Two cohorts of students are currently progressing through the MA program in Translation and Interpreting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Both online and on-campus students seem to be finding fulfillment both in the classroom and in the many opportunities in which they are practicing their growing translation skills.

Stephanie Cardwell, a second-year MA student who is specializing in Translation for the Professions, is currently working from campus as an intern for In Every Language, a translation company based in Washington, D.C. In Cardwell’s role with in-house quality assurance, she reviews Spanish-to-English and English-to-Spanish translations and develops term databases as a tool for future translations.

“I really love it,” said Cardwell. “I think it’s important to work with a professional company that needs you to perform but wants you to continue learning as well. I value working with a quality company, building up relationships, and trying different roles.”

Cardwell, who has a BA in communication and another in Spanish, both from the University of Illinois, said that the advanced degree she’s pursuing through the Center for Translation Studies is teaching her how to be more efficient in her work. “Translation is changing so much right now—from the use of pen and paper to electronic tools,” she said.

Sarah Varney, another second-year MA student with a bachelor’s degree in foreign languages from Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., has been working as a freelance translator for more than two years. She concurs with Cardwell that the translation studies program’s emphasis on developing software skills is “invaluable.”

“It gives me a competitive edge in pursuing work,” said Varney, who is growing increasingly proficient in using TRADOS, perhaps the industry’s most important computer-assisted translation software. Varney has discovered through her freelance assignments that she enjoys legal translation. She is simultaneously pursuing paralegal certification online, hoping to eventually work in a law office where she can combine acumen in languages, immigration, business, and litigation.

“With these certifications, I feel I’ll be able to present more credibility to clients,” Varney said. “I want to cultivate trust to assure delivery of high-quality services.”

First-year student Abigail Wright, an alumna of New York University, spent four years teaching English as a foreign language in Spain before deciding to pursue an advanced degree at Illinois.

“One thing you learn from spending time abroad is to question what’s ‘normal’ about our own culture [in America],” said Wright, echoing a sentiment frequently offered by other students in the Center for Translation Studies who have spent significant amounts of time living in other countries. “I know now that I want to work with immigrants after completing this program.”

For Audrey Irias, an online MA student and high school teacher of French and, formerly, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, in Manatee County, Fla., translation and interpretation are a way of life, as it is a function of her profession as well as being an important role she plays in communicating with her husband’s family.

(Master’s Degree continued on page 3)
Translation
as Happiness;
Translation as
Puzzle Solving

There are some who believe that translation is not a “serious” profession and that we translators are people with a command of more than one language who can, on demand, carry segments of text from one language to another, like little pack mules. While those of us in the profession know this is a distorted oversimplification of our task and its many complexities, I would like to concur with Paul Ricoeur that even though our profession is a “serious” one, carrying many responsibilities, it is one that gives us much joy and sense of accomplishment. It is also a profession that engages us as puzzle solvers. We revel in language games, and finding ways to fit the pieces of our linguistic puzzles together.

The earliest words for a translator were the Greek word hermeneus and the Latin word interprete. Both terms have the sense of an agent laboring between two distinct languages or speakers. The term translator, as used today, comes from the Latin verb transfero, transfere, translatum, which becomes the term translate, translator, in the Romance languages of the Middle Ages (thus the later English translate). The 15th-century humanist Leonardo Bruni was the first to write an entire scientific treatise on translation, entitled De Interpretatione Recta (1420). The French term traducteur, first used by the humanist Etienne Doler, appeared in the 16th century (Kearney xiii).

Paul Ricoeur, one of the most distinguished philosophers of the 20th century, has made translation a centerpiece of his work. One of his most important insights is that the translator is a “middleman” between an author and a reader, a self and another. He sees translation as a twofold task: “to expriopriate oneself as one appropriates the other” (Kearney xvi). The best translations, Ricoeur argues, open us up to the other. We become “hosts” of the foreign, which is a form of “linguistic hospitality.” This knowing of the other, and hospitality to the foreign, is what gives us joy.

Another source of happiness is the very playfulness inherent in the craft of translation. We are constantly solving puzzles, small and large. If we translate poetry, we must carry over sound as well as sense, cadence as well as content. If we stumble on a pun or a joke, we have to stretch our minds to make our reader laugh as heartily as the reader of the original. If we work on large projects, as an individual or member of a team, we have to keep our eyes trained on how the various pieces of the project fall together.

Jost Zetsche recently described translation: “Translation is like a puzzle. If there are puzzle pieces missing or you have to force pieces together, the product is faulty” (2). He encourages us to tell stories about ourselves and what we do as individual translators. We can share the happiness, and intrigue our readers, with the puzzles we are constantly trying to solve.


“It [the call to interpret or translate] happens all the time—you see someone in an airport that is lost, needs directions, or needs to file a claim for lost luggage,” said Irias. “Once, my uncle sent me a letter to translate from the townspeople of Normandy, France. They had written that they had found the remains of a distant relative of mine who was killed there during WWII. After I translated it, both my uncle and my cousin’s wife went to France for a special dedication holiday. To be able to share my gift for such a mission was inspiring.”

Jillian Droste, another first-year MA student in the online program, who is working part-time at a Montessori school in Portland, Ore., said she wasn’t sure what to expect from the young program, but she has been pleased with “how well-done it is,” as she was specifically looking for an online curriculum.

“I really like participating in class interviews with people working in a wide range of specializations within the translation field,” Droste said. “That has reinforced the goal in my education, which is to eventually become a medical translator.”

Altogether, CTS students are clearly honing skills day-to-day through interaction with instructors, fellow students, and the many professionals who visit the classroom—both through virtual means and inside our center of operations on campus, the Foreign Languages Building.

Applications for the MA program beginning in Fall 2015 are available now and should be completed by February 15. Admission will be offered until the class is full. Learn more about all the programs available through the Center for Translation Studies by exploring our website or contacting staff at (217) 244-7455 or translation@illinois.edu.

Cheryl Gerber is the office manager for the Center for Translation Studies in the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics. She is the administrator for the program and acts on behalf of the director in her absence. Cheryl has worked at the University of Illinois for over seven years. She previously worked at Information Trust Institute in the College of Engineering and Illinois Public Media in the College of Media. She holds associate degrees in both child development and office professional, plus two certificates in Office Assistant and Microsoft Application Specialist, from Parkland College. She is also a certified Microsoft Office Specialist in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Cheryl is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in general studies at Eastern Illinois University. In her spare time, she enjoys taking walks, watching movies with her family, and interacting with her two pets, a Yorkie named George and a tabby cat named Bongo.

CTS Executive Committee

**Continuing members:**
Robert Jenkins—German
Rachel Harris—Comparative and World Literature
Craig Williams—Classics

**New members:**
Dov Weiss—Religion
Lane Schwartz—Linguistics
Zong-qi Cai—East Asian Languages and Cultures
Meet a CTS Student

Graduate student Jeffrey Miller is quick to praise the convenience of online education, having recently completed a cross-country move from Illinois to California to pursue a new job as a medical interpreter for UCLA Health without skipping a beat in his advanced studies. While in the second and final year of the MA in Translation and Interpreting online program, Miller is finding that his work delivers many opportunities for daily practice of the translation skills he’s refining.

Miller, who is originally from Danville, Ill., began studying Spanish in high school. He received a BA in Spanish, along with a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies, from Illinois State University in 2009 and also participated in a two-month study abroad trip to Taxco, Mexico, while an undergraduate.

“I chose to pursue advanced education in translation and interpreting in order to increase my knowledge of what I understood to be a field of vital importance across the United States and the world,” said Miller. “I selected the program at the U of I because of the experienced faculty and the ability to complete the degree online, which made it possible for me to accept my current position in California without having to drop classes.”

In his job as a medical interpreter, Miller interprets English and Spanish in both directions so that patients and providers are able to carry on conversations in as natural a form as possible.

“So far, the experience of being part of such a talented team of interpreters has been both inspiring and intimidating,” said Miller. “UCLA Health is one of the top five hospitals in the United States, and you realize why as soon as you arrive on the campus. Everyone is there to do the best they can every day to put their specialized skills to work in service of UCLA Health patients. Many of my coworkers have several years of experience working in a variety of interpreting settings and perform a variety of interpreting tasks on a daily basis.

“On any given day, a UCLA Health interpreter can be expected to interpret by phone or video for four hours and then spend the other four hours tending to in-person appointments or in educational presentations throughout the facility,” he added. “Though most of the interpreting is consecutive, simultaneous interpreting is utilized for large and lengthy information meetings, and the interpreting will either be performed chuchotage [interpretation at the listener’s side] or slightly removed with special audio equipment should there be multiple patients. Interpreters are also asked to translate written materials such as patient education handouts, special instructions, etc.”

Miller seems to find the work and pace exhilarating, however. He said, “There is still so much left undiscovered about our field—with regards to medical interpreting, especially. The healthcare industry in general is trying to make the best decisions when it comes to adequately serving our growing population of Limited English Proficient patients across the nation, and there are so many avenues to consider in terms of cost, effectiveness, patient satisfaction, and ultimately, patient well-being. I am grateful for the knowledge that has already been shared with me through the MA program, as it has given me the confidence to take this important step forward in my career.”

G
Events

- The Center for Translation Studies welcomed noted translator and author Evan Fallenberg to campus on September 23, when he presented a workshop for translation studies students. Participants learned about translation in the world market, picked up tips on preparing for a career in literary translation, and practiced translation of a short text in several languages.

- On October 15, CTS alumnus Donnie Robinson, Global Training Manager for ThyssenKrupp, a German automotive parts supplier, presented a session for students called “What are you going to do with your humanities (and translation) degree?” This former Fulbright scholar discussed the interests and aptitudes that led him to translation studies and, ultimately, set him onto an exciting career path.

- Patricia Minacori of the Université Paris Diderot, who is currently a scholar in residence of the European Union Center and CTS, presented a lecture for students on “Research in Translation, Complexity, and Integrated Translation Project” on November 4.

- CTS Director Elizabeth Lowe and faculty member Elias Shakkour, along with colleagues Barry Slaughter Olsen (Monterey Institute of International Studies), Leah Leone (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), and Paul Gatto (University of Arizona, National Center for Interpretation) presented a talk at the 55th annual American Translators Association Conference in Chicago in early November. In the presentation, “Technology and Teaching Interpreting Online and in the Virtual Classroom: Quantum Leap Forward or Two Steps Back?”, panelists discussed the advantages, challenges, and intricacies of the virtual classroom for translation and interpreting by comparing them with more traditional training models.

Honorable Mention

In July, the journal *French Studies: A Quarterly Review* (volume 68, number 3) published an article by Mairi McLaughlin called “Translation Studies,” in which the author presented a detailed assessment of the field’s growth and, in particular, examined its development within the cultures of different Francophone countries. McLaughlin emphasized the natural fit for translation studies in higher education as students prepare to work in multicultural and interdisciplinary jobs. She identified the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Illinois as an institution that has particularly “fostered interest in French translation.”

Sally Perret, a visiting assistant professor at the University of Puget Sound, earned her PhD in Spanish from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2012. Her published and forthcoming articles explore the formation of national identities in 21st-century Spain. Perret’s current book projects include a study of the idea of community in post-Franco Spain, as well as a biography on the Basque writer Kirmen Uribe.

In addition, Perret is working with Brazilian poet Narlan Matos to write the English translation of his latest book, *Elegia ao Novo Mundo e outros poemas* (*Elegy to the New World and Other Poems*). Following are two of the poems—first as written by Matos in Portuguese (infused with Spanish), followed by translations by Perret.

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**Pós-Colombianos**

eu como versos
por pouco
muito pouco
os índios
das Américas
não conseguiram
cristianizar
os conquistadores
europeus

os europeus
conquistadores
por pouco
muito pouco
os índios
das Américas
não conseguiram
cristianizar

por pouco
muito pouco

**Post-Columbians**

barely just barely
the Indians
of the Americas
failed to
christianize
the conquering
Europeans

the Europeans
conquering
barely
Just barely
the Indians
of the Americas
failed to
christianize

barely, just barely
Versos encantados desde la Habana

eu cometo versos
como quem caminha de madrugada por uma calle de la Habana
e avista sobre um muro debruçadas magnólias
materializadas como se fossem estrelas do mar
ao seu redor ramos verdes lhe guardam da escuridão
outras flores brancas caladas as observam
(sob sua sombra fresca dorme a poesia)

eu cometo versos
como quem dedilha uma guitarra cigana na Plaza de España em Sevilha
numa tarde onde uma árvore toureia o vento lento
e uma dançarina de flamenco desenha pássaros com seus gestos
outras silênciosas brancas observam as escuridões

eu cometo versos
como quem lê Florbela Espanca numa quinta de Lisboa
numa tarde onde um vento lento
na mesa de uma taberna ao lado de uma garrafa de vinho tinto
polegadas e perfume da poesia

eu cometo versos
como quem nasce de repente como quem avista a Andaluzia
como quem brinca com a luz sobre a pele das coisas
como o vento cochichando com o porto e com as velas brancas
como quem busca sereias e tesouros em mares perdidos

eu cometo versos
como amantes ensandecidos pela beleza ardente numa tarde de Andorra
como os suicidas que partirão ao amanhecer na carruagem do indizível
sem cartas nem bilhetes suicidas

eu cometo versos
como quem comete um crime e aguarda pelo castigo dos deuses.

Enchanted Verses from La Havana

i write verses
like one who walks at dawn down the calles of La Havana
and sees magnolia trees pouring over walls
materialized as if they were starfish
all around green branches guard them from the darkness
other silent white flowers observe them

i write verses
like one who strums a gypsy guitar in the Plaza de España in Seville
on an afternoon where a tree battles the slow wind like a bullfighter
and a flamenco dancer makes birds with her hands
(beneath their cool shade poetry sleeps)

i write verses
like one who reads Florbela Espanca on a farm in Lisboa
resting between the ivory white of the city and the red sun
in a tavern at a table next to a bottle of red wine
i discover and fall in love with the muse and the breeze and the salty sea
at the end of the beach awaiting sailors that never left

i write verses
like an awake Chilean island waits for a shipwreck
like silver spoons under the Madrid morning sun
the mistrust of liberty before a flowery field
like one who sees with his soul and no longer needs eyes

i write verses
like one who is suddenly born like one who sees Andalusia
like one who plays with the light on the skin of things
like the wind whispering to the port and the white sails
like one who searches for sirens and treasures lost at sea

i write verses
like lovers driven insane by beauty burn one afternoon in Andorra
like those that commit suicide at dawn in the carriage of the unspeakable
without a letter or suicide note

i write verses
like one who commits a crime and awaits punishment from the gods
It’s Time to Register for Spring Semester Courses

ONLINE COURSES

FIRST EIGHT WEEKS
- TRST 410: Translation Theory and Practice
- TRST 540: Translation Capstone

SECOND EIGHT WEEKS
- TRST 404: Bilingualism and Translation
- TRST 405: Commercial and Technical Translation
- TRST 501: Applied Literary Translation I
- TRST 541: Community Interpreting

CAMPUS COURSES
- TRST 405: Commercial and Technical Translation
- TRST 410: Translation Theory and Practice
- TRST 413: Arabic-English Translation
- TRST 430: Chinese Poetry and Translation
- TRST 440: Translation Studies Capstone
- TRST 501: Applied Literary Translation I
- TRST 540: Translation Capstone
- TRST 541: Community Interpreting
- TRST 580: Film Subtitling
- LING 490: Machine Translation

What We’re Reading

On Translation, written by Paul Ricoeur and translated by Eileen Brennan (New edition, Routledge, 2006): Consisting of three essays by the late French philosopher Paul Ricoeur, all featuring the theme of translation, this book is required reading for our MA students. Ricoeur’s work shines as an example of translation as an act of diplomacy, as he was “forever finding a point of commerce—if not always resolution—between ostensibly irreconcilable viewpoints,” in the words of Richard Kearney, author of the book’s introduction.

Editor’s Note: Correction

On page five of the spring 2014 newsletter, the caption under this photo incorrectly identified Elias Shakkour as one of the MA in translation and interpreting students. Shakkour, second from the right, is actually a lecturer within the Department of Linguistics who shares his talents with CTS. The students shown with him are, from left to right, Jeff Miller, Kati Baruja, and Yajie Zhang.