

Al Día

The official newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

DEL PRESIDENTE

Estimados miembros de AATSP-GA,

I am the new president of AATSP-GA. I am glad to be assuming the position on the heels of Vicki Alvis. Vicki sets the gold standard for all of us through her tireless involvement, never-ending passion, and excellent teaching. For the last two years she has done a superb job of overseeing the board, promoting chapter activities and being the face (as well as heart and soul) of AATSP-GA. She has led us very well. Yet over the years Vicki has involved herself in many activities and initiatives beyond AATSP. For me she's always been the go to person to find out what's going on in language teaching in general and in Georgia in particular. She knows all that only because she is so passionate, so committed and so involved. The area in which Vicki may set the bar the highest is her teaching. After just a few minutes of talking with her you know that she knows her craft and executes it well. Her teaching encourages the rest of us to strive for excellence. Vicki, you will be sorely missed as president, but we are glad that you will continue to serve on the board and to share all your great ideas with us. Bravo, Vicki!

The board is glad to welcome two new members, Sonia Puerta-Quinn (K- 8 member at large) and Mary Meyer (treasurer). Welcome, Sonia and Mary! Mary will be taking over for Heather Young. Heather has served on the board for 8 years and has been known primarily for two traits, her humor and her hard, hard

work. Heather has a quick wit and always keeps us in stitches. She has revolutionized the treasurer position, by creating digital registrations, payments, reimbursements and book keeping. Jana Sandarg, Fall Conference chair, has stated more than once how much easier Heather has made her life by instituting online registration and payment. Additionally, Heather has worked incessantly to find schools at which we could host our conferences and meetings and then bought and set up the food, supplies and materials we needed. She has been such a workhorse both in terms of her updating of our accounting procedures as well as her planning and facilitating our meetings. Heather, the board will not be the same without you. We will miss you.

I hope that each of you is doing well and enjoying success with your students. Along those lines I want to encourage you and your students to participate in some of the chapter activities listed below. Sometimes it's that one activity, either in or out of the classroom, that serves as the "enganche" that hooks a student (or a teacher) for life.

¡Todos a una! ¡Les deseo un buen año!

Stan Tucker
President, AATSP-GA

DON'T FORGET:

- To renew your AATSP membership to be eligible for all AATSP-GA activities
- To register for and attend the FLAG Conference in Augusta, GA
- To attend the AATSP-GA member meeting on Saturday morning at FLAG
- To nominate your outstanding students for AATSP-GA SOTY for all levels

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OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH PROGRAM AWARD

It's time to celebrate Your High School's **OUTSTANDING** Spanish Program! AATSP-GA has created an award to encourage the development of and provide recognition for exemplary high school programs of teaching and learning Spanish in our state. Go to the chapter web page <http://aatsp-ga.org/> to download the application for the **NEW AATSP-GA Outstanding High School Spanish Program Award**.

Applications are accepted at throughout the year.



Members of the AATSP GA award committee will review and rate each application. The school receiving the award will be recognized at the fall AATSP GA Teacher Conference and at the spring FLAG AATSP-GA member meeting with a **plaque, letters to the principal and other school officials and local publicity, along with a \$500 grant**. Nominate your school's AWESOME Spanish Program TODAY!

AATSP-GA EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

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COLLEGE COMPOSITION CONTEST

**This Contest is for college and university students at all levels:
Beginner through Advanced Levels, as well as Native/heritage speakers**

Dr. Jana Sandarg, Augusta University, coordinates the Georgia AATSP Spanish Composition Contest for college and university students. The registration deadline for the contest is February 22, 2016.

Each sponsoring teacher must be a current member of AATSP, with dues paid for 2016.

AATSP members at participating institutions may select a writing date between March 1 and March 31, 2016. Interested faculty are invited to respond to this announcement as soon as possible. Dr. Sandarg will reply with complete contest and registration information.

E-mail to Jana Sandarg, Contest Director at: jsandarg@gru.edu Telephone: 706-737-1500

HIGH SCHOOL COMPOSITION CONTEST

Who: Secondary school students of Spanish, Level I through Advanced and Native Speaker Levels.

When and Where: Sponsoring teachers will schedule the Contest writing sessions for completion in a proctored setting at the school campus, on a pre-selected date between March 10-28, 2016.

How: Each contestant will select a topic from the two choices available for every level, and will write an original composition in Spanish, during the allotted time of one hour.

Summary of Rules and Regulations:

- Each entry must be sponsored by the instructor of the Spanish class in which the student is enrolled. Participating teachers may sponsor only their own students.
- Each sponsoring teacher must be a current member of AATSP, with dues paid for 2016.
- Payment of individual Contest fees of \$7.00 per student must accompany the final registration materials. Sponsoring teachers are responsible for contest arrangements, including proctoring services and the accurate and timely submission of all contest materials to the director. Teachers are not to proctor their own students. Deadline for registration is February 22, 2016.

Please register and pay fees at: www.aatspcompositioncontest2015.weebly.com

E-mail any questions to Christy Presgrove, Contest Director: cpresgrove@ccboe.net

NOMINATIONS FOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Nomination Guidelines:

The student must be enrolled in Spanish or Portuguese at the college or university level, have a minimum of three (3) semesters of Spanish/Portuguese (the first three foundation courses-1001, 1002, 2001), and be enrolled in 2002 or a higher-level course.

The student must demonstrate a commitment to foreign languages beyond the normal realm of study (honor programs, tutoring, university and community activities that are related to foreign language and culture, etc.) The student must be nominated by a language professor through a narrative. More importantly, the nominating professor must be an AATSP member in good standing for the current year.

The nomination packet consists of four (4) parts:

1. Nomination cover page with the following information:

Student name, home address, and e-mail contact, digital photo to be used in our publications;
School name, address, telephone;
Name and title of school administrator;
Nominating professor's name, telephone and email contact information, and include 6 digit AATSP ID number;
Student's current course level of Spanish/Portuguese, native/non-native status, as well as a detailed description of any outside language experience;
Student's current semester in college,
GPA in Spanish/Portuguese, and overall GPA;
Experience in Spanish/Portuguese (chronological list of courses, travel, work, tutoring, etc.);
Special university and community activities and awards (chronological list).
The nominating professor must sign this cover page.

2. Current official transcript.

3. A minimum of two letters of endorsement.

One letter must be from the student's Spanish/Portuguese professor (a narrative endorsement in which specific reasons for nomination are cited); the other letter(s) may be from another teacher, a principal, a guidance counselor, or others familiar with the student.

4. Publicity information:

Please include on a separate sheet the contact information (name, address, etc.) of local newspaper(s). The following statement, signed and dated by the student, must also be included:

"I hereby grant permission to the Georgia Chapter of AATSP to include [SOTY nominee's name and university affiliation] in press releases, in the organization publications and on the AATSP website."

Send three (3) copies of the completed nomination packet by postmark deadline, February 15, to:

**Norma Garza
Habersham Central High School
2059 Old Highway 197 S
Mt. Airy, GA 30563**

or submit (1) completed nomination packet online via email to: ngarza@habershamschools.com

NOMINATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Nomination Guidelines:

The student must:

be currently enrolled in Spanish or Portuguese
be in the second year or beyond in his/her studies
have placed in statewide, regional or national contests, or have been nominated for the Governor's Honors Program
exhibit strong commitment to foreign languages beyond the normal realm of study (tutoring, special projects, etc.)
be nominated by a teacher through a narrative.

The nominating teacher must be an AATSP member in good standing for the current year.

The nomination packet consists of four (4) parts:

1. Nomination cover page with the following information:

Student name, home address, and e-mail address, digital photo to be used in our publications;
School name, address, telephone;
Name and title of school administrator;
Nominating teacher's name, telephone and email contact information;
Student's current course level of Spanish/Portuguese, native/non-native status, as well as description of any outside language experience;
Student's current year in school, GPA in Spanish/Portuguese, and overall GPA; Experience in Spanish/Portuguese (chronological list of courses, travel, work, tutoring, etc.);
Special school activities and awards (including test scores).
The nominating teacher must sign this cover page and include 6-digit AATSP ID No.

2. Current official transcript.

3. A minimum of two (2) letters of endorsement.

One letter must be from the student's Spanish/Portuguese teacher (a narrative endorsement) in which specific reasons for the nomination are cited; the other letter(s) may be from another teacher, a principal, a guidance counselor, or another professional who is familiar with the student.

4. Publicity information:

Please include names and addresses of local administration, newspaper contact(s), and date of school's honors night. The winner is to send a digital photo image for posting on the Chapter website.

Please include the following statement, signed and dated by the student and parent or guardian: "The Georgia Chapter of AATSP is granted permission to include [SOTY nominee's name and school affiliation] in press releases, in the organization's publications, and on the AATSP website."

Send three (3) copies of the completed nomination packet by postmark deadline February 15 to:

**Elizabeth Goulette
1903 Summit Place Drive
Sandy Springs, GA 30350**

or submit (1) completed, assembled nomination packet online via email to egoulette@gsu.edu

NOMINATIONS FOR K-8 STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Nomination Guidelines:

The student must:

be a student in elementary or middle school
be currently enrolled in a Spanish or Portuguese class
have demonstrated special aptitude and accomplishments in foreign language

The nominating teacher must be an AATSP member in good standing (current year dues paid).

The nomination packet consists of the following:

1. Nomination cover page with the following information: Student's full name, grade in school, home address, telephone.

2. Personal data: please include an active e-mail contact address for the student, if available. School name, district, address, telephone, name and title of school administrator, nominating teacher's name, telephone and e-mail contact information, along with the teacher's 6-digit AATSP ID number. Please include a digital photo to be used in our publications.

3. Description of student's current course level in Spanish/Portuguese, as well as additional information concerning any other language courses taken, native/non-native status, and/or outside language experience.

4. Evidence of special achievement in the target language. Documentation may be selected from original drawings, writings, recordings, or other items that can be sent in a standard mailing envelope. It may consist of photo images or other visual record of activities, art work, and/or awards won in foreign language events. Photocopies are recommended, as items submitted will not be returned.

5. A minimum of two (2) letters of endorsement. One letter must be from the student's Spanish/Portuguese teacher; this is a narrative endorsement in which specific reasons for the nomination are cited. The other letter may be from another teacher, a principal, counselor or another person who is familiar with the student.

6. Publicity information: Please include names and addresses of local administration, newspaper contact and date of any school honors program. Please include the following statement, signed and dated by the student and parent or guardian: "The Georgia Chapter of AATSP is granted permission to include [SOTY nominee's name and school] in press releases, in the organization's publications and on the AATSP website."

Send three (3) copies of the completed nomination packet by postmark deadline February 15 to:

Elizabeth Goulette
1903 Summit Place Drive
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

or submit (1) completed, assembled nomination packet online via email to: egoulette@gsu.edu

RAÚL FERNÁNDEZ TRAVEL-STUDY AWARD

The Georgia Chapter offers an award of \$500 to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses incurred during study abroad programs in Spanish or Portuguese-speaking countries. The award is given in loving memory of Raúl Fernández, a long time foreign language educator and advocate, and member of AATSP Georgia Chapter Executive Board, who was a vital force in creating the activities, awards, and opportunities that we offer our membership today. Following Raúl's passing in December 2008, this award, formerly given in memory of Julia Fernández, Raúl's mother, will now be offered annually in his memory.

To qualify as a recipient of our Travel-Study Award, one must be a Georgia educator returning to the classroom in the following school year to teach Spanish or Portuguese. Special consideration will be given to members who have been active in national AATSP and Chapter programs, which include the following:

- ◆ AATSP organized programs and workshops for teachers. Winners of AATSP-administered awards who have significant out-of-pocket transportation expenses may also apply. For more information consult the national website at: www.aatsp.org.
- ◆ Programs for teachers offered by the Embassy of Spain. For more information, see: www.sgci.mec.es/usa/becas/
- ◆ Study Abroad programs sponsored by Georgia colleges and universities. Members who have been accepted to participate in one of the programs described above are encouraged to apply for this award.

The complete application will consist of the following materials:

- A photocopy of the letter of acceptance from the sponsoring institution.
- ◆ A statement of anticipated program-related expenses. Include tuition, room, board, airfare and other transportation expenses. (Do not include optional excursions, souvenirs, etc.) Please indicate clearly how much is being paid by other sources (your school, any scholarships, staff development stipends, etc.) and how much will come out of your own pocket.

• A cover letter addressing the following points:

–how participation in the program will benefit the teacher and the impact participation will have on the applicant's teaching, (If this information is included elsewhere in the application packet, just reference it here.); –the applicant's participation in national and Georgia AATSP programs over the years (Include meeting attendance, presentations, sponsorship of SHH, student participation in NSE, composition contests, Immersion Camp, etc.); –agreement to write a 250-word article about the program, to be published in *Al Día*. Please also include a digital photo with your article.

The completed application packet should be mailed by April 15, 2015 to: Dr. Jana Sandarg
 Dept. of English and Foreign Languages
 Augusta University
 2500 Walton Way
 Augusta, GA 30904-2200

NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM 2016

The regular deadline for registering students for the NSE has passed but late registrations are accepted for a small, additional fee. Go to nationalspanishexam.org for more details.

Consider giving the exam because it gives important feedback about your program as well individual students' proficiency and achievement. If students are entered into the chapter contest, they become eligible for cash awards and certificates. Students who take the exam and go to the Immersion Camp receive a scholarship, which in the past has ranged from \$65 to \$90.

TEACHER RESOURCE GRANT

What is the purpose of these grants? These grants provide funding for the following:

- **Projects** (language fair, art project, research project, etc.)
- **Materials** (excludes textbooks but may include reading books, music, software, DVDs, realia)
- **Equipment** (video camera, recording devices, etc.)
- **AATSP Student activities** (begin a chapter of Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad or Sociedad Hispánica Honoraria, scholarships for Immersion Camp, etc.)

How much may I apply for? Up to \$225

Who is eligible to apply?

- K-12 teachers and university instructors/professors who are currently in at least their third year of full time instruction.

How do I apply? By completing application form electronically and e-mailing to address provided.

Application deadline: Applications will be accepted throughout the year and granted by consensus of the executive board.

Further requirements:

- applicant has been a member of AATSP for the last three years, including this year
- applicant agrees to participate in one AATSP-GA teacher activity during this or the next school year (depending on when the award is granted): nominating a colleague for Teacher of the Year, nominating a student for Student of the Year, starting a chapter of Sociedad Hispánica Honoraria (high school) or Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad (elementary and middle school) at his/her school, working at the Immersion Camp
- applicant agrees to have his/her students participate in at least one AATSP student activity during this or the next school year (depending on when the award is granted): Immersion Camp, National Spanish Exam, Composition Contest or Poster contest
- applicant agrees to attend the next AATSP-GA Fall conference
- applicant agrees to submit an article for Al Día about how the funds were used and their impact on students, include a digital photo with your article to be used in our publications

Restrictions: Amount requested is not guaranteed. The committee may award a reduced amount at its discretion.

When will I be notified? Within a few weeks of submitting an application

Application for Teacher Resource Grants

(to be completed and submitted electronically, also available on www.aatsp-ga.org)

Applicant Name:

Preferred mailing address (school or home):

Preferred telephone:

Preferred e-mail address:

Current school or university and address:

Levels/courses you teach:

How many years have you been a member of AATSP (give dates)?

Funding request: Describe what you are requesting the money for (project, materials, equipment, AATSP-GA student activities) and why by answering the following questions:

- What need(s) underlie your request?
- What do you hope to accomplish?
- How and when will you carry out what you have proposed?
- How will you evaluate the effectiveness of your use of grant money? (Write project description here; should not exceed a typed page)

Budget:

Detailed estimated costs:

Total requested:

By typing my name below, I certify that I have been a member of AATSP for at least three years and agree to participate in one AATSP-GA teacher activity and have my students participate in at least one AATSP-GA student activity during this or the next school year (depending on when the grant is awarded). I also agree to attend the next AATSP-GA Fall Conference, and write an article for Al Día about how I used my grant money and its impact on my students upon completion of my project.

Applicant name:

Date:

E-mail this application to stant@westminster.net.

NEW TEACHER MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE MINI-GRANT

Benefits:

- a complementary one-year AATSP membership
- complementary registration at the next AATSP-GA Fall Teacher Conference

Who is eligible to apply:

- current K-12 teachers and university instructors/professors who are in their first or second year of teaching Spanish full-time

How do I apply? Complete application form electronically and e-mail to address provided.

Application deadline: Applications are accepted all year long and will be granted by consensus of the executive board.

Requirements:

- **applicant agrees to participate in at least one of the following AATSP-GA teacher activities during this or the next school year (depending on when the award is granted):** nominating a colleague for Teacher of the Year, nominating a student for Student of the Year, volunteering at Immersion Camp, starting a chapter of Sociedad Hispánica Honoraria (high school) or Sociedad Hispánica de Amistad (elementary and middle school)
- **applicant agrees to have his/her students participate in at least one of the following AATSP-GA activities during this or the next school year (depending on when the award is granted):** Immersion Camp, National Spanish Exam, Composition Contest or Poster contest
- **applicant agrees to attend the next AATSP-GA Fall Conference**

Restrictions: An applicant can be awarded this grant only once.

When will I be notified? Within a few weeks of applying

Application for New Teacher Membership and Conference Grant
(to be completed and submitted electronically, also available on www.aatps-ga.org)

Applicant Name:

Preferred mailing address (school or home):

Preferred telephone:

Preferred e-mail address:

Current school/university affiliation:

Current status/position at school/university:

If you are already teaching full time, when did you begin teaching full-time?

Awards received related to Spanish studies/profession:

Professional involvement or service:

Why would you like to be awarded this grant? How will it help you be a better teacher?

(answer questions here; responses should not exceed a typed page)

By typing my name below, I agree to attend the next AATSP-GA Fall Conference, participate in one AATPS-GA teacher activity and have my students participate in at least one AATSP-GA student activity during this school year or the next (depending on when the award is granted).

Applicant name:

Date:

E-mail this application to stant@westminster.net.

AATSP-GA SPANISH IMMERSION CAMP



AATSP-GA Spanish Immersion Camp is a weekend where students from around the State of Georgia gather for a unique immersion learning experience.

Date:
March 18-20th, 2016

Camp Directors:
Elsie Ratliff
Ben Bradshaw
Christopher Adams

**Make Spanish
come alive
with us at
Spanish
Immersion
Camp!**

Who can participate?
Anyone in Spanish 2 or higher and has a teacher who is a member of AATSP

Registration Timeline:
January 24 - Early Registration for students in Spanish III and higher

February 15 - Early Registration for students in Spanish II

March 1 - Early Registration Closes (Registration Price Increases!)

March 11 - Camp Registration Closes

Spanish Immersion Camp is sponsored by Georgia's Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Questions?
Visit our website:



aatspgeorgiacamp.
weebly.com

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of the America Association of Teachers of
Spanish and Portuguese



Don't miss the member
meeting during the
FLAG Conference on
Saturday, March 5 at
11:00 am.

www.aatsp-ga.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 15	Deadline for SOTY Nominations
February 15-25	Late Registration for National Spanish Exam
February 22	Deadline for Composition Contest Registrations
February 22	Deadline K-12 Poster Contest Registration
March 1	Deadline for Early Registration for Immersion Camp
March 4-5	FLAG Conference, Augusta, GA
March 5	AATSP-GA Member Meeting at FLAG (11:00 am)
March 18-20	Spanish Immersion Camp
April 15	Deadline Fernández Travel-Study Award Applications
July 8-11	AATSP Conference, Miami, Florida
September	AATSP-GA Fall Conference TBA
Year-Round	Applications for Mini-Grants and Outstanding Secondary Spanish Program Award