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All contributions to this e-news are published under the full responsibility of their authors only.

President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

This e-news will be published just before the congress in Katowice. For the most recent program, I refer to the website: Intersteno Katowice 2024 (intersteno2024.org).

It's always an exciting time, the run-up to the conference. At the time of writing this post, the number of participants stands at 346, coming from 28 different countries. In this e-news an interview with one of the organizers of the congress, Krystian Wawrzynek.

I wish all participants in the competitions good results and the participants of the conferences good, meaningful meetings. I look forward to meeting you soon in Katowice. I wish you all a safe journey!

The next e-news will appear in September 2024. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar is at the end of August, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



Interview with Krystian Wawrzynek, member of the Board of Intersteno and member of the organizing committee of the congress in Katowice

What is your relationship with Katowice?

My relationship with Katowice is very special. I have many memories from this city and all of them are good. I used to go to high school in Katowice, so I used to have many friends over there. Also, Katowice as a capital city of Silesia is a host of many important events, including sport events where I used to be a spectator. When you live in Silesia, your ways at some point regularly lead you to Katowice. So even though I come from a small town 25 km south from Katowice, I have spent quite some time in this city.



Which schools have you attended? Can you describe what you remember about each school?

In Katowice I attended Silesian Technical High School (Śląskie Techniczne Zakłady Naukowe). It is a technical high school well known in the region. Our students are very recognizable, and you can easily spot them in the streets. They wear dark blue suits and ties and light blue shirts. It is the only school in the region with this kind of dress code and it was one of the main reasons why I picked this school. To study electronics and to wear my suits. :)

Where did you look for and find your entertainment, as a child, teenager and as an adult?

Of course, Katowice, like any other huge city has much to offer. Cinemas, bowling, theatres, music clubs, you name it. But what I liked the most were places where you could hide from the world. Small pubs, from the street level you must take a few steps down. No windows inside, just some smooth music in the background. Time stops when you enter a place like this. I loved that! Each of these places had their own, unique atmosphere, special vibe. Now some of these places are closed, but I know there are some new ones. Definitely I will check them out soon enough.

And of course, Silesian Park. Besides huge green areas, inside the Silesian Park is located Silesian Amusement Park, the planetarium, Silesian Stadium and even the cable railway that takes you for a ride around the whole park so you can see everything from above.

How often do you come to Katowice?

Unfortunately, I do not come to Katowice as often as I would like to. I moved my life abroad and school friendships are over. So basically I come to Katowice maybe twice a year. I was very happy that organizing an Intersteno Congress created a need for me to come to the city more often. It was always fun. Good place with good people.

When you're not in Katowice, what do you miss most about the city?

As I said before, I miss these small pubs. My close friends and I spent hours and hours in places like this. But this will never come back. Now I am not sure if I miss the pubs or I miss my twenties when I used to go out with my friends :)

Why did you think Katowice was a suitable location to hold an Intersteno conference?

Finally an easy question! That was already obvious to us, Interinfo Polska, for many years. Visiting other host cities during Intersteno Congresses, we analyzed our needs and we knew that Katowice has it all! Years before the decision about organizing the Congress in Katowice was made, we already knew that it is a perfect city for the main Intersteno events with many venues suitable for our activities. Eventually, the International Congress Centre provides us with a full service venue, but it was just one of many possibilities. If Katowice is a proper place for events like European Economic Congress, then for Intersteno it is probably good as well.

Which restaurants/pubs should conference attendees definitely visit?

I will have to explore new places by myself, so it is difficult for me to make some recommendations. But I will tell you where I will go. For sure I will visit Mariacka Street. It is a pedestrian zone, a street full of pubs, restaurants, beer gardens. It is a place to have fun. For dinner, it is hard to find a bad restaurant. In general, wherever you go, the food will be good. But for specialized food, local cuisine, I will visit "Wiejska Chatka". It is not far from the International Conference Centre (ICC) and has a unique décor. The guests should feel like they visited their grandma in the countryside. And the food is adequate with the décor. Classical Polish, Silesian, "Grandma's" food.

What is your favorite Polish food?

Katowice is the capitol city of Silesia and Silesia is a region with a different traditional cuisine than Poland. Of course, Polish food is good, but in Wiejska Chatka I will order my favorite, traditional, Silesian Sunday dinner: Beef roll-up, potato dumplings and red cabbage. It sounds good, but trust me, it tastes even better.

What are your three favorite places in Katowice?

Number one is definitely "Spodek" arena, situated right next to our International Congress Center. I attended many events there, mostly sporting events, bringing me a lot of great memories. "Spodek" is called a "Mecca of Polish Volleyball" for good reason. In this place the Polish Volleyball National team celebrated some of its greatest successes, including winning the World Championship. And I was there. Also, some other shows, concerts, galas, and so on... I've been there countless times. It has always been great. "Spodek" in Polish, means "UFO". And if you look at the building, it looks like one. If you take a look at the congress program leaflet, in the first page you can see "Spodek" and the ICC just behind it. The congress center was designed in such a way that it looks like the "Spodek" destroyed part of the ICC building while landing from outer space on its spot.



Number two would be Silesia City Center. It is a huge mall where you can go shopping, eat, and find entertainment. It is built on the site of a former coal mine, part of which can be seen just in front of the tram station. Number three would be “The Frog” at Stawowa Street. It is a little fountain, the meeting point before going anywhere. Every city has a place like this: “Let’s meet at 9 PM at the Frog”. I like this place because many great evenings started there.



You live with your wife, whom you met through Intersteno, in Croatia. What is the Polish influence in your home and what is the Croatian?

Our cultures, meaning Polish and Croatian, are not that different that you could see some strong influence of one or another. It is more about what did we bring to our common home from our parents’ homes, so it is more about family influence than Polish, or Croatian. However, since I have a Polish passport in my drawer, I must have a special shelf with slippers for our guests, and yes, tea is always available in my house :)

What are you most looking forward to during the conference?

Everything! I am so excited! I am looking forward to meeting all my friends from Intersteno and also to meet and greet all the newcomers. It is always about the people. More important than “what you do” is “with whom you do it”. Also, as a host, I believe we took care of every detail, so I am really looking forward to see how is everything going to work out. I am looking forward to the Opening Ceremony.

Which competitions will you participate in?

With time I narrowed my focus, so I will participate in just two competitions. I do Text Production, since this is the basic, source competition for everybody and serves me as a warmup for my main competition, which is Text Correction and, for me personally, the most important.

What activity, in addition to the conference program and excursions, do you recommend to conference attendees?

For those who will have any spare time, I recommend visiting Nikiszowiec just to walk around. It is an historic and charming workers district, known for its unique red-brick architecture and local culture.



Also, Silesian Museum... I know that the word "museum" sounds repelling, but there you can explore the extensive exhibitions on history and the industrial heritage of the region, housed in a former coal mine.

And parks... Katowice Forest Park, Silesian Park... both great for walking, cycling, picnicking. Within borders of the Silesian Park you will find also a zoo, rosarium and other interesting places... perfect place to relax.

Even mountains are not far away... Beskidy. Who fancies going for a hike?

As one of the organizers, what do you consider to be one of the most exciting moments of the conference?

There can be only one answer to this question. The spotlight of every congress is the day of the competitions. After all, it is a world championship.

Was organizing a conference successful or disappointing?

Organizing was successful, of course. There is no other way when you have such a great team in the organization committee. However, it is for the participants after the congress to judge the result of our work.

Who helped you with it?

The head of organization committee is Danny Devriendt. He stays behind every "yes" or "no" to all our ideas and proposals, and, of course, he coordinates all the administrative work related to the congress. And of course, on spot, we have an amazing team doing enormous work: Teresa Wawrzynek, Anna Dawidziuk, Magdalena Królikowska, Franciszek Puchała, Damian Mrowiec, Wojciech Bartnik, Jacek Kuc, Sebastian Pospiech... We do our best to get for the congress and its participants everything that we need and that we want.

What is your role on the Intersteno Board?

I was elected as a member of Intersteno Board in 2017 in Berlin. I like to think that I was elected to this position as the voice of the younger generation. Together with me, Emrah Kuyumcu from Turkey, who is almost the same age, joined the Board. That's why during discussions about new proposals in Intersteno, I try to present an additional point of view from my perspective or from the perspective of competitors, so that all members of the Board, and then the Assembly, have a broader picture of a certain issue. This of course works both ways. Given that the members of the Board come from the Netherlands, the USA, Turkey, Belgium, Italy, and Poland, I have insight into the full range of viewpoints, attitudes and problems faced by Intersteno, as well as its national groups - members. This helps maintain maximum objectivity, which is extremely important when working in a global organization.

What future do you see for yourself in Intersteno?

It sounds like one of these tricky questions during the job interview :) And it is hard to say. What I know for sure is that I want to remain active within the organization and help as much as possible in the future. I will do my best to use all chances that are coming in my direction.

News from Hungary

By Bernadett Berencsi and Anita Dobos

This year our Association (Magyar Gyorsírók és Gépírók Országos Szövetsége; MAGYOSZ) organized a national competition for shorthand, text production and text correction for students.

The prize-giving ceremony was held on 8 June. Of the 251 text production competition texts, 205 were successful, of which 102 were flawless.

Some young talents also took part in this competition and achieved really excellent results.

Lídia Ceglédi (from GYSZC Kossuth Lajos Technikum, SZKI és Kollégium, Orosháza) won 1st place by SC and Margit Gréta Fodor (from the same school) got 2nd place by SC. The bronze medalist was Barbara Bálint (from Energetikai Technikum és Kollégium, Paks).

The very talented competitors Csaba Hegedűs (from Budapest), Roland Baranek (from Győr), Mihály Szabolcs Kun and Ádám Attila Tamás (from Kiskunfélegyháza) got medals in TP competition in their category! All four will participate in the congress in Katowice not just in TP, but also in TC, NT and AT!

Students from Nagykanizsai SZC Thúry György Technikum – who are blind and visually impaired, disabled, hearing impaired – won medals too! Their teacher is Tímea Izabella Kalmár, whom we met at the Berlin congress.

The goal of our new Hungarian competitors in the future is to participate in as many national and international competitions as possible. They are really persistent in their objectives. We are sure there will be lots of practice too.

After the prize-giving ceremony, the general assembly of the Hungarian association followed. Here, the participants were informed about the next Intersteno congress too. Unfortunately, not all Hungarians who are traveling to Katowice were there, but the day was spent in a good mood. The event ended with a meeting of the presidency where we discussed current issues.

We hope to meet many Hungarian participants at Intersteno congresses in the future and our competitors will continue to achieve good results at world championships as well.

Good luck, everyone, in Katowice too!



Part of the Katowice group



Roland and his teacher



Izabella with her students



Long since colleagues



Always smile



10th year of the radio program about shorthand, "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS", on the radio of the Argentine Library of Congress

By Jorge Bravo and Azat Ambartsoumian-Diana Campi (Argentina)

On April 12 of this year, the 10th season of the radio program PALABRAS DIBUJADAS began, which we carried out on the radio of the Argentine Library of Congress (www.bcnradio.com.ar), in which we exclusively developed topics that have to do with Shorthand: history-past-projection towards the future, anecdotes, famous people who were stenographers, conditions that the stenographer must meet, as well as curiosities, material that listeners send us, courses, conferences, championships, etc. All this thanks to the books and magazines found in the Palant Collection, a shorthand collection that is part of the Library of Congress. This collection belonged to the Argentine stenographer Miguel Palant, who was also a renowned medical doctor; When he died, his family donated it to said Library. It is made up of 471 books and magazines, in 22 languages.



This year is very important because in addition to having started the 10th season, in addition to the traditional transmission, this year we have also started with the streaming mode. Therefore, you can listen to us on Spotify or listen to us and see us on YouTube. You simply have to enter these platforms and search for "Palabras Dibujadas". And, of course, through the radio of the Library of Congress of the Nation, www.bcnradio.com.ar

As always, the program team is Jorge Bravo, Azat Ambartsoumian and Diana Campi in the radio studio, and Sergio Salinas in charge of the graphic design of the streaming.

Of course, the program is open to the entire INTERSTENO community to disseminate all types of information about both the Federation and the activities carried out by member countries. You can simply write to the email palabrasdibujadas@gmail.com

And you can also follow us on the social networks Instagram and Facebook simply by searching for "palabras dibujadas".

Would you like to collaborate with the radio program about shorthand "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS" (Drawn Words)? You can do it!

Jorge Bravo-Azat Ambartsoumian-Diana Campi (Argentina)

The section "Collaborations of listeners" of our program arose circumstantially. Then we received some articles from Australia written by Ms. Carmel Taylor. Given the interest that has been generated, this section became a permanent section. And up through the present time we have already shared several "collaborations" from Australia, about Shorthand Day in Australia, about "The history of Shorthand in Australia" and about the tourist tours organized by Mrs. Carmel Taylor to see different places in the city of Melbourne that are related to the history of Shorthand. But we have also received "collaborations" from Spain, about the Yost typewriters and about the work of the stenographers in the Congress of Deputies, thanks to Javier Núñez Hidalgo and Gloria Canencia, respectively; from Brazil, thanks to Marilanja Pereira, about the completion of a shorthand course at the Legislative School of Bahia; from Hungary, thanks to Anita Dobos, who gave us her opinion about what shorthand is; from Chile, thanks to Osvaldo Castro, who let us know his personal history and how his relationship with shorthand arose and how it continues today, his knowledge of various systems which he has studied self-taught; and, of course, there have been several "collaborations" that many listeners from Argentina sent us on various topics, such as "Updating in the field of shorthand", "shorthand and Fedor Dostovieski", "shorthand practices to gain more speed", etc.

The repercussions that this "section" has always leads us to invite the entire INTERSTENO community to also send us their articles to make them known to our listeners and, thus, continue creating ties between those of us who share the same passion for shorthand, typing and the use of new technologies that contribute to doing a better job every day. All collaborations are welcome! You can be the next "collaborator" and your collaboration will be read on our radio program.

You can send them to email palabrasdibujadas@gmail.com



Death of Daniel Zattera, Argentine stenographer

By Jorge Bravo

On March 6, stenographer Daniel Zattera died in Buenos Aires. He was 94 years old; he was born on January 1, 1930.

Daniel Zattera had a distinguished and extensive career as a stenographer. He began working as a stenographer in 1947 when he was only 17 years old, but it was in 1958, more specifically on March 18 of that year, when he participated in a public competition to begin working as a stenographer in the Deliberative Council of the City of Buenos Aires (today legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires). In that contest he obtained first place, which had an impact not only in Argentina but also in other countries, as reflected in the magazine *El Mundo Taquigráfico*, published in Madrid, Spain, where were published two articles detailing even the speeds to which Daniel Zattera wrote at that time. This is how he began working as a parliamentary stenographer in May 1958. Four years later, in 1962, he became director/chief, where he remained until his retirement in 1991.



On the other hand, he was also a stenographer in the Legislature of the Province of Buenos Aires and a member of the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers, in which he held the position of secretary for more than one period. In recognition of his extensive and important work in the Association, he was designated an honorary member.

Although he was already retired from his professional activity, his commitment to the profession was always the same. For example, he always gave his fervent support to the different shorthand courses that have been given in recent years, especially in the interior of our country. Likewise, convinced that stenographers must know the ways of working in other countries, he was always a great defender of participation in international conferences and at all times he supported Argentina's participation in Intersteno.

Daniel Zattera was a great stenographer, passionate about the profession, always concerned about the projection of shorthand into the future. For this reason, although he developed his entire career with traditional Shorthand - he used the Larralde system, one of the systems used in Argentina - he was always a promoter of knowledge of new technologies and stenotype. Possessor of great culture, he was a researcher and author of several notes inherent to the profession and the comprehensive training of the stenographer. He wrote and published many articles and participated in several congresses where he demonstrated his deep knowledge of the profession of stenographers. Many of those articles that he has written even refer to linguistic issues and the correct use of language, because he was convinced that the stenographer must carry out his work with the highest possible quality and adapt oral discourse to the particularities of the written language. Among his numerous articles we can mention: "Linguistic support notes for stenographers and stenotypists", "Shorthand and Language", "On behaviors in the stenographic profession", "A necessary debate" (an article in which he refers to the discussion about of shorthand and technique"). And one of his last conferences that is well remembered was delivered at the VI International Congress of Parliamentary and Judicial Shorthand held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in September 2010 on the topic "Stenographers and the Bicentennial-The Argentine Bicentennial and the contribution of stenographers to the history of legislative debates).

A few years ago we had the opportunity to visit Daniel Zattera at his house where we had a very long talk. There he told us about his career, anecdotes, projects, etc. Then we shared part of that talk on

our radio program, “Palabras Dibujadas”, a program that is still remembered by many listeners today for the clarity of Daniel Zattera's words.

Giving a detailed account of all the years of Daniel Zattera's profession, his experience and his wisdom would take up many pages, but we did not want to stop making this brief review of his professional life and highlight in general what he has done. The important thing is to always keep alive the legacy that he has left us all and especially the example for new generations of stenographers.

With the death of Daniel Zattera, a period of great stenographers in the history of the profession in Argentina comes to an end. Those of us who have had the opportunity to know him personally and professionally will never forget him for everything he has taught us. His human quality and professional qualities were of a high level. I hope that those of us who continue on the path know how to travel it with the same passion with which Daniel Zattera has done it. That will be our best tribute to Daniel Zattera, a great man for all Argentine stenographers.



Photo: Daniel Zattera at the International Congress of Parliamentary and Judicial Shorthand – Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2010

Shorthand courses in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil

By Jorge Bravo (Argentina)

There are many Shorthand courses that are being taught in Argentina. We can mention those who are in charge: Claudio Araujo, in Buenos Aires; Eduardo Lepez in two cities in the province of San Juan; Alicia Herrera in the province of La Rioja; Patricia López with the Digital Shorthand course in the city of Escobar-Province of Buenos Aires; Marcela Kobe in the province of Tucumán; Delfor Castro in the city of Rosario, province of Santa Fe; Amelia Centurión and Ana Mabel Núñez in the province of Formosa; Adriana Giraud in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires; and Rubén Pinochi in the city of Olavarría, province of Buenos Aires. This last course will begin on August 6.

In Uruguay, the stenographer Patricia Sedes teaches a course in Montevideo, as do the teachers Graciela Cabrera and Stella Durán Pedranzini (the latter also teaches a course in the city of Canelones).

In Brazil, stenographers Mirela Novais and Marilanja Pereira are teaching a shorthand course at the Bahia Legislative.

Stenographers at the International Book Fair in Buenos Aires, Argentina

By Jorge Bravo

Just as last year the stenographers of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies were present at the stand of the National Congress at the International Book Fair to explain to the public the work of the stenographers, this year they were the stenographers of the Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires who were at the Legislature stand to talk about their work and demonstrate shorthand writing with both traditional shorthand and stenotype.

This is a very important activity because it makes it possible for many people to learn about the work of stenographers and to be able to talk to them and see "live" what the work entails.

News from Argentina

By Victor Gonzalez

Presentation before authorities of the parliament of Córdoba – current area

From the office, the composition of the work team, the objectives and the work processes that are carried out to arrive at the written discourse of the different meetings that are held were explained. On the other hand, reference was made to the impact that Artificial Intelligence had on the activity, generally resulting in an improvement in processes and always highlighting the fundamental ingredient provided by the hand of the human being.



Likewise, emphasis was placed on the role we have as notaries within Parliament or auditors of part of the legislative process.

Shorthand workshop

Through the legislator Ariela Szpanin and her secretary, Analía Righetti, people from the University Program for Older Adults (PUAM) visited us in Parliament, whom we introduced to the world of shorthand. We explained our role within the parliamentary process, the history of the activity, how it currently works and the impact of new technologies.

They were then able to participate in a practical workshop on the system, learning the shorthand signs through the Pitman system adapted to the Spanish language, and with the enthusiasm of the participants, they were able to write their names that they could take back as a souvenir. Two meetings of two levels each, theoretical and practical, were held with the participation of approximately 30 attendees each.



Participation of shortnotographers in the disability commission

From the Disability Commission we were invited to participate in a meeting in which we participated as an area of inclusion within the Legislature, of which the stenographers office is a part and where we were able to present the contribution we can make for deaf and blind people as facilitators of the information.

On this occasion, we were able to report the experience we had from the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers as volunteers helping students with disabilities at the University.

The direct exchange with the legislators made it possible to make known and make visible that from our humble place we can also contribute to help make our Parliament accessible to all people.



Tiro's Spring 2024: A quick round-up of the latest issue

By Eero Voutilainen

Intersteno's journal Tiro – The Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription published its ninth issue in June. This time the majority of articles in the issue focus on diverse aspects of parliamentary reporting. However, within this context, they tackle several themes that are relevant to all fields of professional reporting and transcription.

The first articles concentrate on reporting practices and training to master them. Eero Voutilainen concentrates on two central approaches to official reporting – transcription and narration – and how they are implemented in the formal sections of the Finnish parliamentary report. Michael Ejstrup introduces us to Sprogbasen, the electronic reference work that is used to ensure systematic linguistic and editorial practices in the reporting office of the Danish Parliament. Tony Minichiello describes the organised and systematic way in which staff are trained to report the select committees in the House of Commons, UK.

The next two articles focus on language policy and linguistic accessibility. Adrian M. Kelly shows us how bilingualism, namely alternating between Irish and English language speeches, is treated in the official report of the Houses of the Oireachtas, the Irish Parliament. Euphraat Mngadi makes an exciting initiative in planning the best way to report sign language in the parliamentary report of South Africa.

Technological innovations are by now a regular topic in Tiro. In the new issue, Cameron Smith and Kenneth Reid analyse the introduction of AI-based automatic speech recognition software to the substantially verbatim report in the Scottish Parliament. Lars Busch Nielsen shows us how the Danish Parliament has since as early as 2007 been at the forefront of using respeaking to make its official report. Alessandra Checcarelli turns the focus on to live reporting and subtitling and discusses what kind of future the fast development of artificial intelligence and computer-assisted interpreting might hold for these professions.

Professional reporting and transcription are intricately connected to many neighbouring disciplines. One of them is audiovisual translation. Luz Belenguer-Cortés demonstrates this in her book review of Reverter Oliver and his colleagues' edited academic volume about the field. Since the book is in Spanish, the review is also a valuable contribution as a brief report to English-speaking audiences about its essential contents. The Spring issue is finished by Carlo Eugeni's regular column, where he discusses different strategies in diamesic translation, or speech-to-text reporting. Drawing from several thought-provoking sources, he demonstrates how complex and delicate even seemingly simple reporting activities inherently are.

You can read all these articles for free at Tiro's website tiro.intersteno.org!

Eero Voutilainen is Tiro's editor-in-chief. This round-up of Tiro's Spring 2024 issue is re-published here with minor changes from his newest editorial.

Question about speech to text services in Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Hebrew

Tina **Lannin**, Director of 121 Captions, is looking for speech to text services in the languages Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Hebrew. If you can help her, please contact her: tina@121captions.com
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8012 8170