Students Interested in Translation and Interpreting Have Choice of Educational Pathways

The Center for Translation Studies (CTS) now offers four routes for University of Illinois students to acquire education and credentials. The Certificate in Translation Studies, available to both undergraduate and advanced degree seekers, requires 18 credit hours of pertinent coursework, including completion of a capstone project. A Certificate in Applied Literary Translation, open to those ready to take on their first major translation work, is offered jointly with Dalkey Archive Press. Those who wish to earn a master’s degree may pursue the MA in Translation and Interpreting either on campus or online.

Interest in the Certificate in Translation Studies, the bedrock program of CTS, remains strong. Fifteen students earned the certificate this spring.

With interest in the MA in Translation and Interpreting growing around the globe, often expressed by working professionals, CTS Director Elizabeth Lowe knows that it is vitally important to offer the program in formats that serve both students who are able to attend classes on campus and those who cannot. Students do have to commit to one of the formats for the duration of the two-year program.

Kati Baruja of Chicago is a student who’s maintaining her professional workload but also enjoying being a traditional student in the sense that she takes all her classes on campus. Four days per week, she works as a paralegal in the city. She spends one full day per week in Urbana-Champaign, attending classes and meetings.

Baruja holds a bachelor’s degree in humanities from New College of Florida and has studied or worked overseas in Chile, Argentina, and Paraguay. She is a member of Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association (CHICATA), and it was through that organization that she learned about the U of I’s new MA in Translation and Interpreting. “My goal is to become a full-time interpreter in Spanish and, hopefully, in American Sign Language as well,” said Baruja.

“There has been a great mix of professors and course material that we’ve been enjoying all year,” she said. “We’ve been able to start our interpreting classes this past semester, and I’ve loved being able to get down to our individual areas of concentration.”

Baruja added that she especially liked the ethics class co-taught by professors Christopher Higgins and Elizabeth Lowe. “Professor Higgins took us through some serious philosophical work about the profession, and I was delighted to find even more solid reasons why this is my chosen career,” she said. “I even got a tattoo of one of the concepts we talked about in class—eudaimonia. So, that one will technically ‘stick with me’ the longest!” (Eudaimonia means a contented state of being happy, healthy, and prosperous.)

Fellow MA student Lisa Honda, a lecturer in the Department of English Communication at Kinki University in Osaka, Japan, and mother of two, enrolled in the online program after thorough research. Having grown up in California, Honda said she “felt that my needs as a native English speaker would be better met in a program that uses English as the primary language of study. I also chose the University of Illinois because of its reputation of being an excellent academic institution.”

Honda said, “The work has been challenging and I feel that I have been able to engage in insightful discussions with my classmates despite the fact that we aren’t speaking to each other in person. Since all of the students in the online program had other professional responsibilities, it was helpful that the program is structured in such a way that we would take two eight-week classes consecutively, so that we could focus on one class at a time.”

The Center for Translation Studies will welcome its second cohort of master’s degree-seeking students in August.
The translator liberates the language imprisoned in a work.
Walter Benjamin

Applied Literary Translation Program Moves to Dublin

The Certificate in Applied Literary Translation, a program co-sponsored by the Center for Translation Studies and Dalkey Archive Press, provides an intensive training experience that culminates in the publication by Dalkey Archive of the student’s first book-length translation. Participants gain experience in writing and editing translations, learn about project funding opportunities, participate in developing marketing strategies, and address ethical and legal issues in translating and publishing. All participants meet weekly to share experiences and critical perceptions.

CTS Director Elizabeth Lowe strongly encourages aspiring literary translators to enroll. “This is one program that we’ve been able to build that actually produces published work,” she said. “It is not enough for a student to just be ‘good with languages.’ He or she must be well-read and a creative writer. This program is more of an apprenticeship and offers the chance to build the literary translation skills necessary to succeed professionally.”

The summer session in Applied Literary Translation will take place in Dublin, Ireland.

Kudos to CTS Partner John O’Brien, Founder of Dalkey Archive Press

The Literature Translation Institute (LTI) of Korea recently honored John O’Brien, founder of Dalkey Archive Press, with its Distinguished Service Award for its support of the globalization of Korean literature. O’Brien will travel to Seoul, Korea, in June to participate in LTI’s International Workshop for Translation and Publication of Korean Literature and formally accept the award.

Congratulations, Spring Graduates

The following students, listed here with their majors, have completed capstone projects this semester, fulfilling the final requirement to earn CTS certificates:

Lindsay Anderson, East Asian Languages and Cultures
Fernanda Arias, Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Jacob Cohen, French
Isak Griffiths, MBA Corporate Strategy and Global Business
Ellen Janowski, Commercial French Studies
Lindsay Johansen, Commercial French Studies
Kathryn Konopka, Spanish and Portuguese
Elyssa Musaraca, Spanish
Christina Norman, Spanish and Sociology
Joy Shapley, Linguistics
Alana Smart, Comparative Literature and Spanish
Ruchi Tekriwal, Linguistics
Mike Vannorman, Spanish
Taryn Vaughn, Spanish
Meg Welter, Spanish
The projections for the growth of the Translation and Interpreting profession have jumped in the last five years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics now forecasts a conservative estimate of growth of 46 percent from 2012-2022 with a median pay rate of $45,000 per year.

What is new in this promising job market? We see a predominance of freelance opportunities and jobs requiring translation as well as IT skills. The growth of opportunities in medical and legal translation and interpreting is a national phenomenon. Project management jobs are there for the taking. Cross-cultural services is an emerging field as there is a great worldwide need for competent cross-cultural linguists and analysts.

It is becoming common wisdom that in the growing global economy, it is imperative to translate INTO the language of the “customer,” and that includes less commonly taught (the EU calls these “lesser” or “smaller” languages) and spoken languages. The flip side of the coin is that the world will need more competent translators who can work into English. The European Union is an example of this rapidly growing language multiplier effect. With each country that joins the EU, another language pair is added. At the current number of 28 EU member countries, this amounts to 784 language pairs!

What are some of the skills that our MA students need to successfully enter this diversified job market? Language skills are critical but not enough. In addition to a high level of language proficiency in at least two or three languages, translators need the following:

- Business skills (including account management, marketing, and accounting)
- Technical writing
- Desktop publishing
- Terminology management, including use of online databases and terminology management tools
- Advanced Internet research skills
- Subject field expertise (especially for legal and medical translators and interpreters)
- Computer Assisted Translation and Machine Translation competency
- Understanding of international copyright law
- Grounding in ethics

Literary translators must be excellent creative writers in their native language and also need to understand the publishing industry.

How can the growing number of translation and interpreting programs in the U.S. best serve their students? Contrary to what most students believe, an understanding of translation theory is critical. Theory is a way of talking about our profession, a metalanguage that allows us to structure and advance knowledge in the field. The knowledge that comes from a mastery of theory separates the educated translator from the dilettante. We also need to position our graduates so that they learn how to manage others, communicate and work well in groups, and to perform quality control. Our graduates should aspire to decision-making roles in whatever sectors they choose as specializations.

As in any profession, translators and interpreters must continuously hone and enhance their skills. We make a commitment to lifelong learning and practice, not only of our languages but our specializations as well. A commitment to excellence is the foundation of an ethical translation and interpreting practice.
Elias Shakkour, who holds master’s degrees in conference interpretation, German studies, and linguistics, is currently completing his PhD in linguistics at the University of Illinois. Having grown up in Jerusalem and attended an American school since the age of four, Shakkour has a native command of both English and Arabic. He is also fluent in German and proficient in—are you jealous yet?—Spanish, French, and Hebrew. Shakkour said he “has some knowledge of Italian and Dutch” and is learning Turkish and Korean.

When asked what aspect of the University of Illinois really appeals to Shakkour, he said, “Interdisciplinarity is really practiced here through collaboration. There is just a wealth of resources.” Shakkour’s background is an example of our faculty’s rich reserve of experiences and global connections, which models an interconnectedness that we nurture in our students.

Shakkour is one of the course developers and lecturers for the MA in translation and interpreting. The course Shakkour taught this spring, “Community Interpreting” (TRST 541), had both campus and online sections. Shakkour guided his small class in the training and practice of consecutive interpreting, including relay interpreting.

Keeping in mind that some students may have enrolled in the course in order to learn more about the field or profession of interpreting, Shakkour invited guest speakers to provide professional insights and examples of “real-world, sticky situations.” Shakkour said human interpretations or translations may have ethical ramifications.

“Should the interpreter be advocating for the patient or client, as well as interpreting? Is it ethical for the interpreter to ‘improve’ what a speaker is saying? These are examples of the ethical issues we discussed,” said Shakkour.

Shakkour will teach “Conference Interpreting” (TRST 542) in the fall, in which students will focus on simultaneous interpreting.
Events

The Center for Translation Studies presented a colloquium speaker series this spring, all free and open to the public. In February, author J.P. Cuenca and CTS Director Elizabeth Lowe, translator from Brazilian of Cuenca’s book, *The Only Happy Ending for a Love Story is an Accident* (Tagus Press, 2013), read a selection from the book and discussed new trends in Brazilian literature. Russell Scott Valentino, professor and chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Indiana University at Bloomington, gave a lecture on “The Uses of Translation” in March. Lynn Visson, a retired United Nations interpreter, recounted “The Life of a UN Interpreter and Recent Trends in Interpreter Training” in April. Connect with us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events.

The Center’s first-ever Interpreting Showcase took place May 7 in the Foreign Languages Building. The event featured live demonstrations of interpreting skills and strategies.

Meet a CTS Alumnus

Donnie Robinson graduated in 2010 from the University of Illinois with a master’s degree in German and Certificate of Translation from the pilot program of translation studies. Straightaway, he wanted to apply the knowledge and skills he’d gained in a practical manner. Robinson became a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Turkey, where he taught German, French, and Spanish. After two years, Robinson returned to Champaign in hopes of finding full-time employment in the area using his expansive language skills.

“I was fortunate to find a position in Danville, Ill., where I can use all the skills I acquired in my time at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,” said Robinson. “I was hired as executive assistant to the CEO at a German automotive components manufacturing company, ThyssenKrupp Presta. Our CEO in Danville is German and wanted an assistant with good research and writing skills who is competent in both English and German.”

Robinson said he frequently receives requests to translate all types of material, from email to work instructions to official documents. “My technical German for manufacturing, particularly for automotive and, very particularly, camshafts, has improved on a scale to where I feel as if I am an engineer!” said Robinson. “Every project is a learning experience.”

For now, Robinson manages all the translation himself, but he has been soliciting quotes for Trados software. “Our CEO didn’t understand at first that it is not Google Translate software, but rather something that will become of central importance to our company, especially as we expand in China and soon, Brazil, Eastern Europe, and likely, Mexico,” he said.

After being with the company just 10 months, Robinson became training manager, not only locally but, “because of my language experience and teaching background, worldwide for seven different locations,” he said. “I even teach German here at my company -- proudly, the only German class in all of Vermilion County.”

Robinson added, “There is a lesson to be learned from such a story. It is to pursue your passions -- in my case, languages -- and turn them into skill sets that employers can identify, even in the often-overlooked field of humanities.”

CTS affiliate faculty member David Cooper, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures and director of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, is again organizing a Workshop in Scholarly and Literary Translation from Slavic Languages. The event will be held on the Illinois campus June 16-20. Please visit http://www.reeec.illinois.edu/srl/programs/translation.html for more information.

MA in translation and interpreting students Jeff Miller, Kati Baruja, Elias Shakkour, and Yajie Zhang.
What We’re Reading

A Companion to Translation Studies, edited by Sandra Bermann and Catherine Porter (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014): This collection of essays by well-known scholars in the translation field provides commentary on the many intersections of language and culture. The evolution of translation studies is covered, with connection points offered to readers of varying backgrounds in the humanities.

It’s Time to Register!

FALL 2014

TRST 201: Introduction to Translation Studies
TRST 406: Translation for Professions
TRST 407: Terminology and CAT
TRST 408: Translation Tools & Practice
TRST 412: Spanish/English Translation
TRST 440: Translation Studies Capstone
TRST 500: Translation Methods and Ethics
TRST 501: Applied Literary Translation
TRST 542: Conference Interpreting

Translation Per Se

Rajeshwari Pandharipande is professor emeritus of linguistics, religious studies, Sanskrit and comparative literature; member of the faculty of the Campus Honors Program; and affiliate faculty member of the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Illinois. The three major languages of Pandharipande’s research and teaching are Hindi, Marathi, and Sanskrit. She has shared with us a Hindi poem and her English translation.

संध्या
संध्या की इस अवस्था का पहर
में डूब जाता हूँ उसमे
जिसके बीच छर नहीं होते
आज कल के!

मन करता हूँ, इस पहर को
अपनी हस्तियों रख दूँ पलबर.
जाने न दूँ
और जो स्व एक बार
वह एटसार जिसमें
'याह' और 'वहा' पिघल जाते हैं,
रह जाती है - पलबरकी परछाई-भनित की!

the midnight hour!

standing at the edge of the midnight hour,
i slip into its nowhereness,
and wish,
it would never pass,
the midnight hour!

for a moment I want to hold it
in my palm, the midnight hour!
neither here nor there-ness of it all!
and yet the feel of being here and there-ness!
a fleeting shadow of eternity!