

*AATSP National Conference: San Antonio, Texas

July 8–11

Chicago Area AATSP

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Spring Newsletter

April 2013

A look at a very full year

ICTFL FALL CONFERENCE

We participated in the "Cuisine Crawl" at the ICTFL fall conference that took place last October at the Convention Center in Tinley Park. Chicago AATSP helped to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this organization. We welcomed Spanish teachers from around the state to learn and make as many as 5 crafts from our offerings. Teachers enjoyed meeting old acquaintances and new in an immersion setting and left with completed crafts they could bring back to their classes.



POSTER—POETRY CONTEST

The poster poetry contest was held in November at Niles North High School. Over 30 outstanding posters promoting the learning of Spanish, Portuguese, and/or world languages in general were entered. Although the selection of a winning poster for printing was very competitive, the council selected the one done by: Kiana Shin, Hinsdale South H. S. with her winning message: It's Never too late. . .Learn a New Language Now. ¡Felicidades! (See the winning poster on page 2)

The poetry portion involving 80 participants was very impressive. Students chose from 20 poems that were marked by level. They also had the option of giving a speech. All oral presentations were made before a panel of judges, executive council members joined by classroom teachers. The quality and talent of the students were acknowledged with a ribbon ceremony.

AATSP CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This year Fran Mirro will receive this honor which is given annually to an outstanding member of the Chapter who through their service, dedication and diligence to the profession of teaching Spanish or Portuguese has become a model for others in his/her field. Fran is currently the language department chair at Hinsdale South High School. In that position, she mentors all language teachers and guides them regarding professional issues such as evaluations and instructional best practices. Fran's contribution to teachers in the Chicago area has been consistent and appreciated for over 20 years. She joined the AATSP in 1975, and she has been a member of the Executive Council of the Chicago Area Chapter since 1992. In that time, Fran has been a very supportive and active member. She took over the responsibility of handling the Poster contest years ago and maintains this successful event for the council. ¡Felicidades y gracias, Fran!

National Spanish Exam Awards

The National Spanish Exam Awards Tea will be held May 18th, at Niles North H.S in Skokie. The Chicago chapter is very proud of this event, which allows students, family, and teachers to gather and honor the success and outstanding efforts of our students. Last year we gave a record amount of monetary and scholarship awards that totaled close to \$20,000. We are planning a memorable ceremony with refreshments and entertainment.



Make plans to attend the ICTFL conference in Tinley Park, Diversity is Delicious, October 17th - 19th. Our local chapter will present on Friday:
POETRY:
GETTING FROM A TASTE TO THE MAIN COURSE

Join us on the Executive Council Do you have a few Saturdays a year to make a difference and help us in our work to expand opportunities for our Spanish students as well as professional development activities for our members? We're a small but efficient group, ready for some new members. For more information, please contact Barb Pietroski: barb.pietroski@gmail.com

Meet Laura Jacobson, AATSP Executive Council, High School Representative



Laura Jacobson was nominated by the Chicago Chapter of AATSP to run for the position of high school representative to the national council. She was selected by the constituency in the fall elections of 2012 and began her term (2013-2015) in January on the AATSP National Executive Council. Laura has over 20 years of high school teaching experience and will use her voice to guide the council on issues of importance to teachers of grades 9-12. Laura has worked at Niles North High School since 1996. She is a twice past president of the Chicago chapter of AATSP, and continues to support their work by helping to host the Fall Poster/Poetry contest and the National Spanish Exam Awards Tea in May. If you have issues, ideas, or concerns to be brought to the national organization, please contact her: laujac@d219.org

February Winter Workshop at Barrington High School

Spanish teachers of all levels attended *A SENSE-ABLE APPROACH TO SPANISH* – 5 presentations that focused on differentiated instruction using the SENSES! The attendees began the day enjoying *churros y chocolate*. Barb Pietroski then led a make-and-take workshop that taught 5 different Hispanic crafts and offered ways to connect them to language and literature. In a later session Barb shared mnemonics and motions to build memory. Stephen Johnson of Lake Forest Academy presented strategies for enhancing reading with art and video. Mary Zaleski, Spanish teacher at Hinsdale South, also used songs and video to teach specific vocab and grammar. Alice Kosnik of the Bureau of Education and Research shared kinesthetic, visual and spatial activities to enhance language development. Teachers received CPDU's, but more importantly, best practices and ideas that were easy to implement when they returned to their schools.



Alice Kosnik presenting, Barrington

June 1st Luncheon, Las Tablas, Chicago

Come to our June 1st luncheon at Las Tablas Colombian Restaurant at 4920 Irving Park Rd., Chicago. The price of \$25 includes a full lunch, dessert, beverage, tax, and tip. Don't miss this chance to meet new and old colleagues and enjoy a delicious meal. All information will be on our web site as well as in a mailing. Know of any AATSP members who are retiring? Let us know so we can honor them here.

Reseña de *El sueño del celta* de Mario Vargas Llosa. (Alfaguara, 2010)

Una cita de José Enrique Rodó avanza el tema que va a unir los tres núcleos de la novela: imperialismo en el Congo, en la Selva Amazónica y en Irlanda. El tema de los estragos del imperialismo en diferentes zonas geográficas a través de los años se presenta entrelazado con el de la vida del protagonista Sir Roger Casement. El 'dato escondido' sobre su vida es aludido en la cita de Rodó que introduce la narrativa del libro:

Cada uno de nosotros es, sucesivamente, no uno sino muchos. Y estas personalidades sucesivas, que emergen las unas de las otras, suelen ofrecer entre sí los más raros y asombrosos contrastes.

La estructura de la novela es bastante novedosa. MVL empieza su novela casi al final, cuando el protagonista está en la cárcel: es decir la comienza *in medias res*. De allí, a través de retrorrecuerdos, saltos temporales y espaciales o geográficos y vasos comunicantes, va retrocediendo, no necesariamente en orden cronológico, hacia el principio de la historia. Concluye tres meses después, cuando se efectúa la ejecución de Sir Roger Casement que ha estado esperando en la prisión, que se apruebe la 'petición de clemencia' para que se conmute su sentencia. Poco a poco, empezando al medio de la narrativa, más o menos, el 'dato escondido' sobre el personaje principal se introduce por cortas chispas que delimitan el secreto suyo: que es homosexual. El tema político del imperialismo se une con el personal de la homosexualidad para fundirse en UNO solo: el abuso del poder.

La obliteración del tiempo cronológico o lineal y de la ubicación geográfica permite presentar en un mismo plano, es decir codo a codo, hechos históricos que, aunque no son paralelos, sí son el epítome del imperialismo, enfatizando así su similitud. El uso de esta técnica de los saltos temporales y espaciales está muy bien empleado, no es gratuito sino que ayuda al lector a ver la comparación de los acontecimientos. Muy justificadamente MVL fue galardonado con el Premio Nobel de Literatura en 2010.

El sueño del celta es una novela interesantísima, bien investigada históricamente hablando, que presenta la reivindicación del héroe irlandés Sir Roger Casement. No se puede cerrar el libro hasta llegar a la última página.

Teresa T. Blair



Kiana Shin from Hinsdale South H.S. Winner of the 2012-13 Poster Contest

