President Emily Spinelli’s Message: January 2004

As the 2004 President of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, I would like to welcome you to our website and encourage you to browse through it in order to learn more about our organization and its services.

The AATSP is the largest of the language-specific organizations and we are justly proud of the many publications, services and professional development opportunities that we offer—all of which are highlighted here on the website.

Take a look at our publications including our quarterly journal *Hispania* that serves the needs of Spanish and Portuguese instructors and administrators at all levels of instruction by offering articles pertaining to language, literature, culture, linguistics and pedagogy as well as book reviews and professional announcements. Here on the website, you can download *Enlace*, the AATSP newsletter or learn more about the *Portuguese Newsletter*. You can also link to the publishers of the AATSP professional development series books and order the books on line.

I would particularly urge you to browse through the information on our annual conference which will be held July 28-August 1 at the Fairmont Princess Hotel in Acapulco, Mexico. You will discover that the conference site is spectacular and that special conference registration rates are available for those participants who stay at the conference hotel. More importantly, you will also learn that the conference offers many opportunities for professional development through the on-going sessions, workshops, special conference speakers, and other features. At the conference you will also have the opportunity to meet fellow Spanish and Portuguese instructors and network with those who share your professional interests and concerns.

Before you close out of our website, I would also like to ask you to join our organization if you are not yet a member or re-new your membership if you have not yet done so this year. I would also like to encourage you to consider donating to one of the several funds that help this organization continue to offer quality programs, scholarships, and other services for its members.

And remember, our website is interactive. If you have questions or concerns, you can e-mail AATSP at corporate@aatsp.org and they will respond to you.

While we have interacted here in virtual fashion, I certainly hope to see you in real time and real space at the AATSP Conference in Acapulco this summer!
Emily Spinelli
AATSP President
Professor of Spanish
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