

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the semester and the calendar year, I wanted to take a moment to extend my appreciation to all of you for the wonderful work you do every single day—work that enriches the lives of all of our students and that weaves the fascinating and intricate tapestry that is the AATSP. We have had a truly momentous year as an organization.

Our conference in Panama was nothing short of spectacular and I was thrilled to see so many of you from every sector present at our annual gathering. We have received many and varied quality proposals on a variety of topics for our 2015 gathering in Denver from July 17-20. Mark your calendars now!

The growth of the National Spanish and Portuguese Exams, the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, and the Sociedad de Amistad has been remarkable. We have an ever-increasing number of scholarships, partnerships, and travel stipends. Our publications—*Hispania*, *Enlaces*, the *Portuguese Newsletter*, *Albricias*, and our new graduate student journal *The Spanish and Portuguese Review*—continue an exemplary tradition of scholarship and outreach through our association. As we approach our one-hundredth year, I encourage you to consider the call for submissions for the centenary volume of *Hispania*.

We have an attractive, updated look for our Website, publications, and brochures. Our chapters have been incredibly active, sponsoring scores of activities and events. The AATSP poster contest and webinars have gained momentum and are increasingly popular, as are the classroom resources found on our Website. We have added a graduate department membership category to attract and mentor the Spanish and Portuguese teachers of tomorrow.

None of the many, many initiatives undertaken by the AATSP this year would have been possible without the tireless dedication of our Executive Director, Emily Spinelli, and the wonderful staff at the national office. I would like to thank them all for making this year such a success and such a pleasure.

On a sad note, we lost our colleague and friend, Lynn Sandstedt this year. A faithful long-time member of AATSP, Lynn served as both President of AATSP and Executive Director. Many of you shared your wonderful memories of our colleague on the AATSP Website.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you this year. I appreciate all my colleagues and friends on the Executive Council. This has been an active, productive council and I shall miss the camaraderie of the members whose terms will end this December. Thank you to Laura Zinke, Bill Van Patten, Margo Milleret, and Cathy Soud. I look forward to working with our new members next year and extend a warm welcome to Anne Fountain, Mark del Mastro, Mary Riser, and Martha Vásquez.

My best wishes to all for a successful end to the semester and a wonderful holiday season.

¡Todos a una!

Warm regards,

Sharon Fechter