



Newsletter, March 21, 2018

American Association of Teachers of Arabic



Hello from the Executive Director,

On behalf of members of the Executive Board, I would like to share with you the activities that are taking place in 2018.

Welcome and Greetings

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined AATA recently, and wish all AATA's members success for the rest of 2018 both in personal and professional endeavors.

Thank You Note

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the panelists who participated in AATA's Annual Meeting Panel as well as those who participated in an AATA's sponsored panel at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), annual meeting, November 2017, Washington D.C. The panel topics were :

- 1) Challenges in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language*
- 2) Rethinking the Maghreb: Liminality and Transversal Connections*

I would also like to express my appreciation to the chairs and the discussants from each panel : Brahim Chakrani, and Zeinab Taha and Brahim Elguabli and Touria Khannous , respectively. For those who are interested in obtaining more information about the titles of the various panels and names of panelists, please visit this [link for archived newsletters](#).

*AATA can sponsor two other panels at MESA in addition to its Annual Meeting Panel. Proposals for these AATA sponsored panels must be approved by the AATA Panel Committee before they are submitted to MESA. Those of you who are interested in submitting proposals for this forthcoming MESA meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 2018, please contact **Driss Suleiman** at soulaim@umich.edu. List of topics for AATA's panel is found on its homepage at <http://www.aataweb.org> . The deadline for submissions is **April 25, 2018**.*





AATA is thankful for the

- 1) *services of three outgoing members of the Executive Board. These are **Ahmed Ferhadi**, New York University, who will continue serving as the President of AATA, **Zeinab Taha**, The American University in Cairo, and **David Wilmsen**, The American University of Sharjah. We look forward to their continued support for AATA.*
- 2) *interest of the new incoming members to serve on the Executive Board for the three forthcoming years. These are **Ikram Estefan Easton**, Boston College, **Abdulkareem Said Ramadan**, Gettysburg College, and **Ahmed Idrisi Alami**, Purdue University.*
- 3) *role of **Mohammad Alhawary**, The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, as past President of AATA. His detailed knowledge of the history of AATA facilitated its function.*

Nomination Committee

*The formation of this committee was completed in November 2017. Its four members, **Brahim Chakrani** and **Paul Roochnik** (from the AATA Executive Board), **Mohamed Al Khalil**, NYU Abu Dhabi, and **Abdulkareem Said Ramadan**, Gettysburg College, who were selected from AATA's members during the Business Meeting. The purpose of this committee is to nominate six individuals who have been AATA members for the last three consecutive years, after which three on this list will be selected by AATA's general membership to replace the outgoing three members as mentioned above. We thank this Committee for this challenging process.*

Life Time Achievement Award

*The AATA Executive Board was pleased to confer the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2017 to **Gerald Lampe**, at the end of its Business Meeting. The speech recognizing his dedicated service to the teaching of Arabic was given by **Driss Cherkaoui**, College of William and Mary. This is a picture from the collection of **Mahmoud Amer**, West Chester University.*





Important Announcements

- 1) Volume 51 of *Al-Arabiyya* journal will circulate in the fall as planned.
- 2) The **Translation Contest** will take effect this year after a long hiatus. The announcement entailing procedures and details (eligible participants, submission date, length of pages award amounts etc.) will be circulated to both AATA and Institutional Members and uploaded on AATA's homepage. The important dates for this Contest are :
 - * April - official announcement of contest
 - * August 15 - deadline for contestants' submissions
 - * August 16 - September 30 – judges review and rate the contestants' submissions
 - * October - deliberation among judges to select first prizes and second prizes
 - * November 15 – awards presentations would be at AATA's annual business meeting, (San Antonio, Texas)If changes take place due to unforeseen circumstances, you will be informed of that.
- 3) Cultural Information
The Arab world celebrates Mother's Day on the first day of spring, So AATA greets all Mothers on this day. Below is a sad poem about the fate of this Mother but demonstrates the unconditional love of Mothers

أغرى امرؤ يوما غلاما جاهلا بنقوده كيما ينال به ضرر
قال ائتني بفؤاد أمك يا فتى ولك الجواهر والدراهم والدرر
فمضى وأغمد خنجرا في صدرها والقلب أخرجه وعاد على الأثر
لكنه من فرط سرعته هوى فتدحرج القلب المضرج إذ عثر
ناداه قلب الأم وهو معفر ولدي حبيبي هل أصابك من ضرر؟؟؟
فكأن هذا الصوت رغم حنوه غضب السماء على الغلام قد انهمر
فارتد نحو القلب يغسله بما لم يأتها أحد سواه من البشر
واستل خنجره ليطنن نفسه طعنا فيبقى عبرة لمن اعتبر
ويقول يا قلب انتقم مني ولا تغفر فإن جرمي لا تغتفر
ناداه قلب الأم كف يدا ولا تذبح فؤادي مرتين على الأثر!!!

بقلم ابراهيم المنذر ... شاعر لبناني

من مجلة الابتسامة http://www.ibtesamah.com/showthread-t_405383.html





Assistance Needed

AATA is in dire need of the following:

- 1) ***Recruiting members*** to join AATA. We kindly recommend each one of you, a current member, to persuade a non-member in the field of teaching Arabic or Arabic Linguistics and Literature, to become one. Membership will increase AATA's budget and help it to cover its expenses in order to become more active in its services to its members. Membership dues can be sent to my address 2505 Biggs Drive, Austin, TX ,78741 or to our Business Office, Robert Ranieri, Prime Management Services,3416 Primm Ln, Birmingham, AL 35216
- 2) ***Receiving information*** from members to include in the next Newsletter. For example, AATA would welcome information on individual awards and grants, faculty and graduate students' publications, success stories related to the teaching and learning of Arabic, students' travel and study abroad experiences, views and comments on attended workshops and conferences, information on retirees and on fellow members who passed away as well as event announcements, etc.

Aman Attieh, Ph.D
Executive Director
AATA

