

Montreal, Quebec

Trilingual's Triumph



Elisa Riveiro-Vázquez accepting an award from NTE's former President, Éric Schwartz.

A trilingual McGill Continuing Education student has been awarded this year's Network of Translators in Education (NTE) Merit Scholarship. This scholarship worth \$1000 is given to upper-level translation students in Canadian schools of translation in recognition of their outstanding performance. Elisa Riveiro-Vázquez, this year's recipient, completed the Certificate in Translation (in the French/English to Spanish option) in May 2009 and will be continuing her studies in translation this fall in the Graduate Diploma Program.

A ceremony was held on Tuesday, September, 29, 2009 on the eve of International Translation Day (ITD) at the Faculty Club in honour of Mrs. Riveiro-Vázquez. Those who attended the event included NTE's former President, Mr. Éric Schwartz, the Dean of Continuing Education, Dr. Judith Potter, the Associate Dean (Academic), Prof. Alfred Jaeger, the Dean of Students, Prof. Jane Everett, as well as lecturers and staff from the Department of Translation Studies. Most importantly, Mrs. Riveiro-Vázquez was surrounded by her mother, husband and two daughters.

In welcoming those who attended the award ceremony, James Archibald, the Director of McGill's Department of Translation Studies reminded guests that the evening's purpose was "to celebrate excellence... and the many ways to achieve excellence in today's busy world".

In his statement, Mr. Schwartz recalled the pathway which led Mrs. Riveiro-Vázquez from a first degree in engineering, to an MBA and finally to a professional program in Translation Studies. According to Mr. Schwartz, Riveiro-Vázquez's decision to enroll in McGill's trilingual certificate program with the opportunity to later obtain a Graduate Diploma was simple: it was a way to maximize her knowledge base and build her translation competence at the same time. Riveiro-Vázquez was surprised herself to learn that thanks to her hard work and perseverance, she was to be awarded with a merit scholarship, "It's an important recognition" she says, "It helped me to see that I could succeed".

Michele Bernier, an International Affairs advisor for the City of Montreal, who was also in attendance, has nothing but admiration for the scholarship recipient, "I had the pleasure of working with Elisa on the Spanish translation of the Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities. Not only does she speak impeccable Spanish, but she is very dedicated, precise and thorough in her work". It is students like Elisa Riveiro-Vázquez, who demonstrate the excellence one can achieve through McGill's programs.

McGill University prepares students in the Department of Translation Studies for the larger market. In doing so, McGill plays a key role in repositioning Canada as a source of trilingual translators in the international market. Dr. Archibald explains, "Indeed, according to FIT (International Federation of Translators), apprentice translators 'must acquire new skills and new approaches to [...] become valued partners in a fast-changing world'. This spirit is very much in keeping with the philosophy behind our translation programs at McGill. Canada needs new translators to maintain and improve its competitive position in the international marketplace. It is our view that a constructivist approach to translator education is the way of the future in translator education. Elisa Riveiro-Vázquez is the embodiment of that philosophy."



Elisa Riveiro-Vázquez, James Archibald, and Judith Potter during the ceremony.

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