



Newsletter, October 18, 2018

American Association of Teachers of Arabic

الرابطة الأمريكية للتعليم العربي
American Association of Teachers of Arabic

Hello from the Executive Director

تحية من مديرة اللجنة التنفيذية

On behalf of members of the Executive Board, I want to say before all things that I hope that your semester is moving and advancing as expected, and that you are faring well in teaching, research, studying, on sabbatical, as well as in personal matters. Second, I am delighted to greet the thirty four new members who joined AATA's family this year. I am certain that you, the new members, will enjoy keeping up with our annual accomplishments and benefit from the significant reseach that Al-'Arabiyya publishes in the teaching of Arabic and second language acquisition.

*Activities of AATA in 2018 in
Chronological Order*

نشاطات الرابطة في عام ٢٠١٨ حسب
الترتيب الزمني

In response to a recommendation in a questionnaire distributed by AATA to its members in 2015, AATA decided to revive the Arabic Translation Contest. We are happy to announce that it was achieved with the monetary support of some institutions and that of a few individuals as well as the diligent, voluntary service of Judges who spent many hours to complete the task of reading, reviewing, commenting, discussing and evaluating their assigned passages.

*The Translation Committee first advertised this activity in a document entitled **ARABIC TRANSLATION CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT** in AATA's Newsletter, March 21, and posted it on its AATA's website then. Additionally, this document was posted on various listserves and social media in order to widen the scope for recipients and reach as many academic communities as possible.*

- *The document contained details of the procedure to be followed, among which are the genres of passages, eligible participants, what and what not to include, the submission date, length of pages, the number and amount of prizes, and Judges' submission date of their ratings.*





- *Individuals well known in Arabic – English translation circles were contacted and 14 members graciously accepted to be Judges: seven were in charge of reviewing the literary passages and another seven of the non-literary passages.*
- *Ten students submitted translation passages – seven in the literary genre and three in non-literary genres. We hope that there will be more submissions in the forthcoming years.*
- *The Translation Committee sent the Judges a Rubric for the Evaluation of the Arabic Translation Passages comprising of these headings: Categories, Possible Points, Judges' Scores and Explanation of score awarded.*
- *The evaluation was finalized with the literary Judges awarding one First Prize, one Second Prize and one "Honorary Mention", the non-literary Judges awarding one First Prize, and the Translation Committee awarding the rest of the contestants a Certificate of Appreciation.*
- *The awards will be announced and presented at AATA's forthcoming Business Meeting on November 15th in San Antonio, Texas.*
- *The Coordinator, Paul Rossini, is to be applauded for his commission in synchronizing the contacts among the many Judges.*
- *Last, but not least, the Translation Committee Members express their deep appreciation to the Judges evaluation in a timely manner and without whose service this contest would not have met its objectives and deadline.*

AATA's Blog

المُدَوَّنة

تبنّت رابطتنا هذه السنة نشر **مدوّنة** هدفها عرض وتقديم نشاطات في تدريس اللغة العربيّة لغير الناطقين والناطقات بها باللغة العربيّة ، وهذا يختلف عمّا يقوم به معظم الهيئات التعليميّة لتدريس العربيّة في أمريكا بحيث تُعرب عن أهداف تعليمها وأساليبها باللغة الإنكليزيّة. وحتى كتابة هذه السطور، نشرت مدوّنتان، الأولى بعنوان " اُكتساب الأصوات العربيّة في ضوء تعلّم النطق" والثانية بعنوان "استخدام نظريّة النوع لتطوير منهج اللغة العربيّة في جامعة نيو مكسيكو". يمكن الحصول عليهما عن طريق العنوان التالي: <http://aatablog.com/> ، كما أنّ التعليقات والاقتراحات والنقاشات مشجّعة من قبل الجميع للإسهام بأفكار تلبي نشاطات مثيرة للاهتمام. والمدوّنة الثالثة تابعة فيما بعد .





*AATA's Annual Meetings in
conjunction with
Middle East Studies Association
Thursday, November 15*

*إجتماعات الرابطة السنوية
الخميس، الخامس عشر من نوفمبر
تشرين الثاني*

- **Executive Board Meeting**, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- **Panel**, 1:00-3:00 pm
- **Business Meeting** 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

The title of AATA's Panel is "**Language and Identity in Arabic Teaching and Learning Contexts**" at the Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, Texas. Details on the four presentations and room numbers can be accessed on AATA's website, www.aataweb.org as well as that of MESA's website <https://mesana.org/annual-meeting>. AATA is looking forward to your attending the Panel and Business Meeting.

Announcements

إعلانات

These announcements are beneficial to all AATA members:

- *The Routledge Handbook of Arabic Second Language, edited by Mohammad Alhawary and published a few months ago, can now be accessed electronically for free for two weeks by clicking on this link: <https://rdcu.be/4fo8>*
- *The Second Biannual Conference on Arabic Applied Linguistic and Second Language Acquisition at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, September 1-2, was as good as it can be. Most of the research was very informative and many were breaking grounds in research. One of the interesting presentations that caught my attention was entitled "It is fun to make Comics! Integrating Digital Comics Creation Tasks in the Online AFL Classroom" by Mona Maged Hassan, the American University in Cairo. Moreover, I took the opportunity at the Conference to recruit new members by stating the importance of AATA and the accrued benefits in becoming a member as well as in displaying and donating past volumes of Al-Arabiyya journals.*





- *Yahia Moshtahari, an MA student at the Department of Applied Linguistics, the American University in Cairo, is conducting a study on “Teachers’ Perceptions and Practices regarding the Usage of Songs in Arabic as a Foreign Language (AFL) Classroom. He reached out to me and asked me to publicize it .This is a link to the questionnaire, and let us help him in gathering his needed material.*
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGybli97_IeJzJ6h2EpD3Ot_Ik1zLPLivC3sk4N2Q95cOqbw/viewform?usp=sf_link
- *AATA will soon be recruiting three new Executive Members to serve for three consecutive years to replace the three outgoing members. Details of the procedure will be announced at the Business Meeting.*
- *AATA’s 2018 Life Achievement Award will be presented to Professor Adel Gamal at the Business Meeting*

Keep us in the loop

AATA would like to receive news from its members to include in its Newsletter. For example, 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, retirees in the field and of those who departed, as well as of workshops, conferences and event announcements, etc.

*Aman Attieh
Executive Director*

