President’s Corner

It is a true honor and a privilege to have been elected president of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese (AATSP). As an AATSP board member, educator, instructional leader, administrator and lifelong learner, I truly believe that learning about cultural practices, products and perspectives through languages is a gift to everyone who stands for equity and excellence in a multicultural, global community. Therefore, I throughout my career in education, have committed to share my experience, learn from colleagues, present and attend conferences such as the New York City LOTE for teachers, assistant principals and principals, New York State Association for Bilingual Education and UFT / NYCAFTL.

In 2016, I was asked to participate in the CUNY Council on World Languages Study as a high school liaison between the high schools and the CUNY colleges. This experience has broadened my knowledge, expectations and core practices in the teaching and learning of languages. In 2018, our AATSP New York Metropolitan Chapter was recognized as Chapter of the Year by AATSP National in Salamanca, Spain. I am committed in my new role in the association and as an instructional leader to continue working with the officers and the board of directors to embrace the legacy of our Chapter. Furthermore, I will strive to enhance practices and strengthen the mission of our Association. My vision is to do outreach to novice teachers to get them to collaborate with experienced pedagogues. We have a shared mission to promote the teaching and learning of the Spanish and Portuguese languages and their corresponding Hispanic Luso-Brazilian literatures and cultures at all levels of education.

I look forward to meeting you in person at one of our upcoming events: the Frida Kahlo Exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum in March, our Gala Conference at John Jay College in April and at the NSE event at Stuyvesant High School in May.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Altomarino

National Spanish Exams (NSE)

2019

Milagros Martínez, VP for the NSE, informs us that the number of participants registered for the exam has grown exponentially and so have the number of participating schools. The awards ceremony is scheduled for May 18, 2019 at Stuyvesant HS. Questions should be addressed to MMartinez.aatspmetny@gmail.com Please visit our website at www.aatspmetny.org for more information on the NSE test dates.
On April 13, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., teachers from elementary school through university levels will meet at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City to celebrate our 46th Annual Gala. As usual, the Gala will be full of educational information and good times. As requested by our membership, we continue to explore the art, literature and culture of the Spanish speaking world. Mexico is the country of choice for this year. Please join us as we peruse Mexico’s rich culture, literature, history and gastronomy. A typical Mexican menu will be served buffet style. Our traditional tómbola will of course be part of this event. We will be joined by Dr. Sheri Spaine Long, Executive Director of AATSP who will bring us up to date on the latest news about our organization. Don’t miss out!

This conference is co-sponsored by John Jay College’s Department of Modern Language and Literatures, the Consulate General of Mexico in New York and Vista Higher Learning Publishers. Our most sincere gratitude and appreciation to all! Registration will open March 7, 2019 on Eventbrite. The registration deadline is April 7, 2019. A flyer with further details will follow.

Cost for members is $45.00, non-members $50 and students with valid identification $25.00. Late registration: $60.00. If for some reason you cannot register online, call Bernard A. López at: 917-705-0353

NATIONAL POSTER ¡Juntos más fuertes: el español y el portugués! /Juntos mais fortes: o espanhol e o português! Each year the AATSP sponsors the Poster Contest that is open to K–12 Spanish and Portuguese students whose teachers are current AATSP members. An excellent project for Hispanic Heritage Month and foreign language celebrations, the posters demonstrate student understanding of the importance of learning new languages.

This is an excellent way to engage the enthusiasm of our students! Chapter submission deadline is March 15, 2019 Submissions should be sent to: Ms. Anna Montserrat at Stuyvesant HS; 345 Chambers Street; New York, NY 10282. Digital entries are to be emailed to Anna at AMontserrat.aatspmetny@gmail.com
Congratulations to our winners, their teachers and schools!

I. Poster Contest Winners!

Digital Poster Winner
Winner: Daisy Shay
Teacher: Anna Montserrat
School: Stuyvesant

High School-First Place Winner
Winner: Nefthali Gómez Sánchez
Teacher: Maríá del Pilar García
School: Bayside High School

Middle School Winner
Winner: Sakura Aoki
Teacher: Katherine Shay
School: Eastchester M5

II. Coin Design Competition-College/University

Coin Design Competition
Winner: Keavita Rajkumar
Prof.: Dr. Liliana Soto-Fernández
University: John Jay College of Criminal Justice
2019 NECTFL Conference: Authentic Language, Authentic Learning

The Northeast Conference on the teaching of foreign languages took place in New York City at the NY Hilton in Midtown Manhattan between on February 7-9. AATSP formed part of this important event for our field. Dr. Sheri Spaine Long, director of AATSP and Ms. Gabriela Altomarino, president of the New York Metropolitan Chapter appear in the picture on the left and on the right they are joined by professor Mara-Lee Bierman.

From:

AATSP 2018 & 2010 Chapter of the Year
Ms. Gabriela Altomarino, President
AATSP Metropolitan New York Chapter
177 Catherine St.
Staten Island, NY 10302

Don't forget that our National AATSP Conference is in San Diego this year! More info at aatsp.org