Spreading the Word: Ana Safrin Wins 2009-2010 School Outreach Contest

By Meghan McCallum

The School Outreach Program is proud to present Ana Safrin as the winner of ATA’s 2009-2010 School Outreach Contest.

Back to School
An English→Brazilian Portuguese freelance translator based in Cooper City, Florida, Ana enjoys playing an active role in her daughters’ lives, and when their school hosted a career day in November 2009, she took the opportunity to teach second- and third-grade students about the translation and interpreting professions. Her presentation was a truly eye-opening experience for the children, some of whom “didn’t know about the wide range of languages in the world,” she says.

Connecting to Students
Though translation is not always easily understood by the very young, Ana succeeded in conveying the basics of the profession—and snagged the students’ interest, too. Her secret: connecting the information to what the students were already studying. “They had been learning geography, so I brought out a map and pointed out all the places where Portuguese is spoken,” she explains.

Ana also brought a copy of Audrey Wood’s popular children’s book *The Napping House* and its Portuguese translation to help the students associate a specific product with the task of translation. This visual example proved successful, as students were able to compare the source and translated texts side by side. The children enjoyed this hands-on experience and were able to make connections between the two books, she says. “They liked to see the real thing.”

With a few bilingual students in the class, Ana was also able to engage the children in a basic interpreting demonstration. When she provided a word in English, these bilingual volunteers...
Ana Safrin gave students an active role in the presentation.

“We need to show children how translation is already a part of their daily lives—to bring the profession into their world.”

Now Open: 2010-2011 ATA School Outreach Contest

Make a School Outreach presentation this year, and you could win free registration to ATA’s 52nd Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, October 26-29, 2011. To learn how to enter, visit www.atanet.org, click on the CAREERS tab, and choose School Outreach.