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

By Lillian Clementi

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 chil-
dren 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 con-
test, Rosario sought the advice of the
Mesquite School District’s photogra-
pher, who urged her to think cre-
atively 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 mate-
rials from ATA’s School Outreach
website (www.atanet.org/careers/sch
ool_outreach.php), using an elemen-
tary-level script to introduce the chil-
dren to translation and
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:

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 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.

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. 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@lingualegal.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 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_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.

Looking for the right word?

We offer language tools and electronic dictionaries in 11 different languages.

From amateurs to language professionals

The WordFinder Dictionary System gives you access to more than 100 different dictionaries in 11 different languages. Just one mouse click gives you ideas for translations, phrases and synonyms that can be easily pasted into your document. We can also provide you with grammar and style check software for English content.

Whether you use a PC or Mac, Internet or Pocket PC, we will gladly find a solution that best meets your company’s requirements.

Please contact us for more information by phoning +46 470 70 00 00 or emailing info@wordfinder.com

**WordFinder**

www.wordfinder.com