

Faculty Profiles

Michael O’Laughlin, Th.D.
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A member of the faculty since the program’s inception and now its director, Michael O’Laughlin is a legal interpreter certified by the states of California and Massachusetts. Dr. O’Laughlin has a lifetime of experience in the courts and has published many translations from a number of languages. He holds a master’s degree from Oxford University and a doctorate from Harvard University, both in Theology. As part of his academic training in Theology he became very involved with the translation of texts from Antiquity. He has extensive teaching and public speaking experience in the United States and also in Europe, and has written several books and a number of articles on religion, ethics, spirituality, philosophy, and interpreting. He also works as an expert witness in cases with language issues.

Sue Aldred
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Sue was a Government Certified Court Interpreter/Translator (English/Cantonese/Mandarin) in Hong Kong before coming to Massachusetts and became a State Certified Court Interpreter in both Cantonese & Mandarin. She currently interprets at the State and Federal Courts and mentors new Chinese Interpreters for the Administrative Office of the Trial Court of Massachusetts. Sue has done a number of high-profile trials both in Hong Kong and here in Massachusetts ranging from corrupt political election, gang mass murder to espionage. Sue was Chief Interpreter/Translator at an International Christian Ministry from 1991-1995 where she trained and supervised other interpreters and translators. Sue holds a Bachelor Degree in Chemistry from Bradford University in England and had formal teachers’ training at Hong Kong University and has years of teaching experience. Sue has also completed a 2-year undergraduate program in Chinese Language and Literature at Nankai University in Tianjin, China.

Eduardo Berinstein
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Eduardo Berinstein is certified as a translator by the American Translators Association and as an interpreter by the U.S. Federal Courts. He recently served as Director of Interpreting Services at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where he was also responsible for developing patient education materials in Spanish. He was previously Director of Interpreter Services at Children’s Hospital, Boston, where he started the hospital’s multilingual interpreter service. Prior to his work at Children’s Hospital, he served as a translator and interpreter for Brigham and Women’s Hospital for outpatient and emergency room services. He has taught at Bentley College and Cambridge College. He also teaches every summer at the Medical Interpreting Training Institute, offered in Tucson by the National Center for Interpretation, University of Arizona. He has interpreted at numerous international conferences and events, including interpreting live for Radio Bilingüe (part of the San Francisco-based National Latino Public Radio Network, with more than 60

affiliates on the West Coast) the nomination acceptance speeches of John Kerry and John Edwards at the Democratic Party National Convention, in 2004; and the speech of former Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, as guest lecturer at Harvard University, in 1988. Mr. Berinstein served as Chairperson of the Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association's Education Committee. He was part of the MMIA Committee that developed the first Standards of Practice for Medical Interpreters, adopted by the MMIA in 1995 and later by many professional organizations nationwide. Mr. Berinstein holds 21 years of experience as interpreter and translator.

Teresa Coelho

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Teresa Coelho, originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been living in the United States for eighteen years. Teresa worked for nearly a decade at the Cambridge Health Alliance as a medical interpreter and is still a member of their technical medical translation team. During those ten years she also worked frequently as an on-call interpreter for the East Boston Health Center and for Children's Hospital. In addition, Teresa has provided translation and interpreting services for numerous projects, including an IRS tax seminar, a medical consultation website, fine arts interviews, lyric translation, and union contract negotiations. Teresa is an accomplished musician, a graduate of the Berklee School of Music, and she holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO). Besides interpreting and teaching, she performs regularly with her band as singer, acoustic guitarist, and songwriter.

Frank Geoffrion

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Frank Geoffrion has a national reputation as a trainer and examiner of interpreters. He has been a Spanish-English court, conference, and medical interpreter since 1975. He has been certified by the federal court, the Massachusetts Trial Courts, and the American Translators Association. He is a faculty member at the National Institute for Interpretation at the University of Arizona and a consultant to the Federal Court Interpretation Certification Project. He administered the 1995 Federal Court Interpreter Oral Certification Examination in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. At an earlier stage in his career he established a language school in Cuzco, Peru and gave intensive courses there in the Quechua language, developing a 250-hour course and writing two teaching manuals in Spanish for the Quechua spoken in Central Peru, Southern Peru, and Bolivia. He now interprets in Quechua, as well as Spanish, for the Massachusetts Trial Courts. He was a founding member of the Association of Legal Translators and Interpreters of Massachusetts (ALTIMA), and their first treasurer/vice-president and editor of the newsletter, is a member of the American Translators Association (ATA), the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), the New England Translators Association (NETA), and the International Medical Interpreters Association. He served on the IMIA committee to develop a process for certifying medical interpreters.

Elena Langdon

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Elena Langdon is the Supervisor of Interpreter and Translation Services at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. She has worked as a freelance translator and interpreter since 2000 and has taught interpreting since 2005. She is certified by the American Translators Association as a Portuguese-to-English translator and holds an M.A. in Translation Studies from UMass Amherst. She grew up in Florianópolis, Brazil.

Jackie Ma

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Jackie Ma has always had an interest in human service and has been working as a community interpreter/translator in the greater Boston area since 2003. She is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, and Toisanese. Her broad spectrum of professional interpreting activities include government agencies, hospitals and mental health institutions, legal depositions and proceedings, legal aid agencies, immigration, attorney's offices, elderly protective services, private citizens, and other private agencies. She was born in mainland China and grew up mostly in Massachusetts. She earned a Master's degree at BU's School of Social Work in May 2007. Prior to entering the human services as an interpreter, she has been a software developer with a Bachelor's degree from Boston University in Computer Science and Mathematics.

Yilu Ma

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Yilu Ma is currently the Director of the Interpreter Services Department at Tufts Medical Center. Prior to this position, he was the manager of interpreter services at Boston Medical Center. Over the years he has interpreted for Mass General Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Mount Auburn Hospital, Lahey Clinic, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Shriner's Burn Institute, Newton Wellesley Hospital, and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is teaching medical interpreting skills and essential communications class at Cambridge College. In addition to medical and legal interpreting, Yilu Ma also interprets in a variety of other areas, including the high-tech, political, and academic fields. From 1991 to 1993, he was director of the protocol section of the Chinese embassy in Moscow, and concurrently acted as interpreter for the Chinese ambassador. Yilu is also an experienced simultaneous interpreter. He appeared on WBUR twice, simultaneously interpreting for the *Connection* program. Yilu holds a BA in British and American literature, a post-graduate degree in linguistics, a MA in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and a MS in computer science from Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire. He co-authored *the New-Age Chinese-English Dictionary* in 2000 and the *Concise English-Chinese Encyclopedia* in 1997.

Estela McDonough

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Estela McDonough is the Coordinator of Education and Training at UMass Memorial Medical Center Interpreter Services in Worcester, Massachusetts. She has 16 years of experience as a medical interpreter and translator, mentor and trainer. She taught Medical Interpretation at Bentley College, and Interpreting Skills for several years at Cambridge College. Estela holds a B.A. from Buenos Aires University and has attended extensive training in the interpreting field. She served for nine years in the IMIA board as a Regional Director for the Worcester area and was a test administrator and grader for the IMIA pilot test for certification of interpreters. Estela is a member of the IMIA, NCIHC, and NETA.

Yoshie Ng

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Yoshie Ng has been a staff medical interpreter in the Tufts Medical Center in Boston since 1997. She was born in Taiwan and raised in Japan. She speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese, and Japanese, all fluently. She provides language coaching for these languages at CultureSmart and HPHC. Yoshie is a sitting member of the Boston Area Health Education Center Advisory Board (BEHAC), and is one of their lead trainers for the "Introduction to Interpreting" workshop. She is also one of the Boston Directors of the IMIA and a member of Medical Reserve Corps for the town of Randolph. Prior to becoming an interpreter, Yoshie worked in the personal/institutional custody and international departments at State Street Bank. Besides working and teaching, Yoshie enjoys tapping with a local dance troupe.

Inna Persits-Gimelberg

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Ms. Persits-Gimelberg is the Administrator for Linguistic Access Programs Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation. Ms. Persits-Gimelberg is a lead trainer in Medical Interpreter Training Program at HPHC. She worked for long periods as both a linguist and a medical interpreter. She holds a master's degree from Minsk Linguistic University, Belarus (in English and German), and a master's degree from Simmons College (in Health Care Administration). She managed Community Interpreter Services for Catholic Charities for six years. She translates into Russian and contributes to the ATA Chronicle.

Isabel Pinto-Franco

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Isabel Pinto-Franco holds a degree in Modern Languages and Literatures (German and English Studies) from the University of Coimbra (Portugal). She is a staff interpreter, trainer, as well as a translator at the Cambridge Health Alliance (Cambridge, MA). Isabel has participated as a panelist as well as a presenter in interpreting conferences. She is also long standing member of the IMIA. She was born and raised in Coimbra, Portugal and has been working as a full time medical interpreter for the past 14 years.

Deborah Rocha

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Deborah grew up in Kansas and lived in Brazil from 1974-1982. For many years, she has worked for Language Line Services, a telephone service that provides interpretation in all types of situations, from medical, legal, insurance, and banking to information technology. She also works as a free-lance interpreter for a number of agencies in the Boston area. Along with interpreting the spoken word, Deborah dedicates much of her time to translating the lyrics of Brazilian songs into poetic English and then performing them. She has recorded two CDs, one of Brazilian and jazz music and another of her own compositions which are deeply influenced by the rhythms and subject matter of Brazilian music.

Stephen Sanford

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Coming from a bicultural family and living alternately in the US and Brazil, Steve Sanford has been interpreting for most of his life. He is certified by the Trial Court of Massachusetts in Portuguese and in Cape Verdean Creole and has worked in the courts and in a wide variety of legal settings since 1997. He has also worked as a conference interpreter and as a translator. In 2006, he was hired by the Trial Court as a staff interpreter and is currently stationed at Framingham District Court. When not working with words, he works with music. He has performed widely, holds a master's degree from the New England Conservatory, has recorded two compact discs of original songs and solo guitar pieces and has had other original compositions played throughout the world

Marta Solis

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Marta was born in Costa Rica and has lived her adult life in Boston. She has worked for Brigham and Women's Hospital for the past 33 years, where she has worked as a patient advocate, surgery coordinator, and medical interpreter. In addition, she has coordinated programs in community outreach and children's bilingual multicultural education. Currently, she is working as an instructor at the Harvard Pilgrim Linguistic and Cultural Institute, teaching anatomy, physiology, and cultural competency, while also working as a language coach. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Boston College, a certificate from Harvard School of Public Health in multicultural patient care, and a Medical Interpreting certificate from Harvard Pilgrim.

Manyee Tang

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Manyee Tang has been a freelance interpreter and translator for more than 15 years. Currently she runs her own translation and typesetting company. Before MS Windows came into existence she was one of the few Chinese computer users in the area and helped many clients and nonprofit organizations set up their first Chinese computers. Besides a great deal of experience in teaching and in business and technical interpreting, she also has extensive experience in many aspects of

software localization and Chinese-English translation. She participated as a translator and interpreter in the six-year Yin Yu Tang ancient Chinese vernacular house project at the Peabody-Essex museum from the project's inception, translating contracts, technical documents, museum displays, audio tour scripts, etc., and interpreted for architects, engineers, artisans, and artists. In addition to English, she speaks fluent Cantonese and Mandarin and has been trained by a master interpreter who has served six US presidents. She is ATA certified and holds interpreting certificates from the Inlingua School of Interpreting and University of Hawaii.

Feng Zhou

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Feng, a native of Shanghai from the People's Republic of China, has more than twenty-five-years teaching experience including teaching English at elementary and middle schools for eleven years in Shanghai. Since he came to the United States in 1990, he taught Chinese language at Hartford College for Women, Haddam-Killingworth High School in Higganum, and Miss Porter's School in Farmington for 12 years. He is currently teaching Chinese at University of Hartford. He also taught in 2006 the first Legal Interpreting course to train prospective Chinese interpreters through the interpreting program at the Center for Professional Education at Boston University. Feng is also the founder of China Communications Consultants that provides interpreting and translation services, as well as language and intercultural communication trainings for businesses, schools, and governmental agencies. He has been a court interpreter since 1996, and now interprets more than 500 cases yearly in a variety of court proceedings for the State of Connecticut and the United States District Court. Feng holds a Bachelor Degree in English Linguistics from Shanghai International Studies University, and a Master's Degree in East Asia Studies from Central Connecticut State University.