

*American Association of Teachers of Arabic
Newsletter
September 2007*

Welcome to the new monthly newsletter of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA). The monthly newsletter will let the AATA keep in regular contact with its membership and provide regular news of the profession. If you have news of interest to AATA members, please send it to the new email address, admin@aataweb.org.

FROM AATA'S PRESIDENT

Dear AATA members,

Greetings/salaamaat for the new academic year. As I mentioned in an earlier letter, this has been a year of transition in many senses. We have a new Executive Director, Dr. Elizabeth M. Bergman, as well as a new website and membership management structure. We are looking to provide timely information to you about professional opportunities, new publications, grants and grant deadlines, and expanded membership categories.

I would like to welcome Dr. Bergman officially to the Executive Directorship of AATA. We are fortunate to have person of her experience to guide and direct the next stage of growth in our organization and to publish this monthly newsletter.

As we start the fall semester, think about upcoming conferences: MESA/AATA in Montreal, November 17-20; ACTFL in San Antonio November 16-18 (yes, they overlap, as usual), and the Modern Language Association (MLA) convention in Chicago, December 27-30.

By the way, if you have not yet seen the MLA report: "Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World," I strongly recommend that you go to the MLA website and read it (<http://www.mla.org/flreport>). It is the result of a two-year study on how university foreign language departments and curricula are organized and how curricula are determined, especially in the light of current events and the recognition that the United States has not developed strong cadres of foreign language specialists. Some very explicit recommendations are made, and the report has been and still is a topic of interest and discussion in the media and in higher education.

With best regards to all,

Karin Ryding
Sultan Qaboos bin Said Professor of Arabic
Georgetown University
President, AATA

FROM THE EDITOR OF *AL-ARABIYYA*

Dear AATA members,

Since I received the AATA journal *Al-^cArabiyya* from the previous editor, Dr. Kirk Belnap of Brigham Young University, I have been working get it onto a steady publication schedule. I have also been exploring options for publishing *Al-^cArabiyya* through an academic publisher, with the support of AATA President Dr. Karin Ryding, Executive Director Dr. Elizabeth M. Bergman, and Dr. John Eisele, former Executive Director. Again with the support of the President and Executive Director, I decided to publish the 2005 and 2006 issues in a double volume. This will allow us to make a transition to a publishing house with the 2007 issue.

The 2005 – 2006 issue is in the final stages of copyediting, with high quality papers and good book reviews. I hope to have the 2005 – 2006 issue in hand for the AATA meeting at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in November. This is possible in large part because of the help of the *Al-^cArabiyya*'s anonymous readers, who do so much to determine the contents and quality of *Al-^cArabiyya* articles.

In August, the US Naval Academy provided me with an assistant. Elena Corbett is a Ph.D. candidate at University of Chicago and also teaches in the Naval Academy's growing Arabic program. We are very lucky to have her.

Al-^cArabiyya also lost a valuable member of the editorial staff this year with the death of Dr. Alan Kaye of the University of California at Fullerton. Dr. Kaye had served as *Al-^cArabiyya*'s Book Review Editor for a number of years, and his loss is a significant blow to the field and to the journal. If you or an AATA member you know is willing to join *Al-^cArabiyya* in the vitally important position of Book Review Editor, please contact me at burt@usna.edu.

Ramadan Karim!

Clarissa Burt
Editor, *Al-^cArabiyya*

FROM AATA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

In July, Dr. Karin Ryding offered me the position of Executive Director of AATA. I was honored to accept the offer, as AATA has played an important role in my career. And I was glad to continue working with Dr. Ryding during her tenure as AATA President, having worked with her on Georgetown University's Center for Advanced Proficiency in Arabic.

In the past weeks, I have come to appreciate the efforts of the former AATA Executive Director, Dr. John Eisele of the College of William and Mary. Dr. Eisele served as Executive Director from 2000 – 2007, two years beyond the usual five-year. As you know, this period has been one of enormous growth in our field and for AATA. He guided the organization with an able hand and watched the membership double to over 200. Dr. Eisele has also been more than helpful as I have worked to manage AATA's transition from William and Mary. AATA owes him more than I can say.

I should also thank Dr. Ryding, Dr. Burt, and Dr. Gerald Lampe, former AATA President, for their advice and counsel. The transition would have been much more time-consuming and difficult without them. It has been complex, as it involves an international membership of individuals and institutions, and subscriptions to the journal from institutions across the world.

In order to run AATA's administrative side more effectively, we have contracted with a professional management service. Robert Ranieri of Prime Management Services is working with me to update mailing lists and re-design the website. We hope to unveil a new website shortly, which will include online membership, subscription, and publication ordering. Membership renewal notices and ballots for the Executive Board will be mailed to you soon.

As always, I ask for your advice and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at this email address, admin@aataweb.org.

With thanks for your support and your patience during our transition,

Elizabeth M. Bergman
AATA Executive Director

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AATA

American Association of Teachers of Arabic
3416 Primm Lane
Birmingham, AL 35216
telephone: 205.822.6800
fax: 205.823.2760
email: admin@aataweb.org

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

❖ AATA at MESA

Please save the date and time for the AATA panel and business meeting at MESA in Montreal:

Panel, Saturday, 17 November, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Business meeting, Saturday, 17 November, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

❖ STARTALK ACTFL Pre-Conference Teacher Trainer Workshop

STARTALK will cooperate with the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA), the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA), and the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS) to offer a one-day workshop on teacher education and professional development for Arabic and Chinese language teacher trainers. It will take place on November 15, 2008 in San Antonio, TX, preceding the ACTFL 2007 Annual Convention. The workshop is an opportunity for teacher trainers and others to share information about and resources for teacher education, and to exchange ideas about expanding teacher-training capacity in the United States. It will focus on best

practices in teaching Arabic and Chinese at the K-12 level and on how to prepare K – 12 teachers to teach effectively.

Funded by the National Security Language Initiative, STARTALK provides professional development opportunities for prospective and current Arabic and Chinese teachers for levels K-16. It also offers summer education experiences for high school students in Arabic and Chinese languages..

The STARTALK workshop is open to AATA, CLTA, and CLASS members, and to others who hold advanced degrees and have previous experience training teachers. As an outcome of the meeting, workshop participants will draft plans for teacher development for their home institutions.

For further information and application forms, visit this website:

http://www.nflc.org/projects/current_projects/startalk/pre_actfl_conf_workshop/.

Deadline for application is September 28, 2007.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

❖ GURT 08

Telling Stories: Building bridges among Language, Narrative, Identity, Interaction, Society and Culture.

March 14- 16, 2008

Narratives have been studied in many different disciplines: linguistics, literary theory, clinical psychology, cognitive and developmental psychology, folklore, anthropology, sociology and history. The primary focus of GURT 2008 is the linguistic study of narrative, especially as it has developed within discourse analysis and sociolinguistics.

As our theme suggests, however, studying the language of narrative can take us far afield to other concerns: the construction of self and identity; the differences among spoken, written and computer-mediated discourse; the role that small and big (e.g. life) stories play in everyday social interactions; the contribution of narrative to social status, roles and meanings within institutional settings as varied as therapeutic and medical encounters, education, politics, media, marketing and public relations.

Thus GURT 2008 will be a forum for building interconnections among language, narrative and social life.

Featured Speakers: William Labov, Jerome Bruner, Richard Bauman

We invite proposals for presentations related to the conference themes:

- the language of narratives: form, meaning and use
- narrative modalities: spoken, written, computer-mediated

- small/short stories in everyday social interaction
- large/long stories in life stories and oral histories
- narrative in and of social institutions, e.g. clinical practice (therapy, medicine), education, politics, media, marketing, public relations
- narratives of displacement, resistance and social change

Proposal submission deadline is October 15, 2007. Notification of proposal acceptance: December 12, 2007. A prize will be awarded to the best student presentation or poster; no separate application is needed.

Proposal submission is only through the conference website:

<http://www8.georgetown.edu/college/gurt/2008/>

❖ Journal of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages

The Journal of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) is soliciting articles for publication. As the official journal of the Council, the journal serves the professional interests of teachers, researchers, and administrators of less commonly taught languages in all settings and all levels of instruction. The Journal is refereed and published once a year.

Our general editorial focus is on policy, education, programs, advocacy, and research in the field of less commonly taught languages (all foreign languages except English, French, German, and Spanish). The envisaged segmentation of the Journal is as follows:

- a. Methodology and Technology,
- b. Academia,
- c. Beyond Academia,
- d. Social Embeddedness

The first section shall include papers focusing on broader theoretical and technological issues in all fields of less commonly taught languages. The second section will encompass reports about research and teaching in academia, at both K-12 and collegiate levels. The third section shall comprise papers addressing research and teaching in government and industry. Finally, the fourth section will address the issues of a broader social environment, ranging from heritage communities to advancing LCTLs in federal initiatives and legislation.

In preparing the manuscript, please use the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), see <http://www.apa.org/journals/authors/guide.pdf>. Manuscripts should be a maximum of 25 pages (excluding references, charts, notes, etc.) and preferably submitted electronically via email attachment. Double-space the

manuscript throughout, including notes, references, and tables, using 12-point font with a 1.5 inch left margin. The manuscript should be accompanied by a 150 word (or less) abstract and a cover sheet containing the manuscript title, name, address, office and home telephone numbers, fax number, email address, and full names and institutions of each author. Because the manuscript will be blind reviewed, identifying information should be on the title page only, and not appear in the manuscript.

The submission deadline is November 20, 2007.

ncolctl@mailplus.wisc.edu
NCOLCTL
4231 Humanities Building
455 N. Park Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-7903; FAX 608 265 7904.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Another source of information about employment opportunities can be found at the website of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA):
<http://mesa.arizona.edu/publications/employment.htm>
- ❖ World Learning's School for International Training

World Learning's School for International Training (www.sit.edu) is looking for an experienced teacher of Arabic as a foreign language to assist in the development of its new intensive Arabic language programs in Jordan and Oman. Programs begin in summer of 2008, run for 7 weeks, and are geared towards students at the intermediate and advanced levels.

The ideal candidate will be fluent in Arabic and have extensive MSA teaching experience with English speakers. SIT seeks to develop courses that follow standards in the field of TAFL at US institutions of higher education, but that also allow for adaptation of the curriculum based on local, cultural contexts.

The hired consultant will have two months to develop a set of syllabi for these programs. Work can be completed from any location, but the designated consultant will be expected to work with SIT staff via email and telephone during the consultancy period.

Please send CV and letter of interest to:
Eleanor Thomas,
Assistant to the Dean,
SIT Study Abroad
eleanor.thomas@sit.edu

Review of applications will begin October 15th.

- ❖ Florida State University. Arabic language instruction starting August 2008: Full-time Arabic Lecturer

The Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics at Florida State University seeks an Assistant-In (Lecturer) for Arabic, a full-time (9-month) non-tenure track faculty position, with the possibility of ongoing renewal contingent on satisfactory performance reviews.

Applicants should be able to teach Arabic at all levels. Fluency in Modern Standard Arabic is required and native or near native fluency in an Arabic dialect is desirable. The minimum requirement is a MA in Arabic language and literature or related field. Experience with developing Arabic language teaching materials, especially those involving computer-based instructional technologies, preferred.

Responsibilities include teaching three undergraduate language and literature/culture classes per semester at the beginner, intermediate, and/or advanced levels. The candidate will work closely with other faculty members in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies to build a cohesive and rigorous language and culture program.

Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with experience. Florida State University is an equal opportunity employer, committed to building a culturally diverse intellectual community, and strongly encourages applications from women and minorities.

Please send, on or before November 10, 2007, a cover letter with a brief description of teaching philosophy and supporting documents including teaching evaluations, sample syllabi, curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation to:

Professor William J. Cloonan, Chair
Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics
DIF 364
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1540.

Those attending MESA will have the opportunity for informal interviews.

GRANT AND FELLOWSHIPS

- ❖ Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Spring 2008 Application Open - Deadline: October 9, 2007

The Gilman International Scholarship Program provides awards of up to \$5,000 for U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad for up to one academic year. The program aims to diversify the kinds of student who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go. The program serves students who have been under-represented in study abroad which includes but is not limited to: students with high financial need, community college students, students in

under-represented fields such as the sciences and engineering, students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, students attending minority-serving institutions, and students with disabilities. The Gilman Program seeks to assist students from a diverse range and type of two-year and four-year public and private institutions from all 50 states.

A limited number of \$3000 Critical Need Language Supplements are available for students studying a critical need language for a total possible award of \$8000. A list of eligible languages can be found on the Gilman website at <http://www.iie.org/gilman>.

Eligibility: Students must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant at the time of application and cannot be studying abroad in a country currently under a U.S. Department of State Travel Warning or in Cuba.

The Gilman International Scholarship Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Institute of International Education.

For more information, full eligibility criteria and the online application visit:
<http://www.iie.org/gilman>

Gilman International Scholarship Program
Institute of International Education
520 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 740
Houston, TX 77027

Contact for Applicants: Lindsay Calvert
email: gilman@iie.org
Phone: 713.621.6300, ext 25

Contact for Advisors: Jennifer Eisele
email: gilman_scholars@iie.org
Phone: 713.621.6300, ext 16

<http://www.iie.org/gilman>

- ❖ Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program (Federal Register: August 29, 2007 [CFDA# 84.170A])

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Jacob K. Javits (JKJ) Fellowship Program is to award fellowships to eligible students of superior ability, selected on the basis of demonstrated achievement, financial need, and exceptional promise, to undertake graduate study in specific fields in the arts, humanities, and social sciences leading to a doctoral degree or to a master's degree in those fields in which the master's degree is the terminal highest degree awarded in the selected field of study at accredited institutions of higher education. The selected fields in the arts are: creative writing, music performance, music theory, music composition, music literature, studio arts (including photography), television, film, cinematography, theater arts, playwriting,

screenwriting, acting, and dance. The selected fields in the humanities are: American history, art history (including architectural history), archeology, area studies, classics, comparative literature, English language and literature, folklore, folk life, foreign languages and literature, foreign languages that are less commonly taught as follows: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Indic family (including Hindi, Urdu, Sinhala, Bengali, Nepali, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Oriya, Assamese); Iranian family (including Dari, Farsi, Tajiki, Kurdish, Pashto, Balochi); and Turkic family (including Turkish, Azerbaijani/Azeri, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Uzbek, Uyghur), linguistics, non-American history, philosophy, religion (excluding study of religious vocation), speech, rhetoric, and debate. The selected fields in the social sciences are: anthropology, communications and media, criminology, economics, ethnic and cultural studies, geography, political science, psychology (excluding clinical psychology), public policy and public administration, and sociology (excluding the master's and doctoral degrees in social work).

Applications Available: August 29, 2007.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: October 15, 2007.

Deadline for Transmittal of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): January 31, 2008.

Eligible Applicants: Individuals who at the time of application: (1) Have not completed their first full year of study for a doctoral degree or a master's degree in those fields in which the master's degree is the terminal highest degree awarded in the selected field of study, or will be entering a doctoral degree program or a master's degree program in those fields in which the master's degree is the terminal highest degree awarded in the selected field of study in academic year 2008-2009; (2) are eligible to receive grant, loan, or work assistance pursuant to section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); and (3) intend to pursue a doctoral or master's degree in fields selected by the JKJ Fellowship Board at accredited U.S. institutions of higher education. An individual must be a citizen or national of the United States, a permanent resident of the United States, in the United States for other than a temporary purpose and intending to become a permanent resident, or a citizen of any one of the Freely Associated States.

Estimated Available Funds: \$2,782,212.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$42,892.

Estimated Number of Awards: 64.

Additional Information: Applicable regulations, priorities, and other information are available in the Federal Register notice.

Additional information is available online at:

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2007-3/082907b.html>

❖ Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Program

The Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Program

(<http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsfra/index.html>) provides grants for faculty to maintain and improve their area studies and language skills by conducting research abroad for a period of 3-12 months; proposals whose focus is Western Europe are ineligible. Official announcement on the

Federal Register: [this is last year's announcement; update with link to this year's notice once available: "Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for FY 2008"]

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2007-3/083107b.html>

Deadline: October 30, 2007

❖ The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program

The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program (<http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa/index.html>) supports overseas projects in training, research and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies by *teachers, students, and faculty engaged in a common endeavor. Projects may include short-term seminars, curriculum development, group research or study, or advanced language programs. Projects must focus on the humanities, social sciences, and languages and must concentrate on one or more of the following areas: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Western Hemisphere (excluding the U.S. and Canada), East Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Near East. Official announcement on the Federal Register: [this is last year's announcement; update with link to this year's notice once available: "Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for FY 2008"]

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2007-3/083107c.html>

Deadline: October 4, 2007

STUDY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

❖ Winter Session- Study Abroad in Yemen

Intensive Arabic in Sana'a through George Mason University
December 28-January 19

Course Description: study Arabic language at the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies located in Sana'a. The program includes Arabic language courses at the intermediate and advanced levels. Courses offered Sat-Wed, 5 hours/day taught by local faculty, one four-day trip to Hadhramout, and one overnight trip to Manakha (hotel, transportation and meals included in all trips), one afternoon trip to Dar al-Hajar and visits to sites in Sana'a.

Program fee: \$4,755- Mason, 4,805 for non-Mason students. Tuition includes:

International airfare from Washington, D.C.
Ground transportation
Double or triple room accommodation
Field trips and excursions
Tourist visa
Two meals/day

Pre-departure orientation
International Study Identity Card (students only)

Participants who submit a completed application (Center for Global Education - Mason Abroad application and all required application materials) by September 14, 2007 will receive a \$100 discount off the program fee.

<http://globaled.gmu.edu/Programs/winter/intarabicyemenwinter08.html>

Miss Sana Hilmi, M.A.
Arabic Professor and Coordinator
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OTHER RESOURCES

- ❖ Language Conferences Worldwide

Upcoming events in language, linguistics, speech and hearing therapy, translation, TESOL, and related fields: <http://www.conferencealerts.com/language.htm>

- ❖ National Endowment for the Humanities has posted guidelines for grants for teaching and learning resources and curriculum development at

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/teachinglearning.html>

- ❖ UCLA Language Materials Project (LMP) now citing K-12 resources

LMP releases the first phase of a three-year enhancement to its authoritative resource for foreign language materials

The recent increase of federal interest in foreign languages has kindled a language renaissance in K-12 schools across the nation. The number of classes for less-commonly taught languages such as Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, and Russian, even in the primary grades, has increased substantially.

Since receiving Department of Education funding last summer, the UCLA Language Materials Project (LMP) has augmented its offerings for K-12 teachers. The first new tool, the Audience pull-down menu, allows website visitors to search for materials based on their target audience (e.g., elementary, secondary, post-secondary or heritage learners.)

The Audience pull-down menu joins three other menus on the Project's search panel:

- Language (over 150 to choose from)
- Material (textbook, dictionary, audio, maps, etc., 26 categories in all), and
- Level (beginning, intermediate, advanced, and beyond)

The LMP has also added detailed citations of several hundred items for younger audiences. For example, visitors seeking materials in Arabic for elementary school pupils will find sixty-one references to bilingual readers, a picture dictionary, vocabulary games, and authentic materials from Arabic-speaking countries. Due to the lack of published U.S. textbooks on Arabic for this age group, the materials identified on the Project's website are of particular value to teachers at that level.

We invite you to try out the new Audience menu at <http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/>. Watch for other new K-12 features in the coming year.

❖ *Alif Baa' and Al-Kitaab Audio on the Go*

Georgetown University Press is pleased to announce a new product line in our *Al-Kitaab* Arabic Language Program: *Audio On the Go*.

Now available in MP3 format, each *Audio On the Go* CD contains all of the audio featured in the second edition DVDs for the individual volumes of *Alif Baa*, *Al-Kitaab Part One*, and *Al-Kitaab Part Two*. While the audio on these CDs is not new or different from the audio featured on the DVDs bound in to each book, the MP3 format allows for easy portability. Files can be transferred to an MP3 device, played on a computer, or played on some home or portable CD players.

These easy-to-use audio files are ideal for:

- Students who want extra practice
- Teachers who want to play the audio in class
- Language labs

Alif Baa/ Audio On the Go CD, \$12.95

<http://press.georgetown.edu/detail.html?id=9781589011526>

Al-Kitaab Part One/ Audio On the Go CD, \$12.95

<http://press.georgetown.edu/detail.html?id=9781589011502>

Al-Kitaab Part Two/ Audio On the Go 2 CDs, \$12.95

<http://press.georgetown.edu/detail.html?id=9781589011519>

