Hello from the Executive Director,

On behalf of members of the Executive Board, I would first like to send all of you a warm welcome, and second to mention three occasions, then to share with you the momentous activities that the Association decided to undertake.

Events / Celebrations

Memorial Day: On May 27th, America remembered those who served and sacrificed their lives on the battle grounds. It is worth mentioning that some of our AATA members teach Arabic in the US Armed Forces and taught those who enlisted and passed on, and others knew of those who passed on.

Our condolences to those instructors.

Eid al-Fitr: In this year of the Islamic calendar 1440, Muslims from all over the world celebrated the Eid al-Fitr, also known as the Festival of Breaking the Fast. The celebration marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, which is celebrated with a special meal and prayers. We commend all our members and co-workers for their efforts in promoting the Arabic language and culture. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and hard work. We look forward to continuing our activities in the coming year.
Joining AATA Members

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members as well as to those who activated their membership since February 2019. These are Drs. Saeed Alaslaa, Benjamin Hary, Mohamed Bounnejma and Aidean Kaplan.

Momentous Activities in 2019

AATA has reserved a shared Booth at MESA with Al-Akhawayn University. We hope for all of you to visit the Booth and encourage your students who will be attending MESA to do so. AATA will display pamphlets, old publications of Al-‘Arabiyya magazine and other souvenir items which are all free.

Life Time Achievement Awards: This year, AATA will present two of these awards at its Business Meeting, 3:30-5:00 p.m. on November 14 to be held at Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. One will be presented to Dr. Aleya Rouchdy, Professor Emeritus of Wayne State University, and the other to Dr. Salah Hammoud, a retiree after decades of teaching Arabic at the US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs.

Book Award: AATA’s Executive Board decided to present a book award once every two years for the best published book on the teaching of the Arabic language, literature and linguistics. Details of the procedure in selecting a book for the Award will be posted on AATA’s website after November. The first book award will be presented to Dr. Mohammad Alhawary at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, for his book entitled *Arabic Second Language Learning and Effects of Input, Transfer and Typology*, Georgetown University Press, December 2018. He will be presented the Award at the Business Meeting on November 14.

Father’s Day: On June 16th, America will be celebrating Father’s Day. We wish all our members who are paternal figures a pleasant and restful Sunday with your family and loved ones, and we ask that you put behind you your academic responsibilities on YOUR DAY.
### AATA’s Annual Panel

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#### The title of the Panel is Arabic literature in Arabic Language Courses

#### AATA is thankful for the services of the

1) **Recruitment Committee** (Drs. Hanada al-Masri at Denison University, Olla Al-Shalchi at the University of Texas at Austin, and John Eisele at the College of William and Mary) for their appreciated efforts in recruiting new members and encouraging lapsed members to reactivate their membership.

2) **Panel Committee** (Drs. Ahmed Idrisi Alami at Purdue University, Abdulkareem Said Ramadan at Gettysburg College and Katrien Vampee at the University of Minnesota).

3) **Life Time Achievement Awards Committee** (Drs. Abdulkareem Said Ramadan and Katrien Vampee)

4) **Al-‘Arabiyya Editorial Board** (Dr. Mohammad Alhawary, Editor in Chief of the journal and all members of its Editorial Board.) The respectable quality of Al-‘Arabiyya journal has played a positive role in getting indexed by well reputed indexing venues such as JSTOR, Project Muse, Scholastica and more recently Scopus, all of which in turn generate income to AATA.
**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. Also you may inquire from Robert Ranieri how to pay membership dues via PayPal.

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.

Before closing, I want to wish all AATA members a restful summer in pursing both pleasurable and professional endeavors.

*Sincerely,*

Aman Attieh, Ph.D
Executive Director
AATA