

Brian James Baer

Statement

The increasing visibility of translation and interpreting in both the academy and in U.S. culture at large poses not only challenges but also opportunities for our organization to serve as a bridge between academia and the professional community and between Translation and Interpreting Studies and related disciplines, such as Comparative Literature and Informatics. I am therefore seeking the position of President of ATISA as I feel I could bring some unique experience to the discussion of our organization's purpose and direction, teaching as I do at an institution that offers all levels of instruction in translation and Translation Studies (BA/MA/PhD) and that supports the most diverse research directions. As Vice President, I spearheaded an effort to encourage greater graduate student involvement in ATISA, attending the graduate student conference at Binghamton University last April, helping to establish the Ben Van Wyke prize for Best Graduate Student paper, and supporting pre-conference workshops. I look forward as president to helping the board find more ways for ATISA to sponsor and support graduate students and new scholars. I was also involved in the effort to establish sponsored panels at our biennial conference, involving other translation-related organizations. I hope to continue and expand that initiative as president. Moreover, as a member of the EST Doctoral Studies Committee, the Executive Committee of IATIS, and an advisory board member of the Mona Baker Centre for Translation Studies at Shanghai's Jiao Tong University, I can offer an international perspective on the challenges and opportunities we face as a discipline and as an organization. Lastly, I would like to express my belief that, as an organization that casts a very wide disciplinary net, welcoming scholars studying all aspects of translation- and interpreting-related phenomena at all levels of their careers, ATISA is more relevant than ever.