

Look at
and link
to the many
opportunities
for you and
your students

Chicago Area AATSP

Fall 2014 Newsletter

chicagoaatsp.org

Chicago Area Chapter AATSP Honored as CHAPTER OF THE YEAR at the 96th AATSP Annual Conference in Panama City



The 96th annual conference of the AATSP was held in Panama City, Panama in early July and the Chicago Area Chapter was well represented. Two of our council members were part of the leadership team. Laura Jacobson is serving her 2nd of a 3-year term as high school representative. Susan Ranft completed her first year as Regional 4 Director of the SHH (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica). We appreciate the service that these 2 professionals have given. In addition, we greatly benefit from their insight, input, and voice. Gracias, Laura and Susan.

We're # 1

The Chicago Area Chapter proudly received the 2014 AATSP Chapter of the Year Award. As chapter president, Barb Pietroski presented chapter activities and events in a special meeting of the chapter delegates. In this way, chapters got ideas for better serving their members and members' students. During the awards banquet our president received a certificate and accepted a \$500 check to further our chapter mission.

36th Annual Poster and Poetry Contests at Niles North High School

November 15, 2014 at 9 a.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage many learning styles and showcase students' multiple intelligences. The Poster contest is open to grades 6—12, and the Poetry contest is for K—College level 2. Registration takes place at 8:30 at Niles N., with the poetry contest beginning at 9 a.m. The deadline for both contests is Nov. 5. All information is available at our website.

Mesa Redonda para Profes de AP Lengua y Cultura (2014-15)

What?:	Mesa Redonda para profes de AP Lengua y Cultura
When?:	24 de octubre; 12 de diciembre; 20 de febrero y 24 de abril (Todas las fechas son viernes con la idea de que el próximo día es sábado)
Where?:	Highland Park High School- A217 (entrando por la Avenida Vine) 433 Vine Ave.; Highland Park, IL 60035
What time?:	De las 4:30- 5:30 p.m. (Con tiempo suficiente (ojalá) para llegar a HPHS)
Need to RSVP?:	No (Si tienes preguntas, contacta a José Acosta 224-765-2183 o jacosta@dist13.org)
What to bring?:	Una actividad para compartir y 25 copias y una pregunta para hacerle al grupo
OJO:	CPDUs, drinks and snacks will be furnished

\$15,000 in student scholarships: deadline October 15th

To support your students and goals, we want to share an exciting scholarship opportunity.

SpanishDict is the largest Spanish language learning site with over 75,000,000 users, most of whom are students. We are on a mission to promote the Spanish language and democratize access to quality education.

To celebrate National Hispanic Heritage month, we've created an innovative \$15,000 #LoveSpanish Facebook and Twitter scholarship competition. Any student (must be 13 or older) is encouraged to apply for \$15,000 in scholarships. To apply, they simply should Tweet or write a Facebook post saying why they love Spanish. The competition is open to applicants both in the U.S. and abroad during National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th through October 15th).

Our distinguished judges include Maribel Duran at the White House and Linda Egnatz, the 2014 Language Teacher of the Year. Here is the link to the #LoveScholarship scholarship application:

www.spanishdict.com/scholarship. We'd greatly appreciate it if you could spread the word to your colleagues and students. (from Linda Egnatz, President ICTFL)

The 2014 fall conference of the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

(ICTFL) will be held Oct. 24-25, with a full day pre-workshop on Thursday, October 23, at the Tinley Park Conference Center. The theme "A Gallery of Strategies: Touch up your Professional Portrait" has been intentionally focused on the Danielson Framework for Professional Practice and designed to help Illinois language educators prepare for the new Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) teacher evaluation system. Teachers will learn new strategies that effectively move language learners toward greater language proficiency. For more information and to register, go to www.ictfl.org

Announcing the 2015 National Spanish Examinations!

For Schools in Cook, DuPage, Lake and Will counties:

AATSP CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER 017

Registration: November 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015

Please register and review information and procedures online:

<http://www.nationalspanishexam.org>

Testing window: March 1 - April 10, 2015

The total cost remains \$6 per student.

For 2015 dues payment, visit National website www.aatsp.org

Identify your local chapter with CHICAGO AREA code 017

Important steps BEFORE YOU REGISTER:

All teachers and students decide on and use exactly the same name for your school. Be sure that the capitalization of the school's name is uniform.

As you register students, be sure to use proper capitalization of their names.

Email and establish contact with the Chicago Area coordinator if you are new to the contest.

Beth Sanchez: nsechicago017@gmail.com

Refer to the National website to determine the correct categories and levels.

<http://www.nationalspanishexam.org/index.php/exam-administration/exam-categories>

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE EXAM?

Almost **\$20,000 in prizes awarded locally** to top scorers

The Chicago chapter awards **at least \$2000 in scholarships** to graduating seniors.

Travel scholarships are available to qualifying juniors.

Study abroad **scholarships are available to qualifying teachers**.

Students receive **recognition** for their achievement in the study of Spanish.

Participation **stimulates further interest** in the learning of Spanish.

The exam **promotes proficiency in interpretive communication** in Spanish.

Participation is a plus on **college applications**.

Reseña de *El héroe discreto* de Mario Vargas Llosa. Alfaguara, 2013.**Reseñadora: Teresa T. Blair**

Una cita de Jorge Luis Borges introduce la narración: “Nuestro hermoso deber es imaginar que hay un laberinto y un hilo.” En esencia la novela es un culebrón laberíntico fascinante que se desarrolla en dos espacios simultáneamente, en Piura y en Lima en el tiempo presente dando saltos espaciales y temporales para informar al lector de sucesos anteriores. Se inicia en Piura cuando uno de los protagonistas, Felícito Yanaqué, un indio yanacón dueño de la Empresa de Transportes Narihualá, recibe una carta de chantaje firmada con una arañita reclamando 500 dólares al mes para proteger su negocio y a su familia (su esposa Gertrudis, su supuesto hijo Miguel y su verdadero hijo Tiburcio) de cualquier percance. Felícito, siendo un hombre de carácter fuerte, firme y honesto que guía su vida por la sentencia que le legó su padre “un hombre no debe dejar pisotearse por nadie” se niega a pagar el chantaje. Así se introduce la primera trama de la novela que tiene todas las características de una telenovela que, además, a través del uso de metalenguaje, autocomenta su propia producción: falsos secuestros, amorios y amantes, investigaciones policiales, truanes, infidelidad, santería, hijo malo e hijo bueno, adulterio, etc.

La segunda trama, paralelamente, tiene lugar en Lima con Ismael Carrera, millonario, dueño de una compañía de seguros y jefe de Rigoberto por 30 años. Aquí se introduce el inminente matrimonio de Ismael (de unos ochenta y pico de años) con su criada Armida (de 40 años). ¿Hay reverberaciones de la Cenicienta? Don Ismael, viudo, tiene dos hijos forajidos de los cuales quiere proteger su empresa y vengarse porque, durante y después de su primer infarto esperaban ansiosos su muerte para heredar a pesar de que él ya les había adelantado sus partes de la herencia de la cual ya habían derrochado y malgastado la mayor parte. Por eso, y por amor, iba a casarse con Armida y dejar sus bienes en buenas manos. Sin embargo, sabía él que sus hijos Miki y Escobita (los mellizos // las hienas) tratarían de impedir el matrimonio o anularlo declarando a su padre senil. Con esto en mente don Ismael no le dijo nada a nadie excepto al Dr. Arnillas, su abogado, a don Rigoberto y a Narciso, su chófer, que fueron sus testigos en su matrimonio civil y en el religioso. De aquí en adelante transcurren truculencias, coincidencias, falsos secuestros, demandas, apariciones, etc., típicas de una Novela Rosa o telenovela. Este culebrón se entreteje con el anterior en una forma divertidísima. Hasta que, al final, la culebra se muerde la cola y Armida (para ahora, esposa enviudada de Ismael) de Lima resulta ser hermana de Gertrudis (esposa de Felícito) y viene a Piura a esconderse del escándalo que 'las hienas' habían armado en Lima tras la muerte de su esposo. Las tramas se espesan.

Otro punto importante en esta novela es el uso de intertextualidad. En la primera trama, en Piura, la intertextualidad ocurre con *La casa verde* de Mario Vargas Llosa a través de los personajes el sargento Lituma y el capitán Silva, la chunga, la selvática, los inconquistables y los lugares de la gallinacera, la mangachería, el resultado es que el lector siente estar leyendo una novela con antecedentes de otra. También la intertextualidad con *Lituma en los Andes* de M. Vargas Llosa causa el mismo efecto. En la segunda trama, don Rigoberto, Lucrecia (segunda esposa de don Rigoberto), Fonchito (hijo de don Rigoberto e hijastro de Lucrecia), y Justiniana (criada) aparecen en dos previos libros de MVLL: *El elogio de la madrastra* y *Los cuadernos de don Rigoberto*. Los personajes tienen los mismos nombres y las mismas personalidades solo que son un poco mayores, entonces la intertextualidad produce la sensación de estar leyendo la vida de viejos amigos que siguen con el mismo erotismo de las dos previas novelas.

Quisiera dejar sólo mencionado y sin desarrollar, (debido al espacio) la intertextualidad en la relación de Ediberto Torres (las 8 apariciones) y Fonchito en la trama de Lima y el *Doktor Faustus* de Thomas Mann. Finalmente, los ensayos introducidos como contrapuntos sobre “la libertad y el mal”, “la religión” (algunas ideas de Unamuno), “civilización y barbarie” y “la biblia” son interesantísimos. Vale echarle una vista a la pinacoteca y los autores que lee don Rigoberto.

El héroe discreto es una novela liviana, pero divertida, aunque sí tiene sus puntos profundos. Sin lugar a dudas MVLL sabe escribir bien. ¡Bien merecido lleva su Premio Nobel!

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS FOR OUR CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Let us know if you're interested in joining us on the Executive Council. It's a great way to support fellow teachers and their students, as well as the opportunity to lead, share, and make connections. Contact Barb Pietroski at chicagoaatsp@gmail.com for questions or concerns.

NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST—OPEN TO ALL 6—12 TEACHERS DIRECTLY WITH NATIONAL.

K-5 PARTICIPATION WILL BEGIN IN MID NOVEMBER AT THE CHAPTER LEVEL

The national AATSP has recently expanded their traditional FLES poster contest so that students in grades K – 12 can participate. Last year national added a digital poster category as well for high school only. Our chapter has been discussing changing our own 6-12 contest which has different requirements. As of now, we continue to maintain our long standing (36 years) original work contest, but since we never served the K-5 population, we will launch this contest in November after our own contest concludes. Since national requirements are different from the Chicago chapter's at the current 6—12 level, our students' poster entries are not eligible for their contest. However, we encourage our members to look into this opportunity for their students. The deadline is April 1, 2015. Please contact Crystal Vicente:

cvicente@athensacademy.org

NSE Senior Scholarship Winners

\$1,000 each

Congratulations, teachers and students, for your talents! The NSE senior scholarship committee awarded the following students senior scholarships of \$1,000 each sponsored by the Chicago Area chapter.

Alexandra Glinos, St. Viator High School, John Fuja – teacher

Sarah Henzlik, New Trier High School, Lori Willer – teacher

Callie Leone, Prospect High School, Michael Aldworth – teacher

Thanks for your support of the National Spanish Exam Senior Scholarship Program. Your time and efforts certainly made a difference.

SHH

From our Chicago Area Secretary and Illinois State Director of the SHH and Region III Director of the SHH—Susan Ranft

Does your school have a Spanish Honor Society chapter?

There are so many benefits for students when they become members. Not only do they earn the recognition of having been inducted into a national honor society, they are also given opportunities to serve their communities and to grow as leaders. Students who are members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica are encouraged to submit their original Spanish poetry, prose or their artwork for publication in *¡Albricias!*, the national magazine of the SHH. There are also wonderful scholarships available to your students who are members. Each year your SHH chapter can select one of your junior students to apply for a travel scholarship and a senior to apply for a college scholarship. For more information, please visit the SHH website at www.aatsp.org/?SHH, or contact the Illinois State Director, Susan Ranft at susran@d219.org

SPRING AND SUMMER 2015 OPPORTUNITIES

RECOGNIZE and NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR THE 2015 AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTION

The Chicago Area Chapter AATSP Award for Professional Distinction is given yearly to an outstanding member or members of the Chapter who through his/her service, dedication and diligence to the profession of teaching Spanish or Portuguese has become a model for others in the field. The nominee must be a member of AATSP for at least 5 years and have regularly participated in at least 2 of the following: NSE (National Spanish Exam); AATSP Chicago Area Chapter workshop (attendee); Sponsor SHH or SHA (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica or de Amistades); Presenter at AATSP Chicago Area Chapter workshop or national conference or state, regional or national conference; AATSP Chicago Area Poster/Poetry contest or National poster contest. Past winners have been honored at our June Luncheon and received a monetary award of \$100. Nomination forms are available at our website. **Deadline: April 1, 2015**

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BEING A READER FOR AP? Here's what a colleague, Marta Constenla, has to say about the experience: AP READER 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio (June 12-18)

This summer Marta Constenla was invited by the College Board to serve as an AP Spanish Reader in Cincinnati, Ohio (June 12-18). Throughout the whole week, teachers were given the opportunity to exchange ideas with faculty, colleagues, and AP Development Committee members. They also became familiar with AP scoring standards, which provide valuable knowledge for scoring their own students' work. They even established lifelong friendships with other professionals in their discipline. With no doubt, this gathering of accomplished AP teachers and college faculty is the best and most meaningful and satisfying professional development experience.

Barrington HS Spanish trip to Spain and Portugal

(June 21 to July 5 2014)

Marta Constenla (AP & Honors teacher at Barrington H.S. and Executive Council member) traveled with a group of BHS students this summer to Sevilla, Cádiz (Spain) and Portugal for a two-week intensive learning experience. This annual summer program is offered to high school Spanish students in their sophomore or junior year who are planning to take AP Spanish or would like to refine their abilities and knowledge of the Spanish language and culture. The students take part in an intensive yet fun pre-college program offered through Centro Mundo Lengua. Centro Mundo Lengua is a company in Sevilla that offers a rigorous and specialized Pre-College High School Program lasting two weeks. Their mission is to mold confident Spanish speakers and, more importantly, international citizens. The entirety of the Mundo Lengua program takes place in a prestigious local High School in Sevilla. Classes are conducted entirely in Spanish. Besides going to class every day, students also go on daily cultural activities connected to their classes. They also spend one day with students from a Spanish high school that is still in session while they are in Sevilla conversing, sharing experiences and ideas, and enjoying social/sporting activities together. Students live with carefully selected Spanish families whose homes are within walking distance of the classes, or provide easy access to public transportation. They have full room and board. This type of home stay provides students with invaluable insight into the Spanish culture and daily life - the true "immersion experience", and the best way for them to advance their communication skills. Over the weekend, students travel one day to Cádiz (city and port in southwestern Spain) and another



Marta Constenla with Barrington students (left) and right, with Brian Scott, Laura Zinke and Ken Stewart at the AP Reading

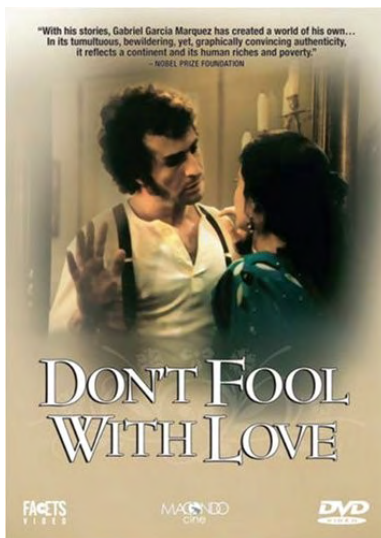


Recommendation from our colleague and executive council member,
Elia López

Don't Fool With Love

This collection of three short films, inspired by the magic realism style of García Márquez, is sweet, short and perfect for class. They are under 30 minutes, with subtitles, but even without the Spanish they are quite easy to understand. I highly recommend them!

(Available at Amazon.com)



From the Acceptance Speech for the Award for Chapter of the Year, (July, 2014, Panama) by Barb Pietroski

The responsibility of leadership also brings the reward of accepting this honor on behalf of an awesome Chicago Chapter. Earlier in the conference, I had the pleasure and privilege at the chapter delegate meeting to talk about the Chicago Area Chapter: our Poster/Poetry Contest now in its 35th year; our teacher workshops; NSE involvement (with our members' students forming the largest group of test participants in the nation) and our NSE award ceremony with 700 attendees honoring 352 winners who receive almost \$20,000 in monetary prizes; we've even earmarked another \$5,000 in scholarships. *For details about these and other events, check us out at chicagoaatsp.org.* I'm lucky that this chapter has been my pathway to professionalism and growth in so many ways. In my career that's gone from middle school teaching to high school, then retired and recycled to elementary, my chapter has been significant for me and my students at every stage. And so as much as I'm proud to accept the award this year, I'm even more grateful to the leaders and members of my chapter who have given their service to get us to where we are today. In this room, 3 former presidents of the Chicago Chapter share this awards night with me: Judy Park, Ursula Sihocky and Laura Jacobson. I thank them and the presidents who have gone before me for leading Chicago. I hope that all of you—whether in a shining or struggling chapter or school—know the richness of relationships and experiences of the AATSP bond.