

Language Technology Division

Candidate for Administrator: Laurie Gerber

To introduce myself, I am a language enthusiast who has made a career out of machine translation (MT) and translation technology. I worked in the field of machine translation from 1986 through 2008, including system development (at Systran), research (at USC Information Sciences Institute), and business development (at Language Weaver). I moved into user consulting on tools for translators (2008-2011), and am currently the director of business development for Syntes Language Group, a Denver-based language services company that has often contributed time and expertise to the ATA. I have been a member of ATA since 1989 and was certified in Japanese to English in 1991. I have also been involved in the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA) since 1992 and am a past president of both AMTA and its parent association, the International Association for Machine Translation (IAMT). I have master's degrees in East Asian Studies (Yale, 1982) and Computational Linguistics (University of Southern California, 2001).

I am pleased to have the opportunity to run as LTD administrator, and to have the opportunity to serve ATA members. Interacting with the ATA community at ATA conferences, and via the mailing lists and webinars, I find a mix of curiosity, hope and lingering ambivalence about translation technology. Through the ATA LTD, I want to continue the work started at the founding of the division in 2006. I will use the Division website and mailing list as channels for eliciting and collecting the ideas, and questions coming from ATA LTD members about translation technology; and as forums for sharing articles and information about translation technology with members who seek more detailed, and advanced information about the technology, its use, trends, and best practices.

Although my resume talks about technology, it is my professional community and the end users of technology that are dearest to me. In that light, I also hope to help the translation community focus and strengthen its messages to technology developers about what translators really want and need from their tools.

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Candidate for Assistant Administrator: Michael Wahlster

I am pleased to be nominated to serve as assistant administrator of the Language Technology Division.

As an English-to-German translator, I have worked in-house and freelance, specializing in technical material and corporate communications projects. During my career, I migrated from an IBM Selectric, dedicated Wang and IBM word processors, CP/M-based Wordstar and Windows-based Word to translation memory tools. I have been involved with the Language Technology Division from the very beginning, creating and recreating the Division website and setting up the Division Twitter account.

If elected, I will work toward the following goals:

-Support the administrator to make the Language Technology Division the go-to place for questions and information about language-related technologies.

-Strengthen the dialog between division members and encourage the use of the website as a forum for the whole division and beyond.

-Identify relevant presenters with exciting topics for an LTD slate of conference presentations.

Ultimately, I would like to connect to all LTD members and expand the relevance of the division through their input and participation.