

Spring 2012

Dear AATSP Members,

It is a great honor and pleasure to be able to serve as the new AATSP President. I am aware I stand on the shoulders of the people who held this position before me. Ms. Sherry Latham did a fantastic job these last two years and has set an example to follow. Thank you, Sherry, for serving as our past president. In the past few years other officers have worked hard to increase our enrollment, revise our bylaws, and serve our membership by providing valuable presentations at our annual conferences.

I'm delighted to present a new slate of officers. All of them have proven to be extremely hardworking and devoted to the teaching of Spanish. Our new 1st Vice President is Mrs. Lisa Lloyd, teacher at Gadsden City High School; our 2nd Vice President is Dr. Karina E. Vázquez, from the University of Alabama; and our new Secretary/Treasurer is Mrs. Donna Butler, who teaches at North Jackson High School. Many of you already know of Mrs. Lloyd's commitment to work towards the benefit of students and teachers of Spanish in Alabama: she currently serves in the Executive Council of AAFLT, and has been an officer in the Alabama Federation of High School Spanish Clubs where she was in charge of organizing the art competitions. Dr. Vázquez, a recent addition to the Spanish faculty in the state of Alabama, has launched a new community based service learning program that brings college undergraduates in contact with students in the Tuscaloosa County School System through collaborative activities in Spanish. Mrs. Butler, who has served in the past as our Secretary/Treasurer and is very knowledgeable about the position, has graciously agreed to continue in this role for another term. I am sure she has already been in contact with you regarding our organization. Please remember to review the accuracy of your contact information so that you can receive our updates and news on opportunities in our profession.

On behalf of the AATSP-Alabama Officers, I would like to thank you for your attendance to our AATSP sessions and *Desayuno Literario* at the 2012 AAFLT conference last February. The *Desayuno Literario* and AATSP Keynote Address were very well attended. We would like to thank our very engaging speakers for their presentations. Dr. William Worden (University of Alabama), who was our guest for the *Desayuno Literario*, spoke on the need for continuity between high school and college level Spanish courses. The AATSP Keynote Address was given by Dr. Efraín Barradas (University of Florida), who presented on the construction of Mexican nationalism through iconography in painting. If you were unable to attend these talks this year, we strongly encourage that you do so in the future. It is a great opportunity to listen to original research and to hear the opinion of people who analyze the role of foreign language in preparing students for their future.

In the recent years, the AATSP-Alabama Chapter has increased the number of chapters of

Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish Honor Society), as well as the number of teachers giving their students the National Spanish Exam online. Remember that these are benefits of being a member of AATSP. There is information online to help you register your Spanish program for the Honor Society as well as the National Exam. Also, we often have sessions at our conference, which is an excellent way get feedback from other teachers' experience with these programs.

Preparations are already underway for our 2013 AAFLT conference in Birmingham. It will be co-sponsored with SCOLT and it will be a fantastic opportunity to meet and network with fellow teachers across the U.S. South. I would like to invite and encourage you to submit an AATSP session proposal. We are always looking for sessions and would love to have you share your information and ideas with our members.

The 94th Annual AATSP conference will be July 7-10, 2012 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. To find out more about registration and scholarships to attend the meeting, please go to www.aatsp.org.

Finally, allow me to encourage you to take advantage of your membership benefits, such as: allowing you to network with your colleagues and learn from their experience, staying informed through publications, sponsoring a Spanish Honor Society, and/or administering the National Spanish Exam. Please encourage your work colleagues to join, as we are only as strong as our membership. If I can be of assistance to you on any of these matters, please feel free to contact me.

Saludos cordiales,

Ignacio Rodeño, PhD.

President, AATSP Alabama Chapter

¡TODOS A UNA!