



Dear Members of MFLA,

When I was invited to my first Mississippi Foreign Language Association Conference in 2008, I was simply looking for ideas that were easy and practical to use the Monday after the conference. The handouts and the notes from that first experience are still part of my teaching tools binder. I cannot explain how much MFLA means to me; the days that I have spent during each conference are full of great memories.

I have learned many tips and used so many ideas from those conferences that I cannot express how important is to have a professional organization like this in Mississippi. The factors that make MFLA so unique are the professionals that meet there. Those who are willing to share their expertise and words of encouragement mean so much to those like me, who come to the conferences thirsty for knowledge and motivation.

MFLA has given me the opportunity—not only to make meaningful connections to other world language teachers in Mississippi—but also the chance to learn from other professionals in the South through the Southern Conference of Language Teachers, and around the world through the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

When I went to SCOLT and AATSP, I was determined to do my best to represent Mississippi very well. Those two experiences gave me several more reasons to come back to MFLA. Knowing that we accomplished many things, I still see many more things we can still do for MFLA. This is the reason why I was honored when you decided to give me the opportunity to serve as your MS-AATSP president, MS-Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Director and Historian of MFLA. This last role in the association is what I will be especially devoted to, because history is only possible when things happen. As MS-AATSP president, my objective is to work very close to the MS-AATSP Vice President Jenee Wright to find specific projects that would be beneficial for language teachers in the state. We will work on developing small projects because we understand that little-by-little we can build big things. We will keep you informed of projects to come. As MS-Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Director, I am planning to contact the chapters that are not active in the state, send a report of our needs and questions to the national director about our session in MFLA conference, and for those who are thinking about being a sponsor of new chapters, I am willing to help you to establish new chapters in the state. Thank you, MFLA members, for the opportunity to serve you through those three positions.

Nolvía Ventura