

Spanish Language Division: 2008 Candidate Statement

Ms. Francesca Samuel **Candidate for Assistant Administrator**

I grew up in a bilingual household in the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. I moved to New York City and began my career as a translator in the Wall Street of the 1980's. After moving to California in 1991, I also became a freelance interpreter. In 1999, I became a member of ATA and the Spanish Language Division, which had a very profound impact on both my professional career and my personal life. In 2000, I founded A La Carte Translations (and later www.alacartetranslations.com), a sole proprietorship and home-based business.

I served the Spanish Language Division throughout the years in different roles, first, as a volunteer "back in the day," later as Treasurer, and currently as Assistant Administrator. During these years the Division has grown to a record 4,000+ members. In the last four years, we have had two successful Division

Conferences in Las Vegas and in Philadelphia, with record attendance.

I would like to continue to help offering our members top quality professional development training and seminars, and a forum where their questions, concerns and interests can be voiced. I also feel we should become more visible to the general public and the community at large by participating in activities such as educational outreach in local schools, colleges, universities and other professional organizations.

If elected, I will continue to support the Division's leadership, and the vision and goals of its members. For these and many other reasons, I hope to be able to continue to serve as your Assistant Administrator.

Thanks in advance for your support!