



Rosario Welle  
Takes Prize in 2006  
School Outreach Contest:

## 2007 Contest Now Open

By Lillian Clementi



In the winning photograph, Rosario Welle conducts an interpreting exercise with first-graders at Florence Black Elementary School in Mesquite, Texas.

### ATA member Rosario Welle

won ATA's second annual School Outreach Contest with an engaging photograph of her school outreach presentation to first-graders at Florence Black Elementary School in Mesquite, Texas. To demonstrate the life-saving power of language skills, Rosario and three students dramatized a 911 call, with the children playing the roles of an injured person, an interpreter, and the dispatcher. The winning photograph shows Rosario and the children actively involved in the 911 exercise, with a fire truck and a local firefighter in the background.

"The experience was memorable," Rosario said. "I realized that the children were unaware of the world of possibilities that a career in languages can offer. I believe that the time I spent with them had an impact on their lives."

#### Great Prop, Great Shot

Once she decided to enter the contest, Rosario sought the advice of the

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Mesquite School District's photographer, who urged her to think creatively in planning her presentation and contest entry. "He told me that the picture needed to say it all, and that I'd need a good prop to get a good picture," she recalled, and together they hatched the idea of

inviting the fire department.

In preparing for her presentation, Rosario also relied on existing materials from ATA's School Outreach website ([www.atanet.org/careers/school\\_outreach.php](http://www.atanet.org/careers/school_outreach.php)), using an elementary-level script to introduce the children to translation and

## Rosario Welle Takes Prize in 2006 School Outreach Contest: 2007 Contest Now Open *Continued*

interpreting, and then concluding with the 911 interpreting exercise (also available on the website), which she conducted outdoors against the backdrop of the fire truck.

Although Rosario's creative use of resources resulted in an appealing photograph, it was equally valuable in making a successful presentation. "As the picture shows, the kids were wonderful in portraying their characters," she said, "and the visual experience helped the rest of the class become engaged with the subject. They were very excited and motivated." For more on getting an effective school outreach photograph, see "Three Steps to a Winning Shot."

### Tireless Volunteer

A native of Santo Domingo, Rosario Welle has lived in the U.S. since 1993 and has a background in languages and accounting. She is currently employed by the Mesquite Independent School District as a translator/interpreter, serving as an interpreter for the Special-Education and Parent Education Departments and translating a variety of documents for the school district, among other duties.

Rosario joined ATA in 2001 and is working toward New York University's Certificate of Translation Studies (English→Spanish). She hopes to earn ATA certification for English→Spanish translation.

Rosario is an active member of her community, serving as a member of the Agnew Middle School Parent Teacher Association board and volunteering for the Mesquite Public Library and other community activities. She also plans to continue her involvement in ATA's School Outreach movement.

"There is an enormous need to

educate future generations," she said. "Many schools fail to realize that the ability to interpret or translate represents more than saying 'I am bilingual.' School outreach is a great way for me to do my part to change ignorance into knowledge and raise the standards and profile of our profession."

### 2007 Contest Offers Free Conference Registration in San Francisco

ATA is now accepting entries for the 2007 School Outreach Contest. The prize is free registration to ATA's 48th Annual Conference in San Francisco, California, October 31-November 3, 2007.

**The deadline for submissions is July 23, 2007,** and the winner will be

contacted no later than August 20, 2007. Here's how to enter:

1. Visit the School Outreach homepage at [www.atanet.org/ata\\_school/index.php](http://www.atanet.org/ata_school/index.php) and click on Presentation Resource Materials.
2. Pick the age level you like the best and click on it.
3. Download a presentation and deliver it at your local school or university.
4. Get someone to take a picture of you in the classroom.
5. Send your picture electronically to ATA's Public Relations Committee at [pr@atanet.org](mailto:pr@atanet.org) using the subject

## Three Steps to a Winning Shot

- 1 **Make sure the photo shows clearly that you are talking about translation and/or interpreting.** This could include words behind you on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or flip chart; an interesting prop; or classroom decorations such as flags, foreign vocabulary, or maps. Visual impact not only improves the quality of your photograph, but makes your presentation more interesting and engaging.
- 2 **Include yourself and one or more students in the photo if you can.** If the school's confidentiality policy prohibits showing children's faces in the photo, try a shot that shows them from the back. Do not hesitate to ask the teacher to take the photograph for you, or ask if the school newspaper or yearbook is interested in photographing your presentation. You can also invite a colleague, family member, or friend to come along and take pictures.
- 3 **Aim for a photo that is clear enough for effective reproduction in *The ATA Chronicle* and promotional materials.** Ideally it should be visually pleasing as well, although we are willing to do some cropping and enhancing if the content is good. For a few basics on photography and composition, visit [www.wildthingsphoto.com/tips/tip0206.htm](http://www.wildthingsphoto.com/tips/tip0206.htm).

The ideal photograph would combine all three elements to create a picture that captures the fun of translation and interpreting, your passion for the profession, and the interest and engagement of your audience. Beginning in late March, a gallery of school outreach photographs will be on display at [www.atanet.org/ata\\_school](http://www.atanet.org/ata_school). Click on Third Annual School Outreach Contest and then Gallery.

line "School Outreach Contest," or mail your entry to 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include your name and contact information, the date, the school's name and location, and a brief description of the class.

You may submit multiple entries, and any member of ATA or of any ATA-affiliated organization is eligible to enter. For more information, contact Lillian Clementi at [lillian@linguallegal.com](mailto:lillian@linguallegal.com).

#### And Even if You Don't Win...

...you can earn continuing education (CE) points for the time you spend in the classroom. Each hour of presentation time earns two Category



School Outreach organizer Lillian Clementi presents Rosario Welle with the prize in ATA's second annual School Outreach Contest.

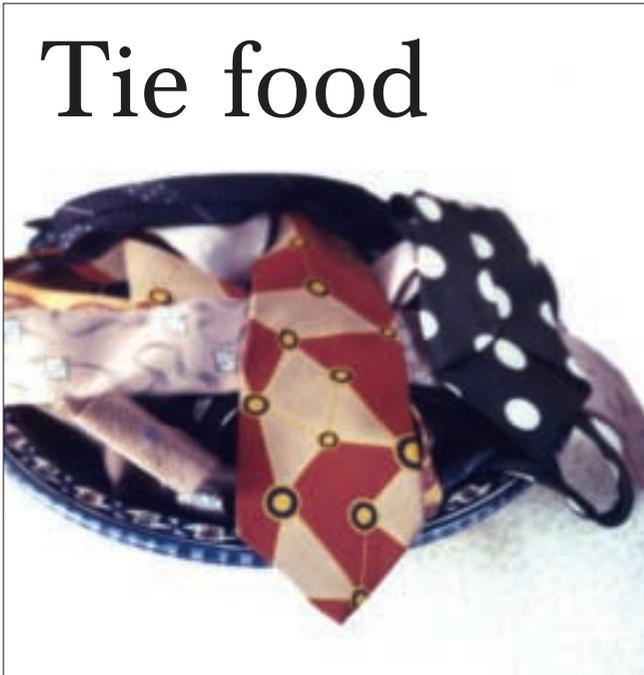
B CE points, subject to a maximum of four points in each three-year reporting period. Two or more school outreach presentations of less than 60 minutes may be combined to reach the one-hour mark, and no advance approval is required. Visit [www.atanet.org/ata\\_school/ce\\_points](http://www.atanet.org/ata_school/ce_points)

\_form.php to get additional information on CE points for school outreach and to download a CE form designed specifically to document CE points for school outreach.

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