



Newsletter, February 5, 2019

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 accomplishments of 2018 and highlight activities that are taking place now in 2019.

Welcome and Greetings

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined AATA in 2019, and to those who renewed their lapsed membership in 2018, I also want to wish all AATA's members success for the rest of 2019 both in personal and professional endeavors.

Accomplishments in 2018

- 1) *AATA successfully revived the **Translation Contest** after a long hiatus of approximately 20 years. There were two First Prize winners and one Second Prize winner, and each of the other seven who participated in the contest was awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment. One First Prize winner, Amy Gaul, and the Second Prize winner, Aiden Kaplan, attended AATA's Business Meeting where they received their earned prizes. Their pictures are uploaded on AATA's website. Let us hope that in the next Translation Contest in 2020, there will be more participants in this activity. In this connection, I want to thank*
 - a) *the Translation Committee for their successful accomplishments ranging from editing the procedures in the Translation Contest Document, constructing the Rubric for Evaluating the passages to searching for Judges, and communicating with them, among other related matters .*
 - b) *all the Judges who volunteered to evaluate the translation passages and without their service, the Translation Contest would have had some unfortunate outcomes.*
- 2) *AATA's organized panel in San Antonio, November 15, entitled "Language and Identity in Arabic Teaching and Learning Contexts" was a success. This was demonstrated in the questions posed by the attendees. There were close to 35 attendees and had it not been for the time constraints, there would have been a longer Q and A period. Here, I would also like to express my appreciation to the*
 - a) *members of the Panel Committee for selecting this panel and the panel discussant*
 - b) *panelists for presenting their research in Arabic. AATA has been very fortunate to have most panelists use Arabic in their presentations since 2016. For those who are interested in obtaining more information on this panel, please go to AATA's webpage.*



- 3) *The Blog is certainly a major novelty in that its contents are all in Arabic. Commenced in 2018, there were five Blogs published on AATA's website last year. We thank the Blog Committee for the practice of publishing in Arabic and we look forward to read and learn much more about classroom practices in future Blogs.*
- 4) *AATA's life time Achievement Award was presented to the honorable Professor and Scholar Adel Gamal, who retired from the University of Arizona. We thank Mohammad Osman Al Khali, New York University Abu Dhabi, for highlighting his professor's dedication to teaching, service and publishing in the field of Arabic Literature. A picture of Professor Adel receiving the award from Ahmed Ferhadi is posted on AATA's website.*

Call for Proposals

AATA can sponsor two panels at every MESA conference in addition to its Annual Meeting Panel that is usually held a day before the conference.

- 1) *For the forthcoming MESA conference to be held in New Orleans, November 2019, AATA's Panel Committee has selected two topics. One is entitled **Worlding Arabic Literature through Transnational Contexts** and its various sub topics are listed at AATA's homepage. Interested individuals are kindly requested to e-mail a proposal or an abstract of 300 words as well as a short biography no later than **February 10th** to Ahmed Idrissi Alami, aidrissi@purdue.edu. The other is entitled **On the Margins of Shi'r: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on the Development of Modern Arabic Poetry**, and its introductory statement is also posted on AATA's website as well as number of abstract words.*
- 2) *For AATA's proposals to be presented in New Orleans on November 14, they can be sent at a later date by April 5 to Ahmed Idrissi Alami, aidrissi@purdue.edu. The topics are to be related to teaching the Arabic language, literature or linguistics.*

AATA is thankful for the past and future services of

- 1) *the three outgoing members of the Executive Board. These are Gergana Atanassova, Ohio State University, Brahim Chakrani, Michigan State University, and Emma Trentman, University of New Mexico. Brahim Chakrani will continue to serve as President of AATA for 2019 and 2020. We look forward to their continued support for AATA.*
- 2) *the three new incoming members who were selected by AATA's membership to serve on the Board for the three forthcoming years, 2019-2021. In alphabetical order, they are Hanada al-Masri, Denison University, OH. Olla Al-Shalchi, the University of Texas at Austin, and John Eisele, College of William and Mary. Congratulations are in order, and AATA looks forward to their contributions.*
- 3) *Ahmad Ferhadi, President of AATA during 2017 and 2018 and he will continue to serve on the Executive Board as Past President of AATA in 2019.*

- 4) *Gregory Bell for 5 consecutive years as Book Review Editor of Al-'Arabiyya. Journal. We wish him the very best in his other new interests.*
- 5) *Driss Soulaïmani, San Diego State University, who has become the new Book Review of Al'Arabiyya. We wish him the best in assuming this role.*
- 6) *Mohammad Alhawary, for his continued role of as Editor in Chief of Al 'Arabiyya. His detailed knowledge of the history of AATA facilitates its function.*

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, etc.*

Sincerely,
Aman Attieh, Ph.D
Executive Director
AATA