



Milton M. Azevedo. *President's Message: May, 2009.*

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese: <<http://www.aatsp.org>>.

Saudações, saludos, greetings. As we finalize plans to participate in our Association's 91st Convention in Albuquerque, it is a pleasure to acknowledge that so far we expect five hundred attendees, a strong turnout under any circumstances and particularly so at a time when academic and professional travel is under the pressure of financial difficulties.

Our program's offerings include more than 200 workshops, sessions and academic panels, among which there are 17 sessions on Portuguese language topics and culture, a clear indication of the vitality of these teaching and research areas. There is also a poster session, which at the time of this writing lists nine research and curricular projects in visual presentation.

Entertainment activities include the President's Welcome Reception, the NSE/SHH/SHA Reception, and the Awards Luncheon. There will be two featured author sessions, one with Margarita Robleda, sponsored by Santillana Publishing, and the other with Clara Sánchez, under the auspices of the Ministerio de Cultura de España. In addition, the art program will feature a session with concert performer Justo Lamas and another with concert pianist Dalma Bottarini Gandolfo, sponsored by NSE.

Outdoor activities will include excursions featuring tours of Albuquerque, Sandia Peak and local winery, and Santa Fe.

Our convention and all of its activities are made possible by the joint cooperation of all AATSP members, the central office staff, the local organizers, and the continuing support of exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers that include publishing companies, the Embassy of Spain, the Ministry of Culture of Spain, printers, travel and tourism organizations, international study and travel programs, and the producers of a variety of language learning products. I believe I express the feelings of the entire Executive Committee in saying that we are proud of and thankful for the participation of all of these individuals and entities, and that we believe that if the present level of cooperation can be maintained, the AATSP will continue to occupy its position of leadership in our profession.

I look forward to greeting you personally in Albuquerque.