¡Saludos! Saudações! Greetings! I am excited and honored to welcome you to the 105th AATSP Annual Conference in historic Salamanca, also known as la Ciudad Dorada, due to the golden tones of the sandstone buildings. Plan to take it all in! Stroll through the ancient city, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988; savor the delicacies of a charming restaurant or café in the Plaza Mayor; and explore the rich history, beautiful grounds and buildings of the illustrious Universidad de Salamanca, the oldest in Spain, founded by King Alfonso IX in 1218. It overwhelms me to contemplate the more than 800 years of learning in this amazing place!

This year’s conference theme, Nuevos horizontes para la comunicación y la cultura or Novos horizontes para a comunicação e a cultura, evokes new opportunities to grow together in our commitment to strengthen our profession, celebrating the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Spanish and Portuguese, and reaching and teaching all students. As we aspire to new horizons for communication and culture, please take time to explore the array of theme-related sessions, workshops, e-posters, plenaries, and special events offered in our conference program. Allow me to highlight just a few. I encourage you to attend our Opening and Keynote Address presented by Santiago Muñoz Machado from the Real Academia Española. You will also be inspired by our AATSP Honorary Fellow, Ana María Shua, Universidad de Buenos Aires, as she delivers her plenary entitled Ser escritora, técnica y misterio. Shua is known as the queen of microrrelatos. I also recommend the Mesa Redonda: El español en el mundo with a distinguished panel that includes Mar Sancho Sanz, Junta de Castilla y León; María Carreira, AATSP; Jesús Fernández González, Consejería de Educación de la Embajada de España en Estados Unidos y Canadá; Javier Muñoz-Basols, Universidad de Sevilla and University of Oxford; and Richard Bueno Hudson, Instituto Cervantes de Nueva York. And of course, you won’t want to miss the AATSP Awards Ceremony: always a favorite event!

¡A celebrar! Vamos celebrar! Let’s celebrate! I warmly invite you all to attend the Presidential Reception: Vino Español on the terrace of the Palacio de Congresos, marking the last full day of our conference, immediately following the official Clausura / Closing Ceremony. Come enjoy refreshments, including local wine, and mingle with US and international educators of all levels.

In closing, our conference provides human connection as we share our love for Spanish and Portuguese. Pondering the exciting days ahead, I am reminded of illustrious writers, once students here, such as Calderón de la Barca, Cervantes, Góngora, and Unamuno. Through the ages, I can only imagine the philosophical conversations that occurred over copas or café in the spirit of compañerismo. Now it is our turn! ¡Disfrutad! Disfruten!

Abrazos, Abraços,

Parthena Draggett
2023 AATSP President