



AATSP

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American Association
of Teachers
of Spanish & Portuguese
Est. 1917

105th AATSP Annual Conference
Universidad de Salamanca
Salamanca, Spain

AWARDS CEREMONY

Wednesday, June 28, 2023
12:00-13:20

AATSP Travel Stipend Recipients

SPONSORED AWARDS

Javier Álvarez-Jaimes, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC (Idioma Education & Consulting)
Marina Cuartero Marco, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Platino Educa)
Stacy Davis, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO (TURESPAÑA)
Yesenia Godínez Picado, University School, Hunting Valley, OH (Klett World Languages)
Rhea Grate, St. James School, Montgomery, AL (TURESPAÑA)
Evan Greenwald, Algonquin Regional High School, Northborough, MA (TURESPAÑA)
Kaylee Harris, DePaul University, Chicago, IL (TURESPAÑA)
Rhashida Hilliard, Horace Mann School, New York City, NY (Avant Assessment)
Erik Ladner, Iowa State University, Ames, IA (TURESPAÑA)
Michelle Lange, Lincoln Hall Middle School, Lincolnwood, IL (TURESPAÑA)
Diana Martínez, J.S. Morton East High School, Cicero, IL (TURESPAÑA)
Andrea Meador Smith, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA (Vista Higher Learning)
Stella Muñoz-Rodríguez, Jackson High School, Massillon, OH (NSE, Lingco Language Labs)
Nicole Thompson, New Berlin West High School, New Berlin, WI (Xperitas)
Tyler Tolman, Battle Ground Academy, Franklin, TN (Vista Higher Learning)
Emily Vallejo, Glenelg Country School, Ellicott City, MD (NSE, Lingco Language Labs)

AATSP AWARDS

Robert Ali, Somerset Academy Sky Pointe, Las Vegas, NV (NSE)
Libertad Aranza, Mercer University, Macon, GA
Mary Ashby, St. Michael's Country Day, Middletown, RI
Cristina Barvo, Sequoyah School, Pasadena, CA
Emily Brown, Carl Sandburg High School, Lombard, IL
Gretchen Burke, School District of Ashland, Ashland, WI
Shay Michele Culbertson, Jefferson State Community College, Birmingham, AL
Maria Dessipris, Glen Ridge High School, Glen Ridge, NJ
Mark Fairbrother, Hazel Park High School, Hazel Park, MI
Kathleen Forrester, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Kimberly Galante-Wong, University of Hawaii Manoa, Honolulu, HI
Erik Garabaya Casado, Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain
Victor Garre León, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
Linda Gillespie, Creekside High School, St. Johns, FL
Alicia Henager, Harding Academy of Memphis, Memphis, TN
Luz Ángela Jones, Gadsden City High School, Gadsden, AL
Marin Laufenberg, Idaho State University, Pacatello, ID
Fabio Loporcaro, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
Crystal Marull, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Elizabeth Matchett, Gunn High School, Redwood City, CA
María Laura Mecías, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Meaghan Montgomery, The Episcopal Academy, Newtown Square, PA
Stephanie Muñoz-Navarro, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Vera Olinski, Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, NJ (NSE)
Valentino Rahming, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
Terri Schroth, St. Norbert College, Suring, WI
Maria Sugerman, Rodeph Sholom School, New York City, NY

Event Program

I. Welcome

II. Recognition of Friends of the AATSP

III. Recognition of 2023 AATSP Study Abroad Scholarships, Research Travel Awards, and Conference Travel Stipends

IV. Presentation of 2023 AATSP Awards

Outstanding Scholarly Publication

Outstanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Distinguished Leadership

Outstanding Service

AATSP Chapters of the Year

Small Chapter Level

Large Chapter Level

Teachers of the Year

Elementary (PreK-8) Level

Secondary (9-12) Level

Two-Year Community College Level

Four-Year College/University Level

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Lawrence Wilkins Founder's Award

Mario Vargas Llosa Sigma Delta Pi and AATSP Joint Award

V. NSE, SHA, and SHH Scholarships and Awards

VI. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Friends of the AATSP

Nilda Aguirre, Executive Director, NABE

Howie Berman, Executive Director, ACTFL

Richard Bueno Hudson, Executive Director, Instituto Cervantes New York

Mark Del Mastro, Executive Director, Sigma Delta Pi

Jesús Fernández González, Consejero de Educación, Embajada de España en Estados Unidos y Canadá

Xavier Gisbert, President, Asociación Enseñanza Bilingüe

Joel Gómez, President, Center for Applied Linguistics

Javier Muñoz Basols, President, ASELE

Marta Saracho Arnáiz, Vocal de Internacionalización, ASELE

Amanda Seewald, Executive Director, JNCL-NCLIS

Study Abroad Scholarship and Research Award Recipients

Emily Kammerer, Medford Public Schools, Medford, MA; Research Award Recipient, Argentina and Uruguay

Sesia Quarles, Sand Creek High School, Colorado Springs, CO; Celas Maya Spanish School, Guatemala

Jennifer Sommers, Lyceum Kennedy French American School, Brooklyn, NY; Embassy of Spain, Spain

Anna Maria Tofani, Glendale Preparatory Academy, Peoria, AZ; Academia Mester, Spain

Adriana Velásquez, Raleigh Charter High School, Raleigh, NC; CentroMundo Lengua, Spain

Marilynn Pavlik Scholarships

Keelin Eggleston, Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes, Milwaukee, WI

Beatriz Gallego Márquez, International Leadership of Texas, Dallas, TX

Outstanding Scholarly Publication Award



Eva María Copeland

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

The recipient of the 2023 AATSP Outstanding Publication Award is Eva María Copeland for her article "On Blackness and Belonging in Contemporary Spain: Desirée Bela-Lobedde's *Ser mujer negra en España*" published in *Hispania* 105.4: 509-524 (2022).

The members of the selection committee had the following comment about her article:

"Eva M. Copeland's study of Bela-Lobedde's *Ser mujer negra en España* educates readers not only about racism in contemporary Spain, but also about the nation's history of Blackness, rooted in coloniality. It is worthy of being chosen as *Hispania's* most outstanding essay in the literatures/cultures area because of the rigorous way in which the author grounds her discussion in contemporary theory and criticism as well as in a firm understanding of contemporary popular Spanish culture, in a style that is fluid and clear. Copeland's well-researched, well-argued analysis will likely inspire new areas of study as well as timely new discussions in our classrooms."

Awardee Statement: I am deeply honored to receive the 2023 AATSP Outstanding Scholarly Publication Award. Being recognized among so many talented and accomplished individuals in our field is a privilege. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the award committee and all those who have encouraged and inspired me throughout my academic journey. I would also like to thank Dickinson College for the sabbatical research leave that supported the writing of this article. This work is part of my continuing research on Afro-Spanish authors and texts, which contributes to understanding how marginalized communities challenge dominant narratives and power structures, counteract erasure, and contribute to a more equitable society. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the broader academic community that the AATSP represents for their recognition of this work.

Honorable Mention: 2023 AATSP Outstanding Scholarly Publication Award

Roxana Curiel, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA

"*Mujeres rifle: Masculinidad femenina en el evento fotográfico de la Revolución Mexicana*," *Hispania* 104.2: 169-185 (2021).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award



Kia London

Latin School of Chicago, Chicago, IL

The 2023 AATSP Outstanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Award goes to Kia London of the Latin School of Chicago, IL. London has been an outstanding advocate for the principles and practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion since the very beginning of her teaching career. Both her academic and professional experiences, combined with her passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion, have made a tremendous impact on her involvement at the state and national levels. London maintains a robust presence in the language teaching world on social media platforms. She frequently engages in professional development, both as a participant and a presenter. She has made many presentations including at the ICTFL and ACTFL conferences, and she has taught workshops centered around proficiency and inclusivity. She is involved in many language organizations, including LILL (Leadership Initiative for Language Learning) and LLLAB (Language Learner Literature Advisory Board). Whitney Hellenbrand, Latin Teacher and Middle School Languages Department Chair at Latin School of Chicago, praised London's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom: "Her commitment to providing an inclusive classroom, building students' language skills, and sharing her passion has benefited dozens of students already and has been a huge gain for our community. She is constantly thinking critically about our practices and language so that we can ensure that every person in Latin creates and experiences a community where they feel included, valued, and safe. Kia continually improves the educational experience not only of her own students, but also of all the students whose teachers interact with her. I couldn't imagine a more perfect fit for this award."

Awardee Statement: I am incredibly grateful and blessed to have received this award! I do not take this honor of recognition lightly, as it represents hope and vision for future generations to come. When I started out in education seventeen years ago, I had no idea what was in store for me. I knew becoming an educator was the right fit, but I was not prepared for how much more passion would follow on this journey. This passion ignited a lot of setbacks, yet opened the door for more victories than I could possibly imagine. I would not be teaching my students or training other educators on the importance of centering DEI into their curriculums, if it were not for my community of supporters that I have had along this journey. Thank you to everyone that has paved the way, inspired me, and has supported this work!

Distinguished Leadership Award



Linda Villadóniga

Retired, St. Augustine, FL

The 2023 AATSP Distinguished Leadership Award goes to Linda Villadóniga. Villadóniga was nominated by the AATSP Florida Chapter for her many years “promoting, presenting, and infusing the Spanish language and culture into the hearts, minds, and souls of her students, colleagues, and business associates.” As an AATSP Emeritus Member, she has served in multiple leadership roles within the association and in her Florida Chapter. She has served on several committees as well as Secretary and President of her Chapter. Linda served as her Chapter’s Conference Chair, Poster Contest Coordinator, Chapter Newsletter Editor, and the Travel Stipend Scholarship Committee Chair. In addition to her service to the AATSP, Villadóniga has also served as a Regional Director of the Florida Foreign Language Association, Coordinator of the Florida State Spanish Conference, and President of the Foreign Language Educators of Northeast Florida (FLENEF). Her dedication to the profession extends to the national and international levels. It goes without saying that Villadóniga is a prolific instructor, teacher, author, consultant, expert, and leader in World Language education.

Awardee Statement: I am humbled to receive the 2023 AATSP Distinguished Leader Award. My parents were both born in Spain and made sure that I grew up in a Spanish-speaking environment. They also valued education and instilled in me a desire to learn. I always knew that I wanted to become a teacher, so it is no surprise that my first job out of college was at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. It was there that I first became an AATSP member. When my husband and our two children moved from Monterey to St. Augustine, FL, I began teaching at the high school, community college, and college levels. I retired eleven years ago after a career which spanned over forty years. I have served as Secretary and President of the AATSP Florida Chapter, and presently serve as our Conference Chair, Poster Contest Coordinator, and Editor of *La Voz*, our weekly newsletter. I have also served as Secretary and President of the Florida Foreign Language Association and as Secretary of the Florida State Spanish Conference, a competition for high school students. These activities, along with attending and presenting at regional and national conferences, have allowed me to continue to grow. I want to thank Amarilys Heard, our Chapter Treasurer for nominating me, my colleagues and fellow AATSP Florida Chapter Officers, Meruchy Haedo and Louis Lillard, and two of my former students, Devin Isabelle and Jake Sambursky, for their letters supporting my nomination. It is truly an honor to receive this award. *Gracias, Obrigada, Thank you.*

Outstanding Service Award



Israel Herrera

Indiana University Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Israel Herrera from Indiana University was selected as the winner of the 2023 AATSP Outstanding Service award. Herrera has served as President of the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers' Associations (IFLTA), and twice as President of the Indiana AATSP Chapter. In his year as President of IFLTA, he planned and coordinated the fiftieth anniversary celebration of IFLTA, improving the association's regular attendance by over 100 attendees. Herrera worked with the Indiana Language Roadmap and led an annual spring professional development day and a summer webinar series. The webinars started in 2020 as a way to build comradery and resilience among educators from K-16+. Under Herrera's leadership, new committees were formed to fulfill the needs and gaps of underrepresented groups, giving voice to minority groups such as Portuguese teachers and students, and highlighting the accomplishments of heritage speakers of both languages at the middle school, high school and university levels. One of his colleagues stated that Herrera "unfailingly radiates calm confidence and respect for others." A student of Herrera's wrote that "what sets Professor Herrera apart from other professors is his service to his students ... Professor Herrera is a thoughtful, kind, and rigorous teacher who goes above and beyond...."

Awardee Statement: It is a distinct honor to be selected to receive the prestigious 2023 AATSP Outstanding Service Award. This is one of the most important recognitions I have received in my career highlighting my service. I have always enjoyed serving to AATSP and other World Language organizations. I have learned a lot from my work with numerous colleagues during my tenure as President of the AATSP Indiana Chapter (two terms), as President of the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association, as Executive Board Member of the Indiana Language Roadmap, as Board Member of the Central States Advocacy Committee, as officer of the Cinema SIG for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and as Executive Board Member of the European Association of Spanish Teachers. Serving the profession, communities, NGOs, federal agencies, has always run in my veins and it has been rewarding to see positive outcomes, changes, advancements with everything I am committed to. It has been so valuable to see that my contributions to AATSP have been recognized and I am so glad of that.

Chapter of the Year Award

Large Chapter



Texas Brazos Chapter

Houston, TX

The 2023 AATSP Award for Large Chapter of the Year goes to the AATSP Texas Brazos Chapter. In 2022, the Texas Brazos Chapter of the AATSP provided outstanding mentorship, events, and opportunities for both language teachers and students to succeed while building a community of educators in east Texas willing to learn from and support each other. The chapter conducted eight Tertulia sessions over videoconference in 2022, and numerous member meetings with guest speakers and award presentations for teachers and students, including the Xperitas Language Matters Award and the Nebrija V Centenario Award. In addition, the Chapter coordinated with the University of Houston and the Universidad de Nebrija in Madrid to offer professional development workshops and information sessions on postgraduate programs and opportunities for teachers and students interested in masters and doctoral programs in language education. Furthermore, the Texas Brazos Chapter also led a very successful campaign to promote and encourage teachers to submit their student's artwork, first by creating an impressive public chapter webpage to showcase their projects, and also by encouraging them to submit their work to the national AATSP Poster Contest. Indeed, a very successful and impressive year for the AATSP Texas Brazos Chapter AATSP.

Chapter of the Year Award

Small Chapter



Downstate Illinois Chapter

Urbana, IL

The 2023 AATSP Award for Small Chapter of the Year goes to the AATSP Downstate Illinois Chapter. The Downstate Illinois Chapter with its eighty-two active members is dedicated to providing professional development and educational opportunities to teachers and students at all levels of instruction. In 2022, they organized and led nine events for chapter members via videoconference, including four educational webinars; four *Charlitas entre colegas* Spanish conversation sessions for teachers, plus a virtual share fair *Feria de ideas* with ninety-one educators in attendance as part of AATSP's National Teach Spanish Week. They also led a very successful in-person professional development workshop titled *Standards-Based Grading in Language Courses* for members. In addition, the Downstate Illinois Chapter created an outstanding new chapter website and a new monthly newsletter to keep members informed of opportunities and events. The chapter encouraged an undergraduate student pursuing her Spanish teaching license to submit her photography work to the 2022 AATSP Higher Education Photography Contest where she earned an honorable mention. Her picture was also featured in the December 2022 A&R e-newsletter of AATSP. Furthermore, the Chapter created and granted a new \$250 "Inspiration Award" to recognize members that had a positive impact on their colleagues, communities, and/or students.

AATSP Teacher of the Year Award Elementary Level (PreK-8)



Andrea Nazelli

Detroit Country Day Middle School, Detroit, MI

The 2023 AATSP Elementary (PreK-8) Outstanding Teacher of the Year award goes to Andrea Arabia Nazelli, District-level World Languages Department Chair and Spanish Teacher at Detroit Country Day School (DCDS) in Beverly Hills, MI. An expert in language curriculum design, Nazelli uses authentic resources, comprehensible input, and a wide variety of technology to enhance student engagement. She is on the cutting edge of instructional technology and embraces new applications and then models them not only for her department members but for all teachers at DCDS and the larger teaching community. According to one of her colleagues, Nazelli instills in her students an understanding that learning Spanish is intrinsically valuable, and she encourages her students' curiosity and commitment to intellectual excellence while preparing them to use their knowledge and skills in the real world. Furthermore, Nazelli is an active AATSP member and a current member of the National Spanish Exam (NSE) Leadership Council as the Elementary/Middle School Representative. She is also an active member of the NSE's scholarship selection committee and an NSE contributing editor and writer.

Awardee Statement: I am humbled by this recognition. I accept this award for myself, but more so on behalf of those who have accompanied me on my journey. Thank you to my family, and especially my dad, who always encouraged me to become a teacher. Also, thank you to my sons, Gabe and Noah, for their inspirational texts such as "Yeah," "Nope," "IDK," and "Extra pepperoni plz." I would like to thank my husband, Chris, who always inspires me to be a better teacher through his actions and subtle ways. I am also very appreciative of those who recommended and supported me in the application process, including colleagues and friends. Finally, thank you to the AATSP for the time and effort put into this yearly process as well as the conference. Thank you for providing opportunities for camaraderie and community so that we may learn, grow, and better serve students.

AATSP Teacher of the Year Award Secondary Level (9-12)



Elizabeth Matchett

Gunn High School, Palo Alto, CA

The 2023 AATSP Secondary (9-12) Outstanding Teacher of the Year award goes to Elizabeth Matchett, Spanish teacher at Gunn High School in Palo Alto, CA. Matchett is a member of the NorCal chapter of the AATSP and also serves as Executive Director of the California Language Teachers' Association (CLTA) where she is responsible for providing leadership support the CLTA Board of Directors, elected officers and the entire California world language teaching profession at large. As the Language Instructional Lead at Gunn High School, in addition to teaching a full load of courses, she supports and mentors fourteen teachers for five different languages and continuously identifies and creates professional learning opportunities for herself and her colleagues. Matchett developed a most unique course, Spanish Civilization and Culture, which enrolls a mixture of heritage and native Spanish speakers and fourth and fifth year Spanish students creating a most dynamic learning experience for all students in the course. According to a Stanford University emeritus professor, Matchett "is first and foremost an exceptional classroom teacher of the Spanish language and culture, but at the same time plays an array of leadership roles in our profession, not only in California, but across the nation."

Awardee Statement: I am delighted to accept the 2023 AATSP Teacher of the Year Award (Secondary (9-12) Level). I want to acknowledge that any accomplishment of mine is a continuation of the work of our ancestors and colleagues and is a gift to future generations; we are not alone in anything we do. Educators and allies find the time and creativity to do the necessary work that furthers the goals of our language community. If you are reading this, you care about language education. The AATSP and other professional organizations offer us the platforms and networks to promote languages and cultures. This intercultural service is essential to the health of our world. When we understand that we belong to a greater community that includes our classrooms, schools, districts, towns, states, country, and our world, we begin to comprehend that our personal health is the key; our relationships with our communities can only be as healthy as our relationship with ourselves. I urge you to check in with who you are, remember why you began this labor of love, and to reach out to your trusted communities so they can support you to further this most important work.

AATSP Teacher of the Year Award Two-Year Community College Level



Erika Stevens

Walters State Community College, Sevierville, TN

The 2023 AATSP Two-Year College Outstanding Teacher of the Year award goes to Erika Stevens, Associate Professor of Spanish from Walters State Community College in Sevierville, TN. Stevens has worked tirelessly to create new online Spanish learning opportunities for community college students through special topic courses and Spanish certificate programs. Even as she faced the busiest years of her professional career as back-to-back President of the Walters State Faculty Senate while completing her doctorate degree, Stevens still found time to launch new Spanish specialty courses such as advanced Spanish conversation, advanced Spanish grammar, Spanish composition, Spanish for hospitality services, Spanish for medical professionals, and Spanish for banking. Her success and implementation of the Spanish Certificate at Walters State is just one example of Stevens's excellence in education. The Tennessee World Language Teaching Association (TWLTA) awarded Erika the coveted Jacqueline Elliott Award for Service in Higher Education for her dedication and commitment to supporting Spanish education in Tennessee. One of her colleagues stated that "this student-centered educator contributes heavily to more endeavors than most any colleague can rival." Stevens's vision and commitment to her students and community is truly a gift to Spanish education in East Tennessee.

Awardee Statement: I am honored to be selected as the 2023 AATSP Community College Teacher of the Year. I am blessed to have a position at Walters State Community College where I am encouraged in my efforts to enhance my classes through technology by allowing me to experiment in my live classes and to design communicative asynchronous Spanish web classes. They also have supported my efforts as I researched and created our new Spanish Certificate program, the first academic certificate at a community college in Tennessee. I have dedicated my career to promoting the teaching and learning of Spanish and I am thankful for this award in recognition of what I have achieved as I have followed my passion. This is only possible with the support that I have received from my colleagues at Walters State, AATSP, TWLTA, SCOLT, and ACTFL helping me grow into the instructor I am today.

AATSP Teacher of the Year Award Four-Year College/University Level



Krista Chambless

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

The 2023 AATSP College and University Outstanding Teacher of the Year award goes to Krista Chambless from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in Birmingham, AL. Chambless currently serves as Associate Professor of Spanish and French at UAB. She serves as the university's Director of introductory Spanish course sequence, and occasionally teaches French and language teaching methodology courses. According to one of her colleagues, Chambless "creates learning spaces for her students with boundless opportunities to use their language skills in the context of history, popular culture, and technology. Students leave her classroom proficient because she fosters an environment where students feel comfortable to make mistakes and to try." Chambless represents UAB's Department of World Languages and Literatures at the state, regional, and national level through active participation in AWLA, SCOLT, and ACTFL, among several other professional organizations, as frequent conference presenter, author of scholarly articles, the convener of professional development workshops, and committee member and association officer. Her excellence has been recognized in her receipt of the prestigious Wilga Rivers Award for Leadership in World Language Education, as well as the ACTFL DL SIG and CALICO Award for Excellence in Online Education (Higher Education).

Awardee Statement: I am incredibly humbled to receive the Teacher of the Year award for four-year colleges and universities. I come from a long line of teachers reaching back to my great-grandmother who taught in a one room schoolhouse. They have been my inspiration and motivation to be the best that I can be. Teaching is not just a job; it is a vocation. As teachers, we have the power to shape and impact the lives of our students in profound ways. We have the opportunity to inspire them, challenge them, and instill in them a love of learning that will stay with them for a lifetime. I consider it a privilege to work with young people every day sharing my love for languages and cultures. Once again, I am honored to receive this award, and I will continue to work tirelessly to uphold the values and standards it represents. Thank you.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Maria Luci De Biaji Moreira

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

The first of our 2023 AATSP Lifetime Achievement Awards goes to Dr. Maria Luci De Biaji Moreira of the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC. Moreira has been an AATSP member for nearly thirty years and is the first member that works exclusively in Portuguese to receive this high honor. She has contributed to the association in a wide variety of roles over the years including on national committees, programs, and publications. She has assisted new AATSP Directors with the National Portuguese Exam (NPE) and the collegiate honor society for Portuguese Phi Lambda Beta, also known as the *Sociedade Honorária de Língua Portuguesa*, for which she advises the local chapter at her university. Currently, she serves as Editor of *The Portuguese Newsletter*. AATSP Past President Rachel Mamiya Hernández says the following about Moreira: "Luci has been a pillar of our AATSP Portuguese-teaching community for nearly three decades. In particular, her hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence in producing *The Portuguese Newsletter* is an inspiration to us all." *Parabéns, Luci, e todos por um!*

Awardee Statement: What an honor to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award! I am honored and humble at the same time. I joined the AATSP as a graduate student in Portuguese and have stayed with the Association throughout my entire professional life in the US. Time flies and today I have so many beautiful memories of current and past colleagues, *Hispania* editors, former executive directors and presidents, and all those who share the same commitment I have had with my beloved association. Membership has created opportunities, opened doors, and led me to experiences and connections that I would never have imagined. My involvement in different capacities with the AATSP always gave me great joy, a sense of accomplishment, and shaped my professional career. The AATSP became a part of my family; from attending conferences with my husband to my children helping me attach shipping labels to *The Portuguese Newsletter* once upon a time. Like my biological family, the AATSP members and leaders have supported me with their time, expertise, ideas, and patience. Thank you! I cannot think of a better association to guide my journey teaching in the US and a home in which to devote my time and effort to Portuguese. To those who have graciously recognized the importance of Portuguese in the Association, thank you all! From the bottom of my heart, I am forever indebted to those who make our wonderful association. Thank you again for the great honor of this award.

Lifetime Achievement Award (Posthumous)



Enrique Ruiz-Fornells Silverde

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

The second of our 2023 AATSP Lifetime Achievement Awards goes to the late Dr. Enrique Ruiz-Fornells Silverde of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL. The AATSP welcomed Ruiz-Fornells, sixty-three years ago when, recently emigrated to the United States from Spain. Soon after joining, he became the AATSP's Director of Travel and International Relations Committee (1965-70). In 1967, he was elected President of his local AATSP Alabama Chapter. As one of many of his accomplishments as AATSP President in 1976, he organized the first AATSP conference held on another continent. This conference took place in Madrid, Spain in 1977. It was a resounding success, with unforgettable receptions and celebrations. Along with Ruiz-Fornells's assistance, the AATSP Annual Conference returned to Madrid in 1986 and 1998. Thanks to his diligence and amazing personal connections, during the 1998 conference the entire AATSP Board of Directors received the prestigious Alfonso X el Sabio Award from the Ministerio de Educación. At the time of his passing, Ruiz-Fornells had been an AATSP Life Member since 1981. He was also on its Board of Directors, commencing in 1970, prior to his role as its President. In 1986, he won the AATSP Distinguished Service Award.

Professor Ruiz-Fornells's indefatigable energy and devotion to the profession have been exemplary. He has been a visionary leader and a true gentleman whose hard work has contributed to the AATSP's own longevity and success. In 1976 when he was AATSP's President, in his observations from *Hispania's* "President's Corner," he offered advice that is relevant for us today about the importance of Spanish and Portuguese: "*Habr  que coincidir con muchos en que las lenguas espa ola y portuguesa por fuerza del elevado n mero de personas que las hablan en el mundo, su puesto dominante en el mapa ling stico nacional, y sus literaturas han de tener un lugar destacado en los programas de nuestros centros*" and the need to be adaptable to a changing world: "*Luego podemos decir que nuestra asignatura tiene un futuro si sabemos adaptarnos a las necesidades de un mundo cambiante, en que la rapidez con que se suceden las nuevas situaciones hacen que tengamos que estar preparados y alerta para recibirlas.*" *Hispania* 59.3 (1976): 468.

Contributed by Mary-Anne Vetterling

Lawrence Wilkins Founder's Award

Cursos Internacionales Universidad de Salamanca



The AATSP Board of Directors is honored to name *Cursos Internacionales* of the Universidad de Salamanca (USAL) as the recipient of the **2023 AATSP Lawrence Wilkins Founder's Award**. The Founder's Award is a relatively new award and one of the AATSP's highest honors. This award was created to recognize individuals or entities that have a long history of collaboration with the AATSP and have played a foundational role in building the association and supporting Spanish and/or Portuguese instruction in the United States. The *Cursos Internacionales* of the Universidad de Salamanca truly embodies the spirit of the Founder's Award.

Besides the dedication of *Cursos Internacionales* to high-quality educational programs that enrich US educators, USAL is hosting the 105th AATSP Annual Conference. This conference is the third such large scale event with previous conferences in 2006 and 2018. Hundreds of US Spanish teachers have participated in these events with the support of USAL. This award belongs to the devoted leadership as well as the faculty and staff of *Cursos Internacionales* of the Universidad de Salamanca.

We invite you to explore the many opportunities for students and teachers of Spanish at cursosinternacionales.usal.es.

Who was Lawrence Wilkins?

Lawrence Wilkins was a founding member of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish (AATS) as the association was known at the time. The genesis of the AATS began in 1914 with organizing the teachers of Spanish in New York City, NY. In the years that followed, Wilkins communicated with teachers of Spanish on all levels and areas of the country until finally on December 29, 1917, teachers of Spanish committed to the establishment of the AATSP. He was the President of the AATSP in 1918-1920 and in 1927. He also served as Vice President from 1921-1926. In addition to his service to the AATSP, Wilkins served as assistant principal of DeWitt Clinton High School, and he ultimately became the Director of the NYC Board of Education's Bureau of Foreign Languages. He also wrote fourteen books on the teaching of Spanish. Wilkins certainly demonstrated a love for Spanish and showed great foresight with the creating of the association.

Mario Vargas Llosa Sigma Delta Pi and AATSP Joint Award



Anna Schmieding

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

The Mario Vargas Llosa Award is a Joint award of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, and the AATSP. Anna Schmieding of Texas Tech University has been selected as the thirteenth annual Mario Vargas Llosa Award for her outstanding accomplishments as a Spanish major, her exceptional academic work overall, and her impressive extra-curricular activities as related to Spanish. Double majoring in Animal Science, she has served as President and treasurer of Texas Tech's chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, ambassador for the university center in Seville, Spain, and a high school student mentor, among other activities. Her exemplary leadership with her Sigma Delta Pi chapter also earned her an exclusive spot as a presenter in the same Society's annual Best Practices Session at this AATSP conference.

Awardee Statement: I am so grateful and honored to have been selected for this award. I remember when I began learning Spanish nine years ago, the idea that I could one day communicate in another language was unbelievably exciting. This excitement remains with me today and has bloomed into a life-long passion. I have been blessed with amazing mentors, from my introductory Spanish teachers so long ago to the advisor for the Chapter Alpha Phi of Sigma Delta Pi, Dr. Comfort Pratt, now. Serving as the president of our chapter has allowed me to learn so much about the Spanish language and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries as well as how to lead and communicate professionally. Thank you very much to the AATSP and Sigma Delta Pi for this outstanding award. I accept it with deep gratitude to all those who have shaped me into who I am today.



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