



## Table of contents

- President's Message .....3
- Mauro Panzera † (08-09-1932 – 29-06-2023) .....4
- Dominick Tursi † (13-04-1943 – 14-04-2023) .....5
- The Philippines, new member of the Intersteno Federation .....6
- Program Intersteno Council & IPRS meeting Bordeaux (FR), 21-23/24 September 2023.....9
- Shorthand history tour of Melbourne, Australia ..... 13

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## President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

The summer period is almost upon us. Last year we met in Maastricht. Next year we will meet in Katowice, from Saturday 13 to Thursday 18 July 2024. During the Council/IPRS meetings in Bordeaux in September, the congress in Katowice will certainly be a topic of discussion. The program and some information about Bordeaux are included in this e-news.

I would like to welcome the country group Philippines as a new member of Intersteno. At the beginning of this year, the interesting article 'The stenographer, the silent superhero' was published in Inquirer by the representative of the land group, Mrs. Deliza Ridoloso. As an introduction, we have included this article in this e-news.

It seems like some time ago, but after the pandemic period it still feels special that we can go on holiday again and that I can wish you a very good holiday. I hope to see many of you in Bordeaux in September!

The next e-news will appear in October 2023. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar is at the end of September, to be sent to [marlenerijkse@intersteno.org](mailto:marlenerijkse@intersteno.org).

*Rian Schwarz-van Poppel*  
*Intersteno president*



## Mauro Panzera † (08-09-1932 – 29-06-2023)

On June 29, Mauro Panzera, honorary member of Intersteno, passed away at the age of 91.

He represented Switzerland in the Intersteno Council for many years. From 1989 to 2007 he was Jury President for the Text Production related competitions. In that role, we had the honor and the privilege to work intensively with him together, which was always a great pleasure.

We thank Mauro for his great contribution to the work of our Federation. We wish his relatives strength in coping with this great loss.

Danny Devriendt, Secretary Treasurer, and Georgette Sante, Jury President, attended the funeral on behalf of Intersteno, which took place on July 1st in the charming Church of Sant'Ambrogio in Cademario.

May Mauro rest in peace!



*Danny Devriendt and Mauro Panzera  
[photos: Georgette Sante]*



*Mauro Panzera and Georgette Sante*



*The charming Church of Sant'Ambrogio in Cademario*

## Dominick Tursi † (13-04-1943 – 14-04-2023)

*By Reid Goldsmith*

In the previous e-news there was a short message about the passing of our much appreciated Dominick Tursi. In addition to this, you will find below the post of the President of NYSCRA, Reid Goldsmith, on the official page of NYCCRA following the death of Dom.

"It is with profound sadness to let everyone know that we have lost an icon of court reporting. He was on his way to a speaking engagement in Seattle, Washington. Dom Tursi was doing what he loved best to do, what he was planning on doing again, inspire and motivate. On his way there to speak about the history of shorthand and the evolution of machine shorthand, he had a heart attack. We are devastated by his loss.

To anyone who has met Dom, to anyone who has worked alongside of him, he became a friend, a mentor, and was and has always been one of the most hard-working individuals ever to grace the profession. Dom went through positions that one could only dream of: school owner/teacher; Nassau Supreme Court Reporter; Freelance Agency owner with offices all over the world; Federal Court Reporter; world-wide lecturer while along the way garnering awards for a multitude of achievements; a world record at the time of 300 wpm for 5 minutes; a perfect test at 280 wpm for 5 minutes; while along the way garnering awards for a multitude of achievements as well as securing space in the Central Islip Federal Courthouse for his vision of a proposed museum. Dom opened the only museum in the world dedicated to the shorthand profession in that space, appropriately naming it "The Gallery of Shorthand."

I speak on behalf of the New York State Board of Directors and all our members in saying he cannot be replaced and we will miss him. His legacy will live on for many generations.

On a personal note, I have known Dom since 1975 where he was the owner of the school I graduated from, Verbatim School of Court Reporting. He was a teacher, a mentor, a peer, a colleague, and a friend. Our relationship spanned 48 years. On behalf of the Association and myself, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones."



## The Philippines, new member of the Intersteno Federation

*By Danny Devriendt (Secretary Treasurer)*

Mrs. Deliza Ridoloso, Vice President of Pacific Office Solutions, Inc. in the Philippines, has made known to us that they want to join Intersteno Federation as a national group on behalf of the Philippines. They are interested in promoting stenography in the Philippines through the PhilSteno Program and have over five thousand stenographers, subdivided into two types: pen stenographer (estimated over 95%) and machine stenographers (estimated around 5%).

Thanks to only positive reactions from the Council members to the above request from the Philippines, the Philippines are now part of Intersteno. Mrs. Ridoloso will be their representative on our council.

At the beginning of this year, she published an article in the Inquirer about the profession of stenographer. Inclusion of this article below seems to us to be the best introduction to her as a new representative on the Council.

### The Stenographer, the Silent Superhero

*By Ms. DELIZA G. RIDOLOSO - January 30, 2023*

When discussing stenography, some people reminisce about a mother or aunt who used to scribble writing on paper (actually, they were writing in Gregg shorthand). Other people have a question on their faces, “do stenographers still exist?” – many are surprised to learn that stenography is still an active profession. Stenographers are in demand in the Philippines and abroad despite the rise of digital recording, artificial intelligence, and automatic speech recognition technology.



In the Philippines, the stenographer works in the judicial court to make official transcripts from the words said in the proceedings. They use shorthand which is an abbreviated way of writing. Philippine courts have two kinds of stenographers: pen shorthand and machine shorthand stenographers. In 2023, based on observational estimates, over 90% of Philippine professional stenographers are pen shorthand writers using the Gregg method. While shorthand pen stenographers are good, they have more steps to preparing the transcript. After taking dictation on paper, the shorthand pen writer must translate their handwriting to a word processing software, proofread, sometimes search within a recording to find a questionable sentence, and finally certify the transcript. Recently, the most high-profile sighting of a court stenographer in the world was the Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard case in 2022. The judge in the case referred to the Depp vs. Heard court stenographer as a “rockstar”. Another high-profile sighting is America’s reality TV show Judge Judy wherein a certified court stenographer performs realtime shorthand via her steno writer and software.

Court stenographers are humble public servants that protect the truth and uncover the perjurer. They are the quiet superheroes of our courts that capture and convert the spoken word to text. The judge inks his decision when the stenographer submits all the transcripts of the hearings. Stenographers are important and underrated personnel in the court.

The 2021 Judiciary Annual Report from the Supreme Court Public Information Office states that there were 689,703 pending cases in the lower courts as of December 31, 2021. According to the Court Stenographers Association of the Philippines (COSTRAPHIL), there are about 5,000 stenographers nationwide to service these pending cases. For comparison, according to the National Court Reporters

Association (NCRA) in the United States, there are an estimated 27,000 stenographers (working in courts, working freelance for mostly depositions, and captioners for broadcast live events or for the hearing challenged). In both countries, there is a dire shortage of court stenographers. COSTRAPHIL president, Lala C. Velasco, estimates almost 130 stenographer vacancies in the National Capital Region. As of January 19, the Civil Service lists job opportunities via its website showing 397 vacancies for stenographers. The number of vacancies is expected to increase with the construction of additional halls of justice nationwide and retirements.

## Challenges

What are the problems hindering the proliferation of stenographers in the Philippines and the rest of the world?

First is a lack of awareness of the profession. Many schools in the Philippines can teach stenography to the next generation – it is just that the young ones need information about it.

The second hindrance in the Philippines is the hesitation to invest heavily in the tools and training needed for a stenographer to finish their work faster. In the last thirty years, stenography has advanced tools for transcription preparation. It is well known that the investment is sizable for the steno writers and software or other alternatives, but these tools are used for most of the stenographer's career. Who is a delivery truck driver without the delivery truck to deliver the goods to the client on time? A stenographer cannot be replaced by artificial intelligence. After all, it is the stenographer that certifies the correctness and completeness of the transcript. Courts rely upon the stenographer for the integrity of the transcript. Who will be held accountable if not them? A court stenographer is a civil servant that passed the Civil Service exam and is held accountable to the Civil Service Commission.

The third problem is the replacement and retirement of highly skilled court stenographers. During the pandemic, many older and highly skilled stenographers retired due to the COVID restrictions, mandatory retirement at 60 years old, or early retirement due to lack of tools to continue on with their work. Ms. Purita Salcedo Garcia retired last December from the Manila Regional Trial Court. Based on the Fastest Fingers contest held at the yearly COSTRAPHIL Convention, Purita was the fastest and most accurate machine stenographer. Even at 60 years old, she is skilled with a steno writer, laptop, and steno software. Purita would always say that she had no backlog of transcripts due to her skill. Her breed of Filipino stenographers is disappearing through retirement. Training for machine stenographers stopped during the first decade of the millennium by the Supreme Court.

## Hope

There is hope in the Philippines for a faster transcript process. By evaluating the proper tools available and investing in sustainable programs, whether for steno writers or pen writers, all stakeholders should be involved in the process to discuss and thresh out the problems and available solutions – the Supreme Court, COSTRAPHIL, schools, Civil Service Commission, and vendors. Vendors with experience and knowledge of the realm have been left out of the conversation when maybe they have significant ideas to share. Not all vendors are evil, greedy, and looking to make a buck. There are those looking to help as part of their share to improve society.

Little is known that schools from Luzon to Mindanao are investing in teaching modern stenography using the latest steno technology for the next generation of stenographers. The question remains whether the graduates will have the equipment and software when they get a job in court. Hopefully, the next generation will be able to enter a well-equipped position rather than search for job alternatives, such as working for a BPO, decreasing the number of superheroes in the court.

(The author is Co-Vice Chair of the MAP NextGen Committee, and President of Pacific Sun Solutions, Inc. Feedback at <map@map.org.ph> and <ridoloso@pacificsun.ph>.)



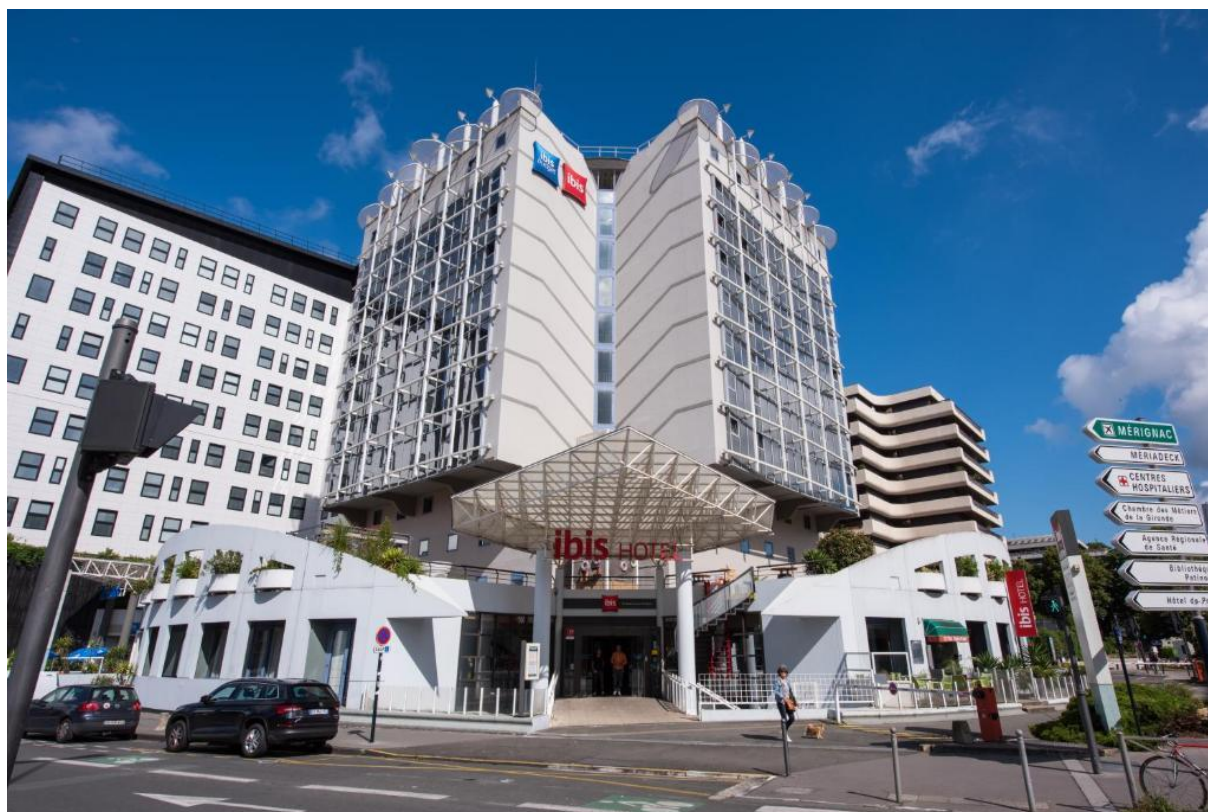


## Program Intersteno Council & IPRS meeting Bordeaux (FR), 21-23/24 September 2023

By Marlene Rijkse

### Venue

Ibis Bordeaux Centre Mériadeck  
35 Cours du Maréchal Juin, 33000 Bordeaux



### Program

#### Thursday 21 September

all day	Arrival of participants
13.30-15.30	Jury meeting (meeting room)
15.30-17.30	Board meeting (meeting room)
17.30-19.00	Scientific Committee meeting / Tiro editorial meeting
19.45-23.00	Welcome Dinner Croisière sur la Garonne

#### Friday 22 September

09.00-12.30	Council meeting #1 (meeting room)
12.30-13.45	Lunch in hotel's restaurant
14.00-17.30	DIAMESIC 6 Conference / 6th Intersteno Conference on parliamentary and other professional reporting, captioning, and accessibility (meeting room)
17.30-	IPRS social club for all, followed by free evening

**Saturday 23 September**

09.00-12.30	Council meeting #2 (meeting room)
12.30-13.45	Lunch in hotel's restaurant
14.00-18.30	Visit of the village of Saint-Emillion
19.30-23.00	Farewell Dinner Château La Dauphine

**Sunday 24 September**

09.00-18.00	Excursion to Arcachon (optional) Dune du Pilat, Bassin d'Arcachon, Cap Ferret, tasting oysters, visit Ville d'hiver / free time
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**Bordeaux**

The city of Bordeaux is located in southwest France and is the capital of the Gironde department and the Aquitaine region. The entire old center of Bordeaux is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city was known as a gray city until the end of the 20th century. Today, the city shines again, just as it did in the 18th century.

**Walk along the banks of the Garonne**

The left bank of the Garonne is without doubt one of the most beautiful sights in Bordeaux. Next to the promenade you will find neo-classical buildings with beautiful facades. Along the shore you will find benches, flower beds and lawns. You pass the many arches of the Pont de Pierre bridge and several street performers such as hip hop dancers.

**Pont de Pierre bridge**

The distinctive Pont Pierre bridge was the first bridge over the Garonne River, built by order of Napoleon I between 1819 and 1822. It took 12 years to build, partly due to the strong current.

**Bastide**

Via the Pont de Pierre you enter the La Bastide district, a green district. Must see in La Bastide is Le Lion Bleu – a work of art by Parisian Xavier Veilhan. It stands on Place Stalingrad, which runs along several parks on the river side.



## Place de la Bourse

The Bourse Square (Place de la Bourse) is a royal square that King Louis XV wanted during his reign to celebrate himself as the symbol of France. The most beautiful thing about the square is Le Miroir d'Eau (the water mirror), a 130 meter long pool with the largest reflecting pool in the world. The water looks like glass when there is a layer of water.

## Darwin district

This trendy district is not far from the Garonne. The former barracks Niel is the hotspot in Bordeaux, on the other side of the river Garonne. The barracks have been converted into a breeding ground for trendy eating and drinking places. You will also find a lot of street art there. The idea behind the Kazerne is corporate social responsibility. You will therefore find many foundations here that are involved in art & culture.

## (tasting) Wine

Bordeaux is the world's wine capital and is the second largest wine-growing region in the world. On wine tours you will walk through cellars and learn more about how wine is made and stored. Of course you can also taste wine.

## Museum La Cite du Vin

In this ultra-modern cultural center you will find everything related to wine. It is an ambitious and futuristic project. The high-tech museum will teach you about the history of wine, and where and how it is made around the world. It offers a lot of audiovisual material. The architecture of the 3,000 square meter building, with its 55 meter high tower, is magnificent. A tour ends with a visit to the belvedere bar, where a glass of wine can be paired with vistas of Bordeaux and the Garonne.



## Unesco walk

The Unesco walk in Bordeaux takes you past the most beautiful architecture of Bordeaux, from the Middle Ages to the Golden Age. Along the way you can stop at one of the many coffee shops. The walk

takes about 2 hours. If you want to make the walk on your own, you can obtain a map from the Office du Tourisme (12 Cours du 30 Juillet).

During the walk you will pass Bordeaux's own 'Statue of Liberty', the Monument des Girondins, the 43 meter high pillar on Place des Quinconces. You will also pass the very beautiful Grand-Théâtre on Place de la Comédie, with 12 statues of 3 goddesses and the 9 muses of Art and Science.



### Public transport

With a Bordeaux Metropole City Pass you can use public transport and have access to various museums and attractions. You have passes of 24, 48 and 72 hours. You can buy this pass on the official website of Bordeaux Tourism or GetYourGuide.

Another nice way of transport to explore the city is by bicycle, also possible with a guide.

For registration: <http://www.intersteno.info/>



## Shorthand history tour of Melbourne, Australia

*By Carmel Taylor*

While conducting research for my book "With Pencils Poised....A History of Shorthand in Australia", I was amazed at the shorthand history embedded in the buildings located in the central business district of my home city of Melbourne, Australia. According to the latest Australian census, Melbourne is the most populated city in the country. As a busy commercial centre many people regularly walk by these buildings, oblivious to their connections with shorthand. The buildings and sites have contributed to not only the recording of our history, but to the financial independence of women, and the educational advancement of society. One site on the tour is even prominent for its shorthand connection to murders.

The tour is on Google Maps, is free of charge and can be "taken" as a physical walking tour, if in Melbourne, or as a virtual tour from wherever you happen to be in the world. Simply click on the link below and open each location to view photos (historical and current) and to read about the significance of shorthand. Enjoy your tour!

[Shorthand History Tour of Melbourne](#)

