

Dear Fellow AATSP Members:

2011 was a great year for the AATSP! As your new President, I will strive to continue the tradition of accomplishments set by Liliana Soto-Fernández, President, Emily Spinelli, Executive Director, the Executive Council, and the AATSP Staff, in collaboration with the AATSP membership. Below, are some highlights from 2011:

- Membership numbers increased
- There was an increase in the number of proposals submitted for the 2012 Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico
- The National Spanish Examination Program grew, with 150,000 students and 3500 teachers participating this past year
- There was an increasing emphasis given to the "Portuguese" element within the AATSP. More articles on Luso-Brazilian literature, linguistics, language teaching, and culture were submitted and published in *Hispania*. The AATSP, the Embassy of Portugal, and the Instituto Camões collaborated during the 2011 AATSP Conference. Recently, the Executive Director, Emily Spinelli met with the Embassy of Portugal and the Embassy agreed to continue to send a representative from the Embassy of Portugal and the Instituto Camões to the annual conference. During the 2012 conference The Embassy of Portugal will provide a special session and reception during the Portuguese Committee Meeting as was done last year.
- The Scholarship and Travel Stipend Program offered the following scholarships and travel grants for summer study during 2012: First Time Conference Attendee Travel Stipend; Junior-Senior Faculty Mentor Travel Stipend; Scholarships for Summer Study Abroad through the Costa Rica Spanish Institute, the Academia Latinoamérica de Español, the Cemanahuac Educational Community, ¿?don Quijote Language School, the Embassy of Spain, Enforex, and Estudio Sampere, and the Robert G. Mead, Jr. Travel and Study/Research Stipend.
- The Awards Program will continue to recognize stellar language professionals through the following awards: Four outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards at the elementary, secondary, two-year college, and college/university levels; the Outstanding Service Award; the Outstanding Chapter Award; the Robert G. Mead, Jr. Distinguished Leadership Award; the Maria Isabel Abreu Award, and the ISE Language Matters Award.
- The new AATSP-Santillana,USA Webinar Program will commence in late January. The Program will begin with four webinars on the topics presented by Mario Nuñez:

January 24, 2012: *Saber leer: estrategias de lectura para el aula de español*

January 26, 2012: *Hablando bien se entiende la gente: la enseñanza del léxico en el aula de español*

Each webinar session lasts 90 minutes and will be offered in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. Please check the AATSP website for information about the webinars including new topics.

As I begin my term as President for the 2012 year, I take this opportunity to thank the out-going members of the Executive Council: Robert Anderson; Portuguese Representative; Winston-Salem State University; Winston-Salem, NC; Domnita Dumitrescu; College/University Representative; California State University-Los Angeles; Los Angeles, CA; José Ortega; Secondary (9-12) Representative; St. Mary's Hall; San Antonio, TX; Laura Sánchez; Past President; Mayfield Senior School; Pasadena, CA.

I welcome the incoming members: Laura Zinke; President-Elect; McClintock High School; Tempe, AZ; Bill VanPatten; College/University Representative; Michigan State University; East Lansing, MI; Margo Milleret; Portuguese Representative; University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; Cathy Soud; Secondary (9-12) Representative; The Bolles School; Jacksonville, FL.

The 94th AATSP Conference will take place July 7-10, 2012 at the Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza Hotel in exciting San Juan, Puerto Rico! The conference theme *Exploring Heritage Languages and Cultures: Challenges and Opportunities* will be addressed in the regular sessions, workshops, E-posters, and academic panels. In addition, there will be two general sessions which focus on the theme and the cultures of Puerto Rico. Excursions to local sites are planned for the free afternoon with a focus on providing information that can be used in the classroom.

In conclusion, I thank you for supporting me in the AATSP elections. I will do my utmost to live up to your expectations and encourage you to contact me with ideas for innovation and/or concerns at christine.m.campbell@us.army.mil, (831) 242-6220.

Hasta entonces/Até então,

Christine Campbell,

President, AATSP