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# NOTA

NORTHEAST OHIO TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

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## Summer 2022

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# President's Message

August 26, 2022

Dear colleagues,

Summer is in full swing, and I hope that you are able to spend as much time outdoors as possible enjoying barbecues, picnics, baseball games, and other fun activities. Our 2021 Annual Meeting & Picnic was such a success that we decided to have an *encore* this year! We therefore invite you to our 2022 Annual Meeting and Picnic on September 8 at the Katydid Lodge of Frohring Meadows, in Bainbridge (OH, 44023). You can register [here](#) until September 2.

Now back to business. 'Tis the season for your membership renewal, and NOTA appreciates your continuous support for the organization and the profession! The membership renewal process begins on August 1 and your dues are payable by September 1. When you renew your membership, please take the time to review your profile to make sure all the information is correct and up to date. Pay extra attention to the ATA certification field along with any other certifications you might hold. **Your ATA membership or a membership in any other professional organization, such as IMIA or CCHI, does not mean you hold an ATA certification or any other certification by any of these bodies unless you passed their certification exam.**

Pursuant to Article III, Paragraph IV of the [NOTA Bylaws](#), any member may be expelled from the organization under the provision of Section 6, Article III of the [ATA Bylaws](#), which sets forth the grounds for sanctions under ATA Policy of Ethics Procedures and states that “fraud or misrepresentation in the application for or maintenance of ATA membership, professional certification, or other professional recognition or credential” is a violation of the Code or the aforementioned article and will result in sanctions. Please refer to the article in this newsletter by Jill Sommer, NOTA past president and a former ATA Ethics Committee Chair for more detailed information on the [ATA certification exam](#).

NOTA has been hosting the ATA certification exam annually (except during the COVID years) in Kent, OH, and if you are interested in becoming an ATA-certified translator in your respective language combination(s), you can find more information [here](#). The ATA certification exam is rigorous and demanding; thus, you are strongly encouraged to take a [practice test](#), which is an optional part of the certification program, before taking the actual exam. Moreover, as of May 2, 2022, ATA members can now take the [certification exam on demand](#) from the convenience of their home or office at the time of their choosing! This year, on June 4, NOTA welcomed seven candidates who took the exam at Kent State University. We wish them luck! I would also like to thank our exam proctors, Julia Villasenor and Celeste Klein Malone.

We would like to thank Dr. Rita Pavone for the excellent webinar on Artificial Intelligence she presented on May 19 and take this opportunity to invite more members to participate. If you have an idea of what you think might be an interesting and insightful topic for our members or you are a presenter and would like to share your knowledge with your colleagues, please reach out to us with your ideas.

We hope you enjoy this Summer issue of our newsletter, featuring our Secretary Hannah Sampson as our T&I Spotlight guest. We also want to extend a warm welcome to all our new members!

We look forward to seeing you on September 8 at the Katydid Lodge of Frohring Meadows to enjoy beautiful scenery, delicious food, and great networking with your colleagues! Please bring a friend and help spread the word.

Olga Shostachuk  
*NOTA President*

*Olga Shostachuk is a Ph.D. Candidate in Translation Studies at Kent State University, Kent, OH, where she previously completed her M.A. in Translation degree. She also holds an M.A. in Education and Linguistics from Lviv National University in Ukraine and a paralegal degree from the Academy of Court Reporting in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Shostachuk served as the Vice Chapter Chair for Ohio IMIA and currently is a Ukrainian into English grader for the American Translators Association and New York University and a Ukrainian editor for SlavFile, the newsletter of Slavic Languages Division of the ATA.*



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## Welcome, New Members!

[Andrea Turnquist](#), [Marian Borchway](#)

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## T&I Spotlight

[Hannah Sampson](#)

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## Executive Committee News

The Executive Committee met remotely on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM. You can find the meeting minutes [here](#).

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## NOTA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

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International Translation Day is celebrated on September 30 to recognize the language professionals who play a critical role in bringing together cultures and nations through mutual understanding and cooperation. September 30 is the feast day of St. Jerome, a scholar and priest who is credited with the first translation of the Bible.

This holiday, first recognized by the United Nations in 2017, highlights the work of translators as both an art and a trade. NOTA celebrates International Translation Day and wishes to recognize all professional translators and interpreters who, project after project, strive to promote excellence and raise awareness of professional translation while cultivating a united world based on diversity and inclusion.

If you would like to join in the celebration, consider partaking in the following virtual events:

Proz.com is holding a 2-day virtual conference for International Translation Day. They currently have a Call for Speakers and invitation to their pre-conference workshops on September 26 and 27, followed by the International Translation Day Conference on September 28 and 29. Click [here](#) for more details.

We will continue to share International Translation Day events on our NOTA Facebook page and group.

Happy International Translation Day!

# NOTA hosted training event:

## "The Intersection of Artificial Intelligence, Forensic Psychology, and Criminal Justice and the Impact on the Role of Translators and Interpreters,"

presented by Dr. Rita Pavone on May 19, 2022



## Reflecting on the Ethical Dilemma of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

*By Akiko Fujikawa, Japanese translator and interpreter*

It was twenty-six years ago when I spent academic time in the linguistics department studying morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, and phonetic syntax. I had great fun in creating simple speeches using a speech synthesis system. I wanted to advance my study in a natural language processing (NLP) course, however, the engineering background with PEARL programming skill was highly expected for the candidates. By then engineering knowledge had become essential requirement to work on the language science. Linguistics, cognitive science, psychology, NLP and human algorithm have been heavily involved in developing artificial intelligence (AI). AI has advanced in a prodigious speed with its deep learning capability and neural network to simulate every segment of human activities, and now to support human judgement.

Dr. Rita Pavone's presentation on "The Intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Forensic Psychology, and Criminal Justice and the Impact on the Role of Interpreters and Translators" [NOTA, 2022] gave us the professional insight about AI simulating human cognitive function and evaluation capabilities. Dr. Pavone also discussed AI ethical issues.

AI learns itself through deep learning and establishes its thinking process and judgement criteria, which is a black box to a human being. Men cannot examine a reason and a process how AI reached a decision. Being aware of AI risks, the world and industries are developing AI guidelines, key requirements that AI should meet to be trustworthy and AI governance. [European Commission, USA DUI] [Mudgal et al. 2022]

A debate continues if AI can be ethical. Some conclude that AI will not be ethical as human cannot be ethical. [Connock & Stephen] Whichever side we stand, our future and survival relies on AI.



**Reference:**

[Connock & Stephen, 2021] Connock A. and Stephen A., "We invited an AI to debate its own ethics in the Oxford Union", The Conversation, 2021

[Goel 2018] Goel S., Shroff R., Skeem J. and Slobogin C., "The minimally conscious state: definition and diagnostic criteria," Neurology, 58, 2002.

[Ishikawa, 2020] Ishikawa K., Mizukami K., Inokuchi T., Maeda H., Fukuzumi S., Sakura O.: An attempt to categorize ethical and social issues of AI – Comparative analysis of issues through case studies, The 34th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence, 2020, 2Q4-OS-13a-02.

[Mudgal et al. 2019] Mudgal Y. at el., Artificial intelligence risk and governance, Warton University of Pennsylvania, 2019.

[Neff & Nagy 2016] Neff G., Nagy P.: Talking to bots: Symbiotic agency and the case of Tay, International Journal of Communication. 10, 2016. Pp 4915-4931. 2016.

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## NOTA hosts ATA certification exam

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On Saturday, June 4, 2022, NOTA hosted a sitting of the in-person ATA certification exam at Kent State University. A total of 7 candidates took the exam that day representing three different language pairs – English into Arabic, English into Spanish/Spanish into English, and German into English. The exam was proctored by Celeste Klein Malone, NOTA's election committee chair and an ATA-certified English to Spanish translator, with assistance from our Vice President, Julia Villaseñor. NOTA has hosted the in-person ATA exam annually for a number of years, with the exception of the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021. Two applicants left reviews of the event.

Although the ATA has recently added an online version of the exam, in-person sittings are still common.

To find out more about this highly-rated exam, visit this [link](#) and consider reading the article in this issue on ATA certification by Jill Sommer.



*"The ATA Certification Exam process was great and smooth. Celeste and Julia did their best to provide a calm atmosphere and support. They saved my life when they gave me "USB C to USB Adapter" so I could complete my exam. Thank you, Celeste and Julia, for your great support!" (Anonymous Applicant).*

*"My experience at the ATA certification exam was quite good actually. I had it at Kent University on June 4th (English into Arabic). I used GPS and had no problem arriving at the designated building. We started on time, the proctors were nice and professional, and also provided extension cables for our laptop chargers (which is vital actually).*

*The general and translation rules were clear and easy to follow. Restrooms were adjacent to the exam hall.*

*Overall, it was a positive experience and I cannot point out anything to criticize!" (Anonymous Applicant).*

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# ATA MEMBERSHIP VS. ATA CERTIFICATION

By Jill R. Sommer

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One of the first questions that you may find yourself asking upon entering the translation field is whether or not you need to get certified; and the answer really depends. For example, I have been working in the industry for 25 years and am not certified. While it is true that some agencies in the United States only hire ATA-certified translators, most are more concerned with education, relevant experience and translation history.

It has come to NOTA's attention that some of its members may not understand what certification truly is. Certified translators have had their abilities, knowledge and skills evaluated and deemed satisfactory by an appropriate institution or accreditation/certification body. There are not a lot of options for certification for professional translators in the United States, and there is no such thing as international certification. In addition, if you wish to pursue interpretation along with translation, you may also be required to obtain a state certification focusing on interpretation, though certification in interpretation does not necessarily certify you as a translator.

It is important to note that a number of private companies claim to be "associations" or "institutions" providing translation certification. These claims are often false and such "certifications" may not benefit you in the long run. Be sure to research the certifying credentials of any program and their acceptability in the professional translation world.

The American Translators Association is the leading certifying body in the United States and the only one through which you can become "ATA-certified." NOTA hosts an ATA certification exam every year in May. The exam is difficult and has a roughly 20% pass rate. Candidates are advised to have already obtained some kind of higher education or specialized knowledge and have a few years of experience in the translation field before attempting the exam. The exam itself tests advanced comprehension of the text, translation methods, and proper target-language grammar--including punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and usage. Candidates must successfully pass two passages in the exam. It is strongly recommended that you take the practice test before the full exam; it is inexpensive compared to the full exam, you receive feedback that can help you determine whether you are really ready, and it can be a good investment in your business.

After obtaining ATA certification, you are required to maintain your ATA membership and compile a certain amount of continuing education (CEU points) every few years to maintain your certification.

ATA takes false claims of being ATA-certified without having taken and passed the test very seriously. If you are an ATA member, you could be subject to a complain before the ATA Ethics Committee and sanctioned. ATA can also take legal action (cease and desist order) against non-members claiming ATA certification.

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## ATA63: First-Time Conference Attendee Discount

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ATA's 63rd Annual Conference will take place on October 12-15, 2022 in Los Angeles, CA. This year, ATA is offering a \$75 discount to first-time conference attendees—and ATA members and student members can save even more!

The Annual Conference is ATA's flagship event where independent language professionals and language services providers connect, grow, learn, and discover ways to collaborate. ATA63 will be a unique professional development opportunity—and a chance to connect with colleagues and potential clients.

- 160+ educational sessions and advanced workshops with CEUs from ATA and various interpreter credential organizations
- Job Fair
- Daily networking events
- Book Fair, Dictionary Exchange, and more
- Professional headshots
- Hands-on translation tool tutorials
- Exhibit hall: learn about the latest publications, resources, and software
- ATA certification exam sitting

[Check out the ATA63 Conference program and register!](#)



**IT'S TIME TO GET TOGETHER!**

### Picnic & Annual Meeting

September 08, 2022 6:00 PM, EDT

Frohring Meadows  
Katydid Lodge  
16780 Savage Rd.  
Bainbridge, OH 44023

Register [Here!](#)



*Invite a colleague  
and help us spread the word!*

***(Registration deadline:  
Friday, September 2)***

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**We are looking for volunteers!**

ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PROUDLY REPRESENT NOTA AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Support your local Chapter and become a NOTA ambassador.

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TO SIGN UP, PLEASE EMAIL ISABEL GALVEZ AT IG\_GLOBAL@YAHOO.COM

NOTA is recruiting volunteers to work as our NOTA ambassadors at future community events.

**Picnic Volunteers:** At this time we are inviting 1 or 2 volunteers to help with set-up/clean-up on September 8, during our Annual Meeting and Picnic.

If you are attending the picnic and would like to volunteer, please email [Isabel Gálvez](mailto:isabel.galvez@nota.org)




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## COVID-19 Language Resources

### Translation Commons

Translation Commons has made a multilingual interactive poster-maker to help communities combat COVID-19. You can view the poster-maker here: [Covid-19 Multilingual Poster-Maker](#)

### Translators Without Borders

TWB's COVID-19 glossary is currently available in 23 languages to help field workers and interpreters raise awareness about COVID-19. You can view the glossary here: [TWB COVID-19 Glossary](#)

### Cuyahoga County Multilingual Resource Center

Resources are available in Arabic, Chinese, Nepali, Russian, and Spanish. You can view the resources here: [Cuyahoga County Multilingual Resource Center](#)

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Follow, Love and Like NOTA on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!

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Nota Bene Newsletter Editor: Isabel Gálvez  
Associate Editor: Hannah Simpson

All members are invited and encouraged to contribute news or stories to our NOTA Newsletter. For contributions to this Newsletter please email [ig\\_global@yahoo.com](mailto:ig_global@yahoo.com).

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