SALUDOS DE MARIA

Dear friends and colleagues:

The AATSP is the premier go-to destination for Spanish and Portuguese specialists in the United States. From providing top-notch professional development opportunities and teaching resources, to serving as a hub for practitioners and researchers, to supporting teachers and students through scholarships, our organization is at the forefront of Spanish and Portuguese education.

Invest in the Future

Your involvement in the AATSP has a profound impact on the profession, your colleagues, and, by extension, the countless students of Spanish and Portuguese in this country. In the last issue of A&R, we kicked off our Fall Fundraising and Membership Drive by asking for donations to our general fund.

With this issue, we invite you to invest in the next generation of Spanish teachers by gifting a membership to a young person. Perhaps you have a talented student who would make an excellent
teacher. During our Fall Drive we are offering highly discounted student memberships. Or perhaps you know a young professional who could use a little help navigating the challenges of the first few years of teaching. We have discounted memberships for them as well.

Your gift will not only make a difference in someone's life, but it will also help address the teacher shortage. As ACTFL reminds us:

**The Teacher Shortage Challenge is Real**

*Today's teacher recruitment pipeline needs to be expanded. For the 2017-18 academic year, at least 49 of 56 U.S. states and territories experienced shortages in teachers qualified to teach World Languages and Bilingual Education. Declining teacher education enrollments, increasing K-12 student enrollments, and high teacher attrition rates all contribute to the challenge.*

To purchase a membership for a student or teacher go here. You will receive a gift-card message to send to the recipient(s) of the membership.

**All eyes on Portland**

Please remember that proposal submissions for the 106th AATSP Annual Conference are due on Nov. 27. A new session category this year - the **roundtable** - may be just the perfect forum for revisiting one or more topics from our fall webinars. A roundtable is a collaborative forum led by one or two individuals to exchange ideas on a designated topic, seek solutions to a frequent problem, and/or explore collaborations. This format will give participants the opportunity to engage in extended discussions in a relaxed and supportive setting. For more information and to submit your proposal click here.

For their part, our spring webinars will help pave the way for Portland 2024 by previewing some of this event’s main themes and activities, as well as by facilitating connections between attendees with shared interests ahead of time.

**Building a bicultural future**

In my last “Saludos de María” I shared a diversity-themed activity that involved re-writing a poem about immigration. In keeping with this week’s fundraising theme of investing in the future, here is an activity that works particularly well with heritage language learners. As students think about their adult selves, they create a world that integrates practices and perspectives from each of their cultures. This activity highlights one of the main rewards of biculturalism: being able to navigate between different cultural perspectives and practices. It also lends itself to a rich discussion of cultural stereotypes and realities.
An ideal “world” for U.S. Latinos might include the following.

### Perspectives and practices from my heritage culture
- Extended family
- Family dinners and la *sobremesa*
- Respect and appreciation of older people
- Traditions
- Relationships over professional success
- Bilingualism
- *Cariño*

### Perspectives and practices from mainstream American Culture
- More room to be an individual
- More equality among the sexes
- Respect for privacy and boundaries
- Opportunities for the future
- Volunteerism
- Directness
- Pragmatism

As always, I am thankful for all you do for the AATSP and I look forward to receiving your comments and ideas.

*¡Todos a una! Todos por um!*

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**In Memoriam**

**Crystal Vicente (1973-2023)**

The AATSP mourns the loss of longtime member Crystal Vicente. She directed the AATSP Poster Contest from 2009-2022, leading the contest through its 50th Anniversary celebration that was held at the AATSP Annual Conference (San Juan, Puerto Rico). With style and energy, she gracefully embraced the Poster Contest, which grew in stature and participation under her leadership.

Vicente was also a former member of the AATSP Board of Directors (K-8 Representative, 2015-2018) and served on the Nominating Committee (2018) among other committees. She taught Spanish for many years at Athens Academy in Athens, Georgia and served as media specialist in the Valdosta City Schools District, Valdosta, GA.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE AATSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 106th AATSP Annual Conference will take place June 29 - July 2, 2024! Graduate students are encouraged to attend and engage in exciting potential opportunities for publishing! Grad students can submit a proposal for a session, academic paper, or a practice-oriented paper, or participate in the 4th Annual Graduate Student Day Competition! Winners will be considered for publication in Spanish and Portuguese Review. Remember the proposal deadline is November 27th! Learn more about publishing and professional development opportunities for graduate students at the AATSP 2021, 2022, and 2023 conferences.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND JUNIOR TRAVEL AWARDS APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica 2023-2024 scholarship applications and instructions are now posted online.

The SHH will award twenty-one Bertie Green Junior Travel Awards for current junior members of the SHH to travel to Panama in July 2024. The SHH will also award college scholarships in the amounts
of $1000 and $2000 to members of the SHH who are currently in their senior year of high school.

Applications for the 2023-2024 SHH Joseph Adams Senior Scholarships and Bertie Green Junior Travel Awards are due Tuesday, December 5. All information and applications are posted on the Student Scholarships and Awards page of the SHH website.

NSE NEWS

Now Accepting Applications For Student Awards

AATSP Exams is now accepting applications for all student awards, including the Kevin Cessna-Buscemi Global Citizen Award, the Junior Travel Abroad Scholarship, the Senior Scholarship, and the K8 Coloring Contest.

For more information, visit: https://nationalspanishexam.org/awards/students/

Prepare For Exam Season

Regular registration for the National Spanish Exam (NSE), the National Portuguese Exam (NPE) and the National Spanish Challenge (NSC) will be open from November 1st, 2023 - February 9th, 2024.

Learn more at: https://nationalspanishexam.org/exams/

Track Your Students' Progress

Registration is open for the National Spanish Assessment (NSA) until June 28, 2024. The NSA is an assessment tool that includes up to three (3) attempts to help Spanish teachers track their middle-to-high school students' progress throughout the school year.

For more information, visit https://nationalspanishexam.org/exams/national-spanish-assessment/

Shout-Out To Student Jesse Zheng In Bartlett, TN
Teacher Cristiana Moore nominated her student Jesse for an NSE
Shout-Out, stating that “Jesse is an excellent student, he loves to learn languages.” Jesse placed Gold in the 2022 NSE, the 2023 NSE, and in the 2023 NPE. Outstanding!

Learn more about this story in our blog: https://nationalspanishexam.org/shout-out-october-2023/

¡Todos a una! Todos por um!

REMINDER: VOTE IN THE 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Help decide the future of the AATSP by casting your vote. Look for an email that was sent to your inbox on Oct. 1 from noreply@eballot.com titled “2023 AATSP Board of Directors Election”. Be sure to check your spam and junk folders. The AATSP office cannot access your ballot or specialized link for voting. The voting closes on Sunday, Oct. 31st. To get to know your candidates before casting your ballot click here.

Please share this information with other AATSP members.

SUPPORT THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

The Foreign Language Teacher Education Program at Auburn University needs our support. With the retirement of its sole full-time faculty member, Dr. Sue Barry, the University has decided not to hire a replacement. The program will not be closed immediately, but no new students can enroll as of now. The program's unwavering commitment to excellence in language education has consistently produced highly skilled teachers who are passionate about fostering linguistic proficiency, cultural appreciation, and global awareness among their students.

Please sign and share this petition to save the program!
AATSP 2024 POSTER CONTEST INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE

AATSP 2024 Poster Contest information is now available! View our Themes, Deadlines, Rules, Judging/Prizes, and More at AATSP's Poster Contest webpage!

Questions? Contact Andrea Nazelli, Interim Director, at postercontest@aatsp.org.