



# Minnesota Interpreters Newsletter

## Interpreter Stakeholder's Group

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Professor Barry Olsen teaches translation and interpreting at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He is an active member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) and the American Translators Association. He is the founder of InterpretAmerica – a forum dedicated to raising the profile of interpreting.

He was the keynote speaker at the ISG annual meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and gave a talk entitled, “Storm Clouds on the Horizon: Technology, Change and the Future of Interpreting”

The following are highlights from his talk:

- The digital revolution has taken only 30 years. In comparison, the agricultural and industrial revolutions took millennia and centuries to evolve respectively.
- In boarder-free global communication, language is the key remaining barrier. He argued that this change represented an opportunity.
- Mobile electronics have become a part of our daily lives, which means a significant change for our profession.
- “If we approach this as an opportunity, we are positioning ourselves for success.”
- The digital revolution has taken only 30 years. In comparison, the agricultural and industrial revolutions took millennia and centuries to evolve respectively.
- Barry encourages interpreters to be optimistic about the change and states that we shall see significant change coming.
- Linda Golley from the University of Washington Medical Center controversially stated, “Interpreters and translators are paid by the service providers in each sector. Service providers have no intrinsic interest in providing a living for interpreters and translators. If interpreters are not able to provide what the industry needs, industry will move on”
- Interpreters prefer face-to-face interpreting to be able to do the best job
- Managers want cost-effective, ease of use, fast service and quality
- End-users want it all right away.

What can we do about it?

- Learn about options and effect change so it is for the better.
- Cannot turn our back. We must find a way to provide quality interpretation in a new format
- Develop clear standards to keep quality high and take interpreter well-being into account

Thank you to Professor Olsen for his time and input on the topic of technology and the interpreting field.