Zane had given us. Fortunately, this was not a problem. In fact, I think three days of discussing different possibilities of interpreting poems, songs or (abstracts from) plays and seeing each other's work, caused some people to come up with even better performances than they would have done preparing at home.

>> continued on page



Mirjam Stolk introducing herself by walking the catwalk

Performing Arts Interpreting: efsli winter school 2011



Hard work to get prepared for the next performance on stage...

So we started off by interpreting Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare, not the easiest piece with which to work. It was quite interesting to see all of the different kinds of interpretations that were being made. For the second day we were supposed to interpret a poem, an abstract from a play and a song. As some of us weren't that well prepared as they would have liked to be, I'm guessing lights stayed on late that night....(mine did).

Nevertheless we were all full of energy the next day. It was going to be an exciting day of many performances and, as we were told that morning, a tour through the city of Nitra! The weather was very nice, so we were looking forward to a nice and sunny fresh-air-walk. But first we had to perform!

The venue had a stage with us, as the audience. The poem and play were being recited by one of our colleagues so it really felt as if we were interpreting a performing art. The songs were played by our very own sound technician Anna Šmehilová, who we had to nod to if we were ready to begin. Luckily we had the lovely Marinella Salami as our stage director to guide us, because we even had to remember directions for walking on and off stage and how to take a bow!

And as if all that wasn't stressing enough, Slovakian Television was also there to shoot some clips for the news later that night! No, I'm not kidding, we were on Slovakian National Television! How is that on your resume? We watched it all together later that night, before we went to have a lovely Slovakian dinner. Yes, day two was great, but day three would get even better!

The school was concluded with a wonderful showcase, which was filled with great, fun, beautiful, touching and exciting performances! After a couple of hours of pure entertainment, we all received our certificate with.... an efsli seal! How official!

This school made me remember, once more, why I became a Sign Language Interpreter: it's the greatest job in the world!



Performing on stage: Vera Jovanovic from Serbia



Marinella and Zane, efsli VJs at the efsli school showcase in Nitra



efsli winter school participants

How do we perceive ourselves as interpreters and how do those we serve perceive us?



Foreword by Tim Curry, Editor efsli Newsletter
The efsli Board is happy to introduce the newest full members of our organisation. This year we have two associations from Serbia joining the ranks of our professional group. We have asked each to write an introductory article about themselves and their work. When we meet them at the upcoming efsli 2011 conference, we will be able to greet them properly. Join us in welcoming UTLOSS and ATSZJ.

We are glad that we became full members of efsli. This organisation offers us many opportunities for collaboration with performers from around the world. We want to exchange experiences and improve our work with other people.

Julie and Diana presidents of UTLOSS were taught Sign Language by their parents, who are deaf. They like to say that this is their second language. Their whole life they have been working and living with persons with impaired hearing. Now the association has many members in all cities in Serbia.

Our Association provides assistance for people with hearing difficulties in everyday situations, to government agencies, health, marriages, court proceedings, theatre etc...

We give certificates for passed courses in sign language issues that are recognized by the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade. In addition to these activities, we conduct computer courses, painting, Spanish and English for Deaf and hard of hearing children and youth. We also organize performances in sign language in schools and theatres, and various educational seminars all over Serbia.

Every language, including the Serbian sign language is alive and as such is changing, and cannot be completely formalized. The problem is that deaf persons in different cities of Serbia use different signs for the same terms. UTLOSS through alternative forms of integration help persons who are deaf and offer them a chance to get the rights to equal opportunities, information, and personal

development according to their wishes and abilities. Young persons who are deaf do not have the same opportunities to obtain information as their friends who can hear; they have completely different interests, which limit their development within the generally accepted culture.

Our opinion is that interpreters facilitate the cross-cultural communication necessary in today's society by converting one language into another. However, we as language specialists do more than simply translate words—we relay concepts and ideas between languages. We must thoroughly understand the subject matter in which they work in order to accurately convey information from one language into another. In addition, we must be sensitive to the cultures associated with our languages of expertise. Sign language interpreters should hold very important jobs in our communities. They build the gap between the deaf and hearing and especially in events where the public is addressed. Our aim as interpreters is to make social integration of deaf people in society, eliminating prejudices and delusions by the population with normal hearing, and to make progress in achieving basic human rights of persons with hearing and communication facilitation as hearing people have.

We are implementing various projects for the deaf because we have a desire in reducing prejudice and improving their knowledge, cultural and sporting lives.

Our services mean a lot to the deaf because they know that they are not invisible in this world full of prejudice, they know that they have someone who understand them and want to help them in everyday life and in important situations such as: education, municipalities, trials, weddings, and unfortunately funerals, emergency medical services, interpretation of sign language on television, the presentation of fairy tales for young audiences, translating different events etc.

Deaf are as well as any other. They have the same needs, hopes and desires, and achieve success in different areas. We at UTLOSS, prepare newspapers that will represent the association's activities and provide information about successes, all activities of deaf people and information for deaf people in the fields of health, culture, sports, politics, education, where and how to find a job, etc.

Deaf people believe in our organization and offer to us their friendship and support; they are always present in UTLOSS.

Julijana Misko
Co-President UTLOSS



On 22nd of April 2010, the Association of Serbian Sign Language Interpreters (ATSZJ) was established. The association was founded with the aim to represent interests, to protect the ethical code, professionalism, material and moral rights of sign language interpreters. ATSZJ also takes part in counselling, professional training and research studies. Through vocational training, research, exchange of experiences and ongoing open discussion about the challenges of the profession, our association aims to promote and improve the profession and status of Serbian Sign Language interpreters, and to situate itself as a place where sign language interpreters (SLI) can deal with common professional challenges. 15 interpreters have joined the Association so far.

Another field of ATSZJ activities is promotion of cultural and linguistic identity of the Deaf, in cooperation with national and international organisations of Deaf. In this sense, the ATSZJ and the Serbian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing signed a Joint Statement on 20th October 2010.

On 3rd of December 2009 in Belgrade, the first interpreting service within a Deaf organisation was established with the support of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, The Persons with Disability Support Department. Six months later, 39 interpreting service centres were established within local Deaf organisations throughout Serbia. After six months of providing interpreting services, numerous challenges have been recognized. Interpreters in Serbia still see themselves as helpers of Deaf individuals in communication with hearing persons. Most Deaf people in Serbia see interpreters as community workers

(social workers). They expect interpreters to act in the traditional manner of helping and not involving them in communication. Hearing persons often see interpreters as personal assistants of Deaf individuals, not being aware that they need interpreters in communication with Deaf as well.

Without education, information about interpreters' profession, duties and rights, without a professional code of ethics, and without awareness within the Deaf community and among hearing SLI users on SLI profession, establishing ATSZJ was a logical step forward. Last year, as a first project, ATSZJ organised Training for Serbian Sign language interpreters mostly for those interpreters who are working in interpreting services. 25 interpreters from 14 cities participated in training. This training has helped interpreters to understand their role, rights and obligations in providing interpreting services in accordance with a professional code of ethics.

ATSZJ became EFSLI full member in December 2010. Cooperation between ATSZJ and EFSLI and all other European SLI Associations are essential for improving the profession of SLI, and social status and rights of Deaf people in Serbia and their linguistic identity, by sharing information, mutual support and further promotion of cooperation between organizations. ATSZJ aims to establish permanent SLI training, publish literature and advocate for social and legal recognition of Sign Language and the sign language interpreting profession.

Desanka Žižić
ATSZJ Executive Bureau member

The Strength of an Association is as Strong as its Members

by Cheryl Moose President, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Cheryl Moose, CI and CT, President of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, RID, currently earns her living as a free lance interpreter in the Chicago area and resides in South Elgin, Illinois. Cheryl interprets primarily in the specialized area of computer programming and software development.

From 1991 – 2003 Cheryl managed the sign language interpreting program at Lucent Technologies, Naperville, Illinois, where she and a staff of four interpreters coordinated and provided interpreting services for engineers and designers working in the telecommunications research and development field. During 2003 and 2004, Cheryl was the Director of Interpreter Operations for Communication Services for the Deaf, CSD, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and managed video relay service centres in Chicago and Washington DC. At the beginning of her career, during the early 1990s, Cheryl answered the call to volunteer service by chairing conference planning and RID committees at the state, regional and national level. Later, Cheryl served as the vice president and then, as president, of Illinois RID. She was elected RID Region III Representative in 2000, RID Secretary in 2003 and RID President in 2007. Cheryl has presented numerous workshops on a variety of topics including: “Video Interpreting”, “VRS Training”, “Interpreting in Technical Settings”, “Volunteering; Answering the Call” and “Leadership”. She has also facilitated leadership training and strategic planning for RID affiliate chapters. Cheryl has been a member of RID for over 20 years and believes her passion for volunteering started over 25 years ago when she saw the need for adult leaders in the Girl Scouts of the USA and the Pop Warner Youth Football and Youth Cheerleading organizations.

I have served on the board of directors for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) since September 2000, and have served as its president since August 2007. For the past 17 years, RID has annually reached an all-time high in membership numbers. It’s interesting to note that in 2000 RID had 5,000 members, in 2005 RID had 10,000 members and in 2010, RID reached 15,000 members. It’s an honour to serve so many professional sign language interpreters in the United States and abroad, however, while our strength resides in our members, our foundation is based in our affiliate chapters.

RID has 53 affiliate chapters. In accordance with RID policy, each state in the US is allowed one affiliate chapter unless it already has additional chapters in existence. RID realizes the power of the “whole” within the organization depends on the strength of each chapter. Affiliate chapters are a crucial element in RID’s overall structure as they are the touchstone of communication between the national headquarters and the board of directors to its members and stakeholders. RID has chapters in all but two of the 50 states, with representation in both Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The benefits of being affiliated with RID include a support system comprised of national committees, staff and other affiliate chapter leaders; resources including a comprehensive affiliate chapter handbook, mentoring grants and membership information and access to non-profit status through RID’s group exemption.

If the affiliate chapters are the foundation and the members are the bricks, then the affiliate chapter presidents are the mortar. Our 53 affiliate chapter presidents are the unsung heroes of RID. Without their collective strength, binding unity and fearless leadership, RID would crumble, teeter and fall. They serve the association at the state, regional and national level as volunteers, unpaid and, at times, feeling under-appreciated.

I have seen affiliate chapter presidents (and their colleagues), testify before legislators on behalf of the profession at state and federal hearings, lead the planning and execution of annual state conferences, run membership meetings flawlessly, recruit and mentor future leaders, encourage students, coordinate annual filing for tax purposes, serve as liaisons to committees and task forces, author position papers, facilitate board of directors retreats, leadership training and strategic planning, maintain communication and contact with their members and partner with the Deaf community. They serve as role models to us all and I am honoured to serve RID alongside them. In fact, many of my colleagues on the RID board of directors started their leadership careers at the state level. Personally, I served as the Illinois RID president from 1997 - 2000 before I moved to the national board.

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The Strength of an Association is as Strong as its Members

by Cheryl Moose President, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

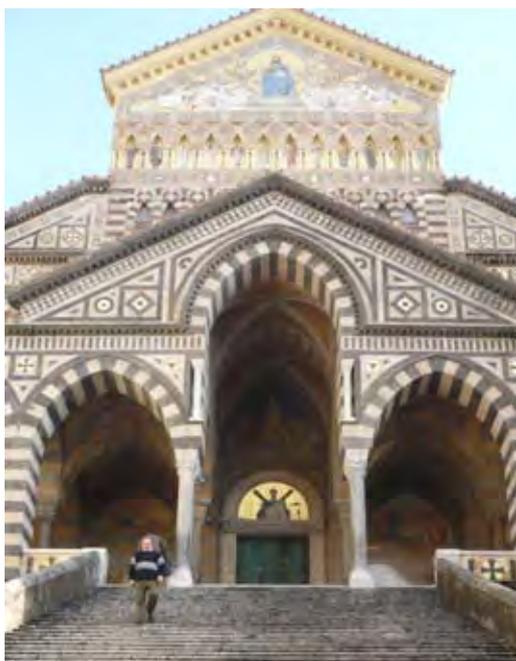
The affiliate chapter presidents not only serve the members in their respective states, they also serve on regional presidents' councils functioning as consultants/advisors to the RID regional representatives on the national board of directors. At the national level, the regional representatives can get a quick pulse of the membership by polling the affiliate chapter presidents who, in-turn, poll their state members. This way the national board can get a quick turn around on members' viewpoints on a variety of issues.

RID also has member sections that serve as a rich resource to gain member input on a variety of issues. RID has seven member sections: Deaf Caucus, Interpreters in Educational and Instructional Settings, Interpreters in Legal and Court Settings, Interpreters with Deaf Parents, Interpreters for the Deaf-Blind, Interpreter Service Managers, Interpreters and Transliterators of Colour, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Intersexed, Transgendered Interpreters and Transliterators, Video Interpreters and Student Section.

RID is a member driven organization and its members' collective voice is the force behind the profession. Together we move forward with unity, strengthening partnerships in the Deaf community, raising the bar in quality of service and improving communication at all levels.



“efsli conference ITALY 2011. Registration OPEN!”





The next efsli AGM and Conference will be held in Vietri Sul Mare (Salerno – Italy) on 16-18th September 2011, the topic is “Sight Translation - Sight Interpreting - Meeting at the Cross Modes. Sign interpreters as translators” organised by efsli in collaboration with the Italian association of Anios.

This event, which hosts many participants from different European countries, is born with the strong need to share experts' experiences within interpreting: from a sign language to a written language and vice versa. The interpretation couldn't be complete by only focusing attention on semantic-linguistic translation because some cultural adjustments are needed, which are typical of working languages. The different modes of a written language or a sign language should also be considered.

Several experts, who have also carried out significant studies on this subject will take part; bringing their experience, first of all Dr. Professor Christian Rathmann, linguist, from the University of Hamburg. His interesting presentation is entitled “From Text into Sign in different discourse modes: information reception, processing and production”.

Before the conference, on Friday 16th, it is possible to attend the efsli annual general meeting (efqli AGM) as an observer when the Full Member States meet. For all participants, it will not only be an opportunity for professional growth, to share with the Member States' representatives the debate about interpreting developments and problems, to exchange ideas and proposals but also to examine emerging issues in countries that have just entered into the European community.

The conference languages will be Italian, English, Russian, Italian Sign Language (LIS) and International Sign.

The event venue is Lloyd's Baia Hotel in Vietri sul Mare a typical small sea village on the enchanting Amalfi Coast only three kilometres from Salerno. Here you can soak in Mediterranean flavours and colours and enjoy three days in the famous scenery appreciated for its natural beauty and tourist sites.

The Amalfi coast is on the southern side of the Sorrento peninsula, which goes from Positano to Vietri sul Mare. In Vietri sul Mare you can appreciate the ancient art of

ceramics or enjoy the sunset that gives the visitor an enchanting spectacle.

The hotel is situated on a cliff directly overlooking the sea and the gulf of Salerno that you can enjoy while sipping a coffee on the terrace. The hotel provides guests with a private beach and parking facilities. The rooms are spacious and comfortable, all overlooking the sea, allowing you to relax during breaks. Sea, relaxation, fashion, culture and entertainment in a unique location in the world, all enriched with the flavours of Mediterranean cuisine, await you.

On Friday night, after the AGM, you are invited to get on our boat. Our destination will be to Amalfi, today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Amalfi was, in the Middle Ages, a Maritime Republic together with Venice, Genoa and Pisa. Today, it is an undisputed touristic destination, respectful and attentive to the past traditions.

It is also worth mentioning that, thanks to contacts with the Arab world that the first paper-mills originated from here and still produce a type of high-quality paper which is used by the Vatican State for its communications.

It will be nice to climb the fifty-seven steps to the St Andrea Cathedral, to admire the Arabian polychrome facade, walk aimlessly through the ancient and small colourful streets, to taste the limoncello, to buy coral souvenirs and to dine all together by the sea.

Do not miss the gala dinner, on Saturday, because other surprises await you: music, performing arts, the SAF raffle prizes and entertainment all alive with allegria!.....We are waiting for you!

Maddalena Catalano
Member ANIOS

For more information go to www.efqli.org.
SEE page 18 for details.



eRF DEADLINE April 1

Are you doing research in the field of sign language interpreting? Is there research that you wish to start?

The eRF has been set up to provide funds to individuals who would like to undertake research in a topic related to sign language interpreting and the research topic should be innovative or shed new light on a topic previously explored.

The funds can cover up to 100% of the research costs, but it is assumed individuals will have another source, or sources, of funding to cover some of their research costs.

Applicants may be individual sign language interpreters, or professionals working in the field of deafness, sign language research or communication and accessibility. The applicant must also reside in one of the European countries that are a member of the Council of Europe. Applicants should have the support of their national organisation of sign language interpreters when one exists, or from a relevant independent organisation otherwise.

Go to the efsli website for more details. If you have any questions please contact us at researchfund@efsli.org - the deadline for applications this year will be 1st April 2011 with announcements of successful applications made at the efsli 2011.

For more information go to <http://www.efsli.org/efsli/research/researchfund.php>.

Special Attendance Fund (SAF)



In a follow up to the article in the December Newsletter, the Special Attendance Fund (SAF) would like to take this opportunity to describe the raffle that was held in the UK at their national associations' conference in October.

The Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI) conference was held on 16th and 17th of October in Nottingham and was attended by around 200 people from around the UK and overseas. The raffle was a joint venture by efsli's SAF team and ASLI's equivalent fund, 'Giving Up a Day's Pay'. The prizes were on display from the beginning

of the conference on Saturday morning and the raffle was drawn at lunch time on Sunday. This gave the delegates plenty of time to admire all the amazing prizes that had been donated by various companies, interpreting agencies and interpreters themselves as well as family and friends; the most sought after prize being a work of art donated by the partner of efsli's very own treasurer. This was a wonderful opportunity for efsli and SAF to work with a national association to spread the word of the good work that is achieved by the fund and highlight the importance of people's donations.

Last year alone, SAF was able to provide funding to 11 interpreters to attend the conference in Glasgow, Scotland, from various different countries, including Poland, Malta, Lithuania, Croatia and Serbia. The contribution of these interpreters at these events is quite engaging for interpreters working in countries where the interpreting profession is more widely recognised and accepted.

You too can help to make a difference, and you don't even have to dip your hand into your own pocket, although this too is always welcomed. Why not set up a raffle of your own at the next event that is held by your national association. You could contact local or national companies to make donations, as well as interpreter colleagues. It also adds a little extra fun and excitement to your event. At ASLI we found that almost all the delegates who attended the conference on Sunday were gathered around the table to see who won what, including our star prize. Other initiatives have included selling sweets and a bake sale, with all money received going straight to the Special Attendance Fund. If you are interested in organising something but aren't sure where to begin, the SAF team is more than happy to help and provide guidance. We could also support you with the provision of leaflets to hand out to your colleagues.

With the 2011 conference fast approaching, the SAF committee is working hard to ensure that we can support as many people as possible to attend. Ideally we'd like to support everyone who applies for the fund, but without the support of our efsli colleagues, without you, we will not be able to do this. We have already received 13 applications and with the deadline less than a month away there is still time for more people to apply.

Whether it be arranging a fundraising event or donating something yourself, every coin is welcomed and needed to ensure another successful conference in Salerno, Italy in September.

Help us make a difference!

Training of trainers – AICC seminar on Skill acquisition in interpreting: the theory and practice of feedback – by Marinella Salami, head of the efsli training department

On the 30th and 31st of January a training seminar for interpreter trainers took place in Rome (Italy). It was hosted by AICC (the International Association of Conference Interpreters) and led by Barbara Moser-Mercer from the School of Translation and Interpretation (ETI), University of Geneva. The theme of the seminar focused on the theory and practice of feedback in the process of skill acquisition in interpreting. A small and lively group of trainers from all over the world (France, Italy, UK, Poland, Greece, Spain, Germany, Estonia, Ukraine, China and Argentina) took part in this two-day training. I participated myself representing the efsli training department.

Lessons were equally balanced between theory and practice, as the seminar title suggested. First, theoretical foundations were illustrated and based on an integrated approach to interpreting pedagogy and on a human performance perspective. Actually, the importance of performance was stressed as a central point in interpreting from early stages (in the classroom) to final achievements (at professional level). When dealing with students aiming at becoming professional interpreters, it is important to have a very clear idea of which factors determine the human performance and how these factors interact with one another. Barbara Moser-Mercer pointed out that performance is basically the product of three components: capacity, opportunity and willingness. However, apart from individual resources in terms of aptitude, personality and motivation, students are not isolated islands in the open sea as traditional approaches seem to suggest. There are forces (e.g. cultural or local forces) that contribute to shape students. “Our knowledge” – Moser-Mercer said – “is not merely acquired, but constructed, negotiated and re-negotiated” as “knowing involves active participation in social communities”. The classroom itself should be a place where learning is seen as social participation and students as active participants in creating knowledge. Thus trainers play a key role in helping students to become independent learners at the end of the training process and engage them in rich activities with tutoring support. Among other tools, feedback is a “formative evaluation given to learners in response to their performance” and if appropriately structured on a student-centred approach, it can help to attain superior levels of performance.

In order to better understand the process of skill acquisition in general terms and how good or a bad feedback can interfere with this process, participants were



divided in small groups and were asked to choose one acquisition scenario to be analysed according to the type of skill, the length of acquisition period, the type and hours of practice, the support and type of support received, the nature of the feedback received, the best and worst practice involved. My group analysed the process of skill acquisition of ball room dancing while another group, inspired by the life experience of an Estonian colleague, picked up the art of wood chopping. What we learnt here or what we were reminded of is that to develop expertise we have to go through three phases: first, we have to figure out the skill and understand what the final product is; second, we have to learn how to do it: we make progressions, regressions (which it does not mean that we don't make any progress but we consolidate our skills) and we practice; and third, we are finally ready to perform with less or no effort and at a higher speed. Sometimes no feedback is the best solution as we find out ourselves - through reasoning, trial and error or modelling (by watching others do it) - the best strategy to apply.

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Training of trainers – AIC seminar on Skill acquisition in interpreting: the theory and practice of feedback – by Marinella Salami, head of the efsli training department

To structure effective feedback is not an easy task since it constantly needs to be adapted to the learning environment and to learners through progressive steps, time schedule and monitoring. The process should be started by the trainers themselves who have to understand the problems that students face in order to have clear targets in mind. In this way, tailor-made material can be designed to create a specific problematic situation which makes students aware of the difficulties that they have already experienced and help them find one or more possible solutions in a collective learning environment. Self-evaluations, trainers and peer-to-peer feedback are all equally valuable to support and shape students as independent learners.

Participants were put to the test again and had a chance to implement the theoretical knowledge acquired. Another group work was proposed and based on samples of simulated training scenarios. We were asked to give feedback as trainers to three different students in relation to their performances. It was a very inspiring hands-on practice. In some cases, it was not easy to identify the skill that needed to be improved (although it seemed very clear at first glance) or we could not be precise enough with our feedback or even failed in sharing a common language with students, which is of crucial importance for metacognition reasons.

On the second day, Barbara Moser-Mercer guided us through the “tracking tour” designed by ETI. In other words, she showed us how her institution keeps track of

feedback and how it is shared with her staff and students as feedback should be considered a “shared responsibility”. Technology turned out to be very useful to create a virtual space for feedback and other learning activities. The result is the ETI virtual institute© (<http://virtualinstitute.eti.unige.ch/virtualinstitute/>). We could see samples of online feedback pages (not accessible by the general public).

As many trainers might not be supported by such a big institution like ETI or cannot have access to sophisticated technology, Barbara reassured us by saying that feedback can be tracked with very simple means – with even pen and paper like in the old days! It is the concept of keeping track that is important and any good trainer should develop it for the sake of his/her students.

Further reading: Barbara Moser-Mercer, “Skill Acquisition in Interpreting – A Human Performance Perspective”, in *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer 2* (1), 2007, 1-28.



AVIDICUS Videoconference and Remote Interpreting in Legal Proceedings

By Paul Pryce Jones, efsli Treasurer

London, 17th – 19th February 2011.

This international symposium was organised by the EU project AVIDICUS – Assessment of Videoconference Interpreting in the Criminal Justice Services, a three-year project co-ordinated by the University of Surrey with partners including Lessius University, Belgium and TEPIIS, Poland and the Ministry of Justice, Netherlands amongst others.

The role of the AVIDICUS project is to examine the quality of videoconference interpreting (VCI) and assess if suitable for criminal proceedings, and to develop training resources and modules for interpreter students, practising interpreters and legal practitioners.

There was a long list of presenters and interesting research, here is a quick report on the highlights of this thorough symposium.

Thursday afternoon commenced with a warm welcome from Sabine Braun from the University of Surrey.

Caroline Morgan from the Directorate-General Justice at the European Commission outlined the long journey of the Directive 2010/64/EU, which gives the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings adopted on 20th October 2010.

Later Aki Hietanen from the Ministry of Justice, Finland introduced the concept of the e-Justice Portal, an integration of business registers and Criminal Record Information across Europe concerning best practices, courts with VC equipment and even interpreter databases. (<https://e-justice.europa.eu>). Other presenters discussed the financial and organizational benefits of using VC.

Friday kicked off with author Miriam Shlesinger's lively, interesting and funny presentation covering the challenges of legal interpreting with its terminology and conflict environment. Miriam summed up that remote interpreting (RI) can compound these issues and although interpreters felt dissatisfied by the RI process when independently assessed there was no decrease in quality of interpreting detected.

The AVIDICUS project team presented the results of two Europe-wide surveys of legal interpreters and professionals concerning the use of VCI and RI. The interpreters surveyed (about half were from the UK) were not overall positive while the legal professionals felt there was no significant difference in the quality. The team also gave brief descriptions of the three research projects about how interpreters worked under remote situations. There was some convergence in the results with one project finding a slower speech rate, longer time taken and more interruptions by the interpreters and a report of more fatigue, the second project declaring a preference for face

to face interpreting and the third demonstrating the extra effort to create the rapport and eye contact with the clients.

Friday afternoon finished with two presentations on subjects perhaps closer to our hearts, Christine Wilson from Heriot-Watt University reporting on the Scottish situation of sign language RI that interpreters feel divorced from clients and the sign language users are concerned over elements of trust. The last presentation was on the study performed by Jemina Napier commissioned by the Department of Justice and Attorney General in New South Wales (NSW), Australia. The team investigated five venues using six scenarios which resulted in a series of recommendations if VCI and RI are to be used in the justice system.

The final session of the day was a panel discussion focussing on the working conditions of interpreters. Evelyn Conroy a SL interpreter from Ireland evocatively raised the issue of service users' rights and concerns of a "blanket use" of VCI and RI.

I attended a jam-packed session overviewing the training modules that will be available from this project. The training covering the basics looks interesting and informative including real-life examples of use out in the field today, one such being the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. (<http://www.ninthcircuit.org/programs-services/court-interpreter/centralized-interpreting/index.shtml>). The training even includes a check list for interpreters to prepare for an assignment.

Overall I felt that the symposium gave a strong comprehensive overview of the present situation in differing parts of Europe. It was interesting to gain a peek into the world of spoken language interpreters. They felt that this is a shift in their role and ability to work from a consecutive to a more simultaneous way, which is interesting since simultaneous is much more the default in our field. There was considerable praise for the Danish Sign Language interpreters co-working at the front and some of the comments I overheard praised the co-ordinated nature that they demonstrated in their approach to the work. It was a good feeling to see two presentations focussing on SL interpreting and the value that the audience placed on the research and the crossover relationship our fields of interpreting can have with each other. One thing is clear, with EU legislation and the technology now available; videoconference interpreting and remote interpreting is going to come to a court near you.

efsli in Lithuania at the international conference held by the Vilnius College

by Marinella Salami, head of the efsli training department



The Vilnius College celebrated its 10th anniversary with an international conference dedicated to the training of sign language interpreters in Middle and Eastern European Countries on the 25th and 26th of November, 2010. Presenters from Lithuania, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Poland, Ukraine and the UK took part in the meeting. I also presented a paper on behalf of efsli by giving an overview of the efsli training experience..

The Vilnius College is the largest university of applied sciences in Lithuania with nearly 9000 students who study under 42 study programmes in 8 faculties. The Faculty of Pedagogics offers a regular programme to train sign language interpreters which has become quite popular amongst students. It was stated that there is actually a lack of qualified interpreters especially in the remote parts of Lithuania, a recurring situation in both Eastern and Western European countries. The recent economic crisis has challenged the provision of sign language interpreters and put their employment opportunities at risk. Again, this has affected many other countries all over the world. Academic training as well as other community resources such as the Lithuanian Association of Sign Language Interpreters or Sign Language Interpreter Centres is working hard to increase the status of sign language interpreters. Despite the difficulties, improvements cannot be denied. If on one side, discussions about what a sign language interpreter is are still going on, on the other side new perspectives are developed such as the work of Deaf interpreters.

Gaining independence from Russia has been a turning point for many Eastern European countries and a stimulus to find inner resources to organize their new community life. Many speakers drew this timeline when telling the history of sign language interpreters training. Finland, and



in particular the experience of the Diacona University of Applied Sciences (DIAK) has always been considered a good example to follow in the training of sign language interpreters and many presenters stressed how important it was to develop projects in cooperation with DIAK in order to gain experience and start their own programmes. Deaf Associations and the associations of sign language interpreters were also acknowledged for their contribution to the improvement of the quality of training.

Despite the differences, all the presentations had one point in common that was the importance of having a network to rely on for the sharing of information, experiences and new ideas. Conferences like the one organized by the Vilnius College can build a bridge across Europe to overcome any geographical boundary and open our minds for a better future.

Efsli expresses its gratitude to the organisers for letting us be a part of such an important moment.



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efsli calendar

March 24-26 2011

Second International Conference on Interpreting Quality,
Grenada, Spain
<http://ecis.ugr.es/2011-conference-interpreting-quality-en.htm>

March 27 2011

EULITA's first general assembly, Hannover, Germany
www.eulita.eu

May 5 2011

SIG pre-conference meeting, Ethics in Translation and
Interpretation Assessment, Siena, Italy
<http://ealta2011siena.cils.unistrasi.it/articolo.asp?sez0=130&sez1=150&sez2=0&art=236>

May 7 2011

EUD Seminar
Budapest, Hungary

June 20-22 2011

FEAST colloquium, University of Venice
<http://virgo.unive.it/venicefeast/>

June 22-26 2011

National Asian Deaf Congress, New York, USA
www.nadc-usa.org

July 18-23 2011

2011 RID National Conference: Growing Globally, Atlanta,
Georgia, USA, www.rid.org

July 22-25 2011

WASLI Conference, Think Globally, Act Locally, Durban, South
Africa, <http://www.wasli.org>

July 18-24 2011

16th World Congress of the WFD, Global Deaf Renaissance,
Durban, South Africa, <http://www.wfd2011.com>

Sept 16-18 2011

efsli 2011 AGM and conference Sight Translation - Sight
Interpreting - Meeting at the Cross Modes, Salerno, Italy
www.efsli.org

Sept 14-15 2011

EUMASLI seminar, Salerno, Italy, www.eumasli.eu

Oct 21-23 2011

SIGN5, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey
http://www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/journalism_media_communication/islands/sign5.php

Nov 16-18 2011

Ow Countries Conference: Translation and National Images,
University of Leuven
<http://www2.arts.kuleuven.be/literatuurwetenschap/nl/node/76>

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Newsletter March 2011