



## NEWSLETTER Update 002 – April 2006

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS UPDATE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE

**(If you wish to receive the WASLI Newsletter then please send your contact details to WASLI Secretary [wasli.secretary@btinternet.com](mailto:wasli.secretary@btinternet.com) )**

### WASLI EXECUTIVE BOARD

The WASLI Executive Board met for the first time on 31 March 2006 in Durham, England. There was a lot of discussion, and debate about the Work Programme. More information will follow in the next update on the important items.

WASLI has received an invitation to an international conference on sign language and the linguistic rights of Deaf people in Moscow as well as to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the All Russian Society of the Deaf 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

### WASLI MADRID 2007

The WASLI President, Liz Scott Gibson met with officials from the World Federation of the Deaf and the National Confederation of the Deaf in Spain (hosts of the WFD Congress in Madrid 2007) in Finland in February.

WASLI has also been in contact with the Federation of Spanish Sign Language Interpreters (FILSE) who will host the WASLI Conference in 2007. Although dates are not yet confirmed, it is hoped that the WASLI Conference will take place 13-15 July 2007.

Full details on the WFD Congress are available at:

[http://www.wfdcongress.org/eng/version\\_text.php?categoria=Inicio](http://www.wfdcongress.org/eng/version_text.php?categoria=Inicio)

Information about FILSE can be found: <http://www.filse.org/filse2/>

Further information about WASLI Spain 2007 will follow once the dates, venue and a 'theme' are agreed.

### NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR AUSTRALASIA/OCEANIA

Dr Jemina Napier is the new WASLI representative for the Australasia & Oceania region. *We would like to welcome Dr Jemina to the WASLI Executive Board.*

## WHEN CAN YOU JOIN WASLI?

Many people want to know when they can join. The membership structures are being put in place now. The membership fee schedule (to include individuals) is being finalised and the application forms and procedures are being worked on right now. An update to follow

## WHAT ABOUT THE WASLI WEBSITE?

A high priority is to get a WASLI website up and running because this will be a very effective way of communicating with the world. The current address [www.rid.org/wasli](http://www.rid.org/wasli) is no longer being used. We are now working to get the new WASLI website ready for you. An update to follow

## SUPPORTING DEAF PEOPLE 2006

### ONLINE CONFERENCE

The fourth in the series of highly successful online events, Supporting Deaf People 2006 will take place from the 6th - 9th of November. These conferences offer an international platform for information exchange and debate. To date, participants to Supporting Deaf People conferences have come from nearly 30 different countries over 5 continents.

More information on the conference can be seen at:

<http://www.online-conference.net/sdp2006/introduction.htm>

Judith Mole

Direct Learn Services Ltd.

## NEWS FROM COLLEAGUES AROUND THE WORLD

### AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

#### A NEW BOOK ON INTERPRETING NOW AVAILABLE

The Book 'Sign Language Interpreting: Theory & Practice in Australia and New Zealand' co-authors, Dr Jemina Napier, Dr Rachel Locker-McKee and Della Goswell is now available for purchase.

Visit:

<http://www.federationpress.com.au/bookstore/book.asp?isbn=1862875839>

<http://www.forestbooks.com/pages/Categories/SLI.html>

### FIJI

Sign Language Interpreter Training gets underway in Fiji this month. More details on this are in the SLIANZ March 2006 Newsletter (mentioned below)

### MALTA

#### WORKING TO SET UP A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Maria Azzopardi from Malta reports that they have agreed a name for their National Association. It will be called AILSM - Assocjazzjoni Interpreti tal-Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija [interpreters.lsm@gmail.com](mailto:interpreters.lsm@gmail.com) *Congratulations to our colleagues in Malta.*

### NEW ZEALAND

The Sign Language Interpreter Association of New Zealand will be holding its Annual Conference:

8-9 July 2006 Dunedin, New Zealand

'Raising the Profile'

Keynote Speaker: Dr Jemina Napier

[www.slianz.org.nz](http://www.slianz.org.nz)

SLIANZ also produces a Newsletter. The March 2006 edition has just been released. If you would like a copy (in PDF format), then please contact the editor at [newsletter@slianz.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@slianz.org.nz)

## SOUTH AFRICA FIRST SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS GRADUATE AT UNISA

On Saturday 28 January 2006, UNISA celebrated a very unusual first – the first intake of students for the one-year Programme in South African Sign Language Interpreting received their certificates at a special ceremony at UNISA. Only 18 students out of the original 33 students passed this challenging course. The course included improving the students' skills in South African Sign Language (SASL) linguistics, and teaching them how to interpret from SASL into English and from English into SASL in community contexts ranging from taking statements at a police station to interpreting for HIV/Aids counselling sessions.

Many of the students were already working on a volunteer basis as Sign Language Interpreters for the Deaf community before being selected to enrol for the course, and so this programme gave them a welcome chance to improve their professionalism. Francois Deysel, Thelma Kotze and Asanda Katshwa, three well-known South African Sign Language Interpreters (all of whom interpret for SABC) were the trainers for the course together with Dr Kim Wallmach from the Department of Linguistics at UNISA, and Helen Morgans and Naomi van Vuuren from Wits.

Amongst the guests of honour at the graduation ceremony were Mr Bruno Druchen, the head of DEAFSA (Deaf Association of South Africa), Ms Wilma Niewoudt-Druchen, South Africa's only Deaf Member of Parliament, Britta Zawada, Chair of the Linguistics Department, as well as Claire de Meulenaere of the Health and Welfare SETA, which sponsored the course. Dr Kim Wallmach delivered the public address, congratulating the students on their achievement, but wondering if their families really knew about the perils of the interpreting profession. She pointed out that interpreters enable others to bridge linguistic and cultural barriers, but they can also be seen as a threat, because interpreters have the power to cross the boundaries between cultures and to exploit their unique access to information from more than one side. Historically, interpreters often landed up in prison because of this.

The story of the interpreter Autshumato is a case in point. Autshumato, a Khoikhoi leader who became an interpreter for Jan Van Riebeeck, lived in the early days of the Dutch settlement in the Cape in the late 1600s. But in 1658, Van Riebeeck accused him of misinterpretation and lack of loyalty to the Dutch and imprisoned him on Robben Island, where he was considered to be the first political prisoner ever to be held on Robben Island. A year and a half later, he and a fellow prisoner managed to steal a little rowing boat and escape from the Island. So not only was this interpreter the first political prisoner --- he was also one of the very few prisoners who ever managed to escape the island. Today one of the ferries, which take tourists to Robben Island, is named after him.

Dr Wallmach then emphasised that interpreting is not only sometimes a physically dangerous profession; it can also be a morally dangerous one. She quoted a recent case in court, where a court interpreter from Niger(ia) was convicted to several years' imprisonment as a result of his deliberate misinterpretation and deliberate bias towards his clients in court. When his clients said something incriminating in court, he would conveniently misinterpret so that the accused got off scot-free. But to make matters worse, this interpreter refused to admit he had done anything wrong. "After all, I have to supplement my income somehow, he said. They pay us very badly." One wonders whether this interpreter had any ethical principles at all.

Dr Wallmach explained that she believed that the certificate was worth all the effort, time and anxiety for the students --- most of whom had never studied at university before. These new interpreters can be proud of their success and can now serve and empower the Deaf community through their work as interpreters. But pride must go hand-in-hand with responsibility --- new knowledge must always be used wisely for the benefit of others.

## TANZANIA ESTABLISHES A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Please be informed that in Tanzania we have already registered the Tanzania Association of Sign Language Interpreters ( TASLI ) and our registration number is 00NGO/0684.

We have rented the house which we think is going to be our office but it needs some kind of renovation, please dear try to find people to whom you think they will be good enough to assist us in on way or another not only that but also inform other Sign Language Interpreters in the World that we have the Association. (Geden Singo)

*Congratulations to our colleagues in Tanzania*

## AIIC (INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INTERPRETER ASSOCIATION)

AIIC produces an electronic newsletter entitled AIIC News.

To subscribe/unsubscribe:

[http://www.aiic.net/ViewLists.cfm?List\\_id=4&collapse=yes](http://www.aiic.net/ViewLists.cfm?List_id=4&collapse=yes)

To visit their website: visit [www.aiic.net](http://www.aiic.net)

## ST JEROME PUBLISHING

St Jerome is the only publisher in the world that specialises in Translation and Intercultural Studies.

<http://www.stjerome.co.uk/index.php>

## NEXT EDITION: More news and information from WASLI

If you have any news or information that you would like to include then please send your contribution to the WASLI Secretary at the email address below.

**The WASLI Executive Board & Co-optees (2005)** [wasli.secretary@btinternet.com](mailto:wasli.secretary@btinternet.com)

Officers: President: Liz Scott Gibson (Scotland) - Vice President - Philemon Akach (South Africa) - Secretary - Zane Hema (England) - Treasurer - Liz Scully (Canada)

Regional Reps: North America - Deb Russell (Canada) - Asia - Emiko Ichikawa (Japan) - Transcaucasia & Central Asia - Anna Komarova (Russia) - Europe - Marco Nardi (Italy) - Australasia/Oceania - Dr Jemina Napier - South America - to be advised - Africa - to be advised

Co-optees: Dr D Burch (USA) Bill Moody (USA) Nigel Cleaver (England) Arun Rao (India) Francois Deysel (South Africa) Ito Tadashi (Japan) Knud Sondergaard (WFD) Carol-lee Aquiline (USA)