

CHICAGO AATSP

Greetings from San Juan, Puerto Rico

SITE OF THE AATSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 7TH – 10TH



This past July teachers Lori Willer and Laura Jacobson met in San Juan as chapter delegates to the 94th Annual AATSP Conference. Besides the many interesting sessions, they were able to take advantage of historic and natural site-seeing opportunities. The gathering place of the conference was Hotel Condado, only a few miles from Old San Juan. The proximity allowed for easy trips to Viejo San Juan, with visits to El Morro, San Cristóbal, Plaza Colón, Statue of La Rogativa, and many restaurants to try such local dishes as Mofongo. Both ladies enjoyed an excursion to El Yunque Rainforest, and Lori was able to add a side trip to one of Puerto Rico's bioluminescent bays. In addition, Laura Jacobson, a Chicago AATSP past-president, has been nominated by our chapter and selected to run as high school representative to the National Executive Council. Laura addressed the membership and presented her statement of candidacy at the business meeting. Her speech can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAOqp4zE0P8> and her statement will be available on-line. Remember to vote when the election opens in October.

JUNE LUNCHEON

COZYMEL'S RESTAURANT
IN WHEATON



The end of the school year is always celebrated at our annual luncheon.

On June 3rd the council gathered to honor our outgoing President, Tracy Turner Ojeda, and other board members. We also enjoyed the company of our honored guest, Les Stickels. Les was a past

president of the Chicago chapter, and retiring world language division chair at Lvons Township H.S. in LaGrange.

AATSP CHICAGO CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



We also celebrated 3 achievement awards for service, dedication, and diligence to the profession.

Ursula Sihocky, co-director of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, was honored for her lifetime work as teacher, presenter, mentor, and director.

Lori Willer was also honored for outstanding teaching, as well as Elia López. Please consider nominating someone for this honor for next year's award.

AATSP and ICTFL team up at the ICTFL Conference in Tinley Park

The Chicago AATSP is pleased to participate in ICTFL's Cuisine Crawl on Friday, Oct. 19th. We invite you to join in this immersion activity as part of the conference fee. We will have four stations set up with make-and-take Hispanic crafts that represent Spain, Colombia, and Mexico. Enjoy the conversation of your colleagues as you create your own examples of *artesanía* that require little prep, cost, and time. These are also appropriate for most grade levels, even elementary. ¡Nos vemos allá! Also, we're raffling off an AATSP membership.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Poster/Poetry Contest Nov. 10th at Niles North High School

Poster Competition: Students of Spanish and Portuguese in grades 7-12 are invited to create a poster that promotes the learning of Spanish, Portuguese and/or world languages in general. Winners will be announced and ribbons will be awarded at the Oral Competition at Niles North on Saturday, November 10, 2012. The deadline for submitting a poster is Friday, November 2, 2012. All entrants will receive either a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon award or a certificate of participation. Please go online to www.chicagoatasp.org for complete information. **Mrs. Fran Mirro and Mrs. Barb Pietroski, Poster Contest Coordinators**

Oral Competition: Students will memorize a poem or give a speech according to their level of Spanish class. Students will present their poem or speech in front of a panel of judges and be awarded an appropriate ribbon accordingly: either *Sobresaliente, Excelente, or Notable*. Students will be awarded a ribbon at the conclusion of the competition. Up to 15 students per school may participate. Please print out this year's poems online at www.chicagoatasp.org

NATIONAL SPANISH EXAM

Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity for rewards and recognition for your students. They take one online exam but are competing both nationally and locally. The National Exam recognizes all students who score in the 50th percentile and above as Oro, Plata, Bronce or **Mención Honorífica** and provides certificates online for teachers to print out and give to their students recognizing their achievement. Teachers receive this information directly from the National Office. The Chicago Area Chapter looks at the total score out of 400 points and awards monetary awards to as many as the top 10 highest scores at an awards ceremony in May. As soon as we have calculated the Chicago Area winners, they are posted on our website

www.chicagoatasp.org Schools are also sent the list of winners via email to one teacher at the school to share with colleagues. The Chicago Area Winners receive an invitation to the awards ceremony to claim their award. In recent years the Chicago Area has been able to award monetary prizes ranging from \$25 to \$100 to the top ten scorers of total points in each category. The number and amount of the awards are determined by the amount of money the chapter receives in registration money, **thereby changing each year.**

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

At the San Juan conference, AATSP President Christine Campbell gave an in-depth presentation about the language resources of the Defense Language Institute. As Director of this government facility, President Campbell highlighted some of the features that have recently opened up to the public. Teachers and students will find these tools to be invaluable. **The Accent Library** is a collection of accent samples that illustrate regional variations of standard language. You can listen to passages covering many topics. Search results will appear with one original and ten accent versions, making it easy to compare regional accents. Another feature is the **Online Diagnostic Assessment (ODA) System**. This tool will help the foreign language learner evaluate and manage learning by identifying strengths and needs, and providing feedback. **GLOSS** consists of lessons developed for independent learners to provide them with the learning tools for improving language skills. Reading and listening lessons are based on authentic materials (articles, TV reports, radio broadcasts, etc.) and consist of 4 to 6 activities. In-depth feedback accompanies all motivating tasks, providing learners with thorough explanations and tutoring just like an attentive and experienced teacher. **The Phone Project** series is a comprehensive resource for locating level and topic appropriate phone conversations. Value-added lesson plans, support materials, transcriptions and translations provide beneficial tools for classroom use or self-study. Finally, culture and geography are also part of the site. The **Country in Perspective** section includes 50 – 80 pages for each country with geographical, political, economic, and cultural information. There is an additional section dedicated to folklore and legends.

