



Monterey Institute of International Studies

An affiliate of Middlebury College

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Winter Olympics in Vancouver Feature Monterey Institute Alumni, Faculty and Students as Translators and Interpreters

MIIS Involvement in Olympics Dates Back to 1968 Winter Games in Grenoble

Monterey, CA – When the 2010 Winter Olympic Games open on Friday night in Vancouver, Canada, no less than 14 representatives from the Monterey Institute of International Studies will be at work supporting Olympic activities.

Ever since former Monterey Institute Dean of Translation and Interpretation Wilhelm (Bill) Weber worked as an interpreter at the 1968 Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France, Monterey Institute alumni, faculty and even enrolled students have had a rich history of involvement with both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

This year, the Winter Games' Professional Interpretation unit alone includes Institute alumni Julien Brasseur, Pablo Chang, Daphne Chien, Pascale Ledeur-Kraus, Andrea-Hofmann Miller (also a current faculty member) and Shan Tsen; current and former Institute faculty members Miyang Chu, Kazumi Imasaki, Andrei Falaleyev and Yun-Hyang Lee; and former dean Bill Weber as chief interpreter.

Institute alumna Maureen Sweeney, who served as head of Language Services and Venue Protocol, reports "I am excited to have such a great group of MIIS alumni and faculty on board. I began working with the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996, and since then have worked with the Games in Sydney, Salt Lake City, Torino, Beijing, and now Vancouver. At each of these Games we have been fortunate to have multiple Institute graduates providing the highest level of services for the international press, International Olympic Committee (IOC) members, athletes, and dignitaries from around the world."

In their role as professional consecutive and simultaneous interpreters for the Vancouver Olympic Games, Institute graduates and faculty members will provide interpretation for official IOC and National Olympic Committee meetings, as well as for interviews in the Main Press Center and Venue Press Centers. The Main Press Center, the temporary home to all official journalists and photographers covering the Vancouver games, will offer simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Japanese, Mandarin, and Russian. At the nine competition venues, consecutive interpretation will be offered in some combination of English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin and Russian -- depending upon the languages of the winning athletes. All told, the Professional Interpretation team will interpret for athletes from more than eighty countries competing in sports ranging from curling and hockey to luge and biathlon.

Another alumna, 1993 MIIS graduate Jennifer Ullman, has been volunteering at international athletic competitions ever since she served an internship at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. In Vancouver, Ullman will be serving as a member of the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Village team, where she will provide translation and interpretation services, and serve as a host in the Village Resident Centres.

Current Institute student Simone Bonneville is also in Vancouver serving an internship as an escort interpreter for the Games. Assigned to interpret for the team of athletes from Tajikistan, Bonneville will be putting her first year of training at MIIS in consecutive interpreting to good use. She is chronicling her adventures in Vancouver on a blog at blogs.miis.edu/simonebonneville.

The Olympic Games are an excellent example of the type of uniquely international workplace that requires the high-level language skills of Monterey Institute alumni, faculty and students. Another example – the United Nations – was in the news in November, when UN Assistant General Secretary Franz Baumann visited Monterey to formalize an agreement making the Institute's translation and interpretation program one of nine in the world – and the only one in the Western Hemisphere – that the UN has chosen to partner with to promote the development of future translation and interpretation professionals.

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The Monterey Institute of International Studies is at the forefront of international professional education, preparing students for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors. A private graduate institution located in Monterey, California and affiliated with Middlebury College, the Institute offers fully accredited degree programs in international business, translation and interpretation, international policy studies and language teaching. The Institute's approximately 800 students come from more than 50 countries. For more information about the Monterey Institute, visit www.miis.edu.