

# DĀNESH Newsletter

Number 1

Winter 2005

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The DĀNESH Institute is a 501(c)(3) independent, nonpolitical, not-for-profit, educational organization, the primary purpose of which is to stimulate and promote scholarly studies related to Iranian communities abroad, particularly in the United States. This purpose is pursued through any or all of the following objectives:

1. To collect and disseminate information about studies related to communities of Iranian heritage abroad;
2. To organize or sponsor public forums for the presentation and critique of such studies;
3. To facilitate collegial interaction and collaboration among scholars interested in such studies;
4. To support the initiation and undertaking of such studies, particularly those focusing on the application of social and behavioral sciences.

Members of the 2005-2008 Board of Directors of the Institute have been listed in this [Newsletter](#). As part of the Board, the new Executive Committee includes Irene Queiro-Tajalli, President; Mahvash Khosravi Hariri, Treasurer; and Cyrus Behroozi, Executive Secretary.

In response to our letter of February 14, 2005, we hope that you have already sent your application for membership in the Institute. If you have not yet had a chance to do so, for your convenience, we are enclosing another

application form. Would you kindly complete the form and return it to:

DĀNESH Institute, Inc.  
c/o Indiana University School  
of Social Work  
902 W. New York Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5156

We look forward to hearing from you.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the newly elected DĀNESH Institute Board of Directors, I would like to thank you all for your participation and support in our recent elections. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with such distinguished Board members from around the country.

Over the last few years, the Institute has primarily focused inward and explored the best ways to implement its goals. Emerging from this process, a number of initiatives are taking shape that will be further developed by the Board. Some of the exciting ideas include:

- Creation of a Committee on Media;
- Development of modules on aging to be presented around the country;
- Development of a "next generation" website;
- Strengthening our database;
- Creation of a diversified pool of financial support;
- Intensification of our membership outreach; and
- Revisiting plans for an academic journal.

As described elsewhere in this [Newsletter](#), in 2004, we held a conference in Indianapolis entitled *Iranians and other Middle Eastern Older Adult Immigrants in the United States*. One clear message that we learned from this conference is that there is a large non-Persian speaking audience which is eager to learn more about Iranians and other Middle Eastern people. We will continue to serve as a conduit of much needed information and will position ourselves to support research in areas related to our mission and to disseminate this information at conferences around the country.

I would like to thank Dr. Nahid Shahnava for the many years she served on the board of the DĀNESH Institute. During her tenure, she served as a member at large and twice as treasurer. Her contributions have been many and she will be missed.

I thank you all once more for your support and your generous financial and professional contributions. With your assistance, I foresee a bright future for the Institute.

Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Ph.D.  
President

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The three-year term of the Institute's last Board of Directors concluded in December 2004. For the election of the new Board, an elections committee was appointed including Sara Allaei, Hormoz Broumand, and Maymanat M. Jafari. In addition, Cyrus Behroozi served as the ex officio member of the committee.

The committee presented a slate of nominees to the membership of the Institute. Elected subsequently, members of the new Board are as follows:

Ebrahim Fakouri, Indiana State University  
Mahvash Khosravi Hariri (Treasurer), Independent Scholar  
Mary Elaine Hegland, Santa Clara University  
Patricia J. Higgins, State University of New York – Plattsburg  
Yahya R. Kamalipour, Purdue University – Calumet

Ali Akbar Mahdi, Ohio Wesleyan University  
Irene Queiro-Tajalli (President), Indiana University – Indianapolis  
Kazem Tehrani, Portland State University  
John Walbridge, Indiana University – Bloomington

Also serving on the Board as its ex officio member will be Cyrus S. Behroozi, the Executive Secretary of the Institute.

Two members of the outgoing Board, Mohammad Kaviani and Nahid Shahnava, had asked not to be nominated for membership on the new Board. With gratitude, we would like to acknowledge their distinct and valuable contributions to the Institute. They have our best wishes in their future endeavors.

## 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Institute held its latest annual conference on June 11, 2004. Supported by a generous grant from the Indiana University School of Social Work, the conference was co-sponsored by the Geriatric Enrichment Program in Social Work Education. Entitled *Iranian and Other Middle Eastern Older Adult Immigrants in the United States*, the conference included the following presentations:

Psychological Realities of Aging Among Immigrants, by Irene Queiro-Tajalli

Post 9/11 Sociopolitical Forces Impacting Iranian and Other Middle Eastern Older Adults in the United States, by Bassima Schbley and Ayla Schbley

Response to the Presentations, by Yahya Kamalipour

Available Services and Service Gaps: Panel Presentations by Ebrahim Fakouri, Rahim Farid, Parvin Holmes, Mahnaz Moshfegh (Moderator), and Betty Solooki

The Experience of Older Adults and Their Caregivers: Panel Presentations by Cyrus Behroozi (Moderator), Susan Larimer, Kamal Modir, and LaToya Murphy

The conference brought together a diverse audience of practitioners, administrators, students, and service consumers. Almost one hundred persons attended the conference, and many of them enriched the presentations with their questions and comments. Generated by the conference deliberations was the idea of developing a prototype workshop on aging Iranians for presentations at various locations in the United States.

The conference planning committee included Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Cyrus Behroozi, and Nahid Shahnava. In addition, several students contributed to its development and implementation.

### **COMMITTEE ON MEDIA**

In the context of events in the past several years, in media, there have been considerable inaccuracies and even distortion of news of interest to Iranian-Americans. In response to this problem, the Institute is in the process of forming the Committee on Media. The overall purpose of this committee is to monitor news and to make an effort to deal with such inaccuracy and distortion. Further information about the committee is forthcoming.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS**

In this issue, we are pleased to include a report of professional activities of several members of the Institute. For future issues, all of our members are invited to write us about their similar activities. Please make sure to include your e-mail address and phone number.

#### Dr. Kamalipour's New Book

We are pleased to report that Yahya Kamalipour with Nancy Snow has published their latest book entitled War, Media, and Propaganda: A Global Perspective. This timely book presents a multifaceted look at war, media, and propaganda from international perspectives. Focusing on the media's role in global conflicts, prominent authors, journalists,

scholars, and researchers provide an insightful overview of the impact of globalization on media practices. The book examines the processes behind coverage of war, sophisticated propaganda techniques, the dynamics of public opinion, and their effects on human affairs and communication. As the book moves through theoretical discussions to regional and national views, it explores cultural and political implications for the United States and other countries around the world, concluding with recommended solutions to key problems of media globalization.

#### Contributions of Drs. Hegland and Higgins to Iranian Studies

The latest (December 2004) special issue of Iranian Studies is devoted to ethnographic fieldwork in Iran. Co-edited by Mary Elaine Hegland, the issue includes articles by her and by Patricia J. Higgins. Dr. Hegland's article is entitled, "Zip In and Zip Out Fieldwork," and Dr. Higgins's is "Interviewing Iranian Immigrant Parents and Adolescents."

#### Dr. Queiro-Tajalli in Taiwan

Irene Queiro-Tajalli was invited by the National Taiwan University School of Social Work to present at the conference New Trends in Social Work Education Evaluating Social Work Students' Practice Competence: Content and Methods, held in Taipei, Taiwan, on June 24-25, 2004. Her presentation focused on the Indiana University School of Social Work model of educational assessment. Also, Dr. Queiro-Tajalli discussed the School efforts to create a climate of "scholarship of assessment" among faculty. Some of the characteristics of a good assessment highlighted in the presentation included the value of having an assessment road map, the inclusion of formative and summative assessment mechanisms, and the involvement of diverse constituencies in assessment efforts.

### Dr. Shidnia's Didaar-o-Goftaar Group

Founded in 1990 by Homayoon Shidnia with the assistance of Mohammad Kaviani and several others, Didaar-o-Goftaar is an informal scholarly group for the study of Persian literature. Several members of the Institute are also members of this group. An English translation of monthly presentations by these members during 2004 are as follows:

Ghavam Al-Saltaneh and His Political Role,  
by Mohammad Behforouz

"Bamdad-e Khomar" (The Morning After):  
A Novel about the Dual Meaning of the  
Relation of Men and Women in Iran, by  
Cyrus Behroozi

Iranian Culture: A Psycho-Anthropological  
Viewpoint, by Ebrahim Fakouri

Satan in Persian Literature and Religions, by  
Mohammad Kaviani

Attar's Sheikh-e Sanân, by Javad Momayez

Political Conditions of Iran before the 1979  
Revolution, by Nahid Shahnava

The Emergence of Toodeh Party and Its  
Influence on Other Parties in Iran, by  
Homayoon Shidnia

Other presentations included a Review of  
Philosophy in Iran, by Hamid Ardalan; Iranian  
Social History, by Hossein Hariri; The Great  
Iranian Migration, by Parvin Holmes; Bahar  
Saeed's Reading of Her Poetry; and The  
Iranian Flag and its History, by Behrooz Vakili.

### **THE GULF: PERSIAN OR ARABIAN?**

Undoubtedly, most of us have heard about the latest debate regarding the name of the Gulf. Is it Persian or Arabian? In the United States, this debate began last year with the publication of a Gulf map by the National Geographic Society. Although the debate has apparently been settled in favor of "Persian Gulf," for future reference, we would like to bring to your

attention the following factsheet on the legal and historical usage of "Persian Gulf."

Prepared by the Iranian Studies Group (ISG) at MIT, the factsheet is included here with permission of ISG:

### **International Legal Standards**

- The Group of Experts on Geographical Names was set up by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in pursuance of the Economic and Social Council resolution 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959, and has endorsed "Persian Gulf" as the official name of the body of water.
- Supporting UN documents include UNAD, 311/Qen on March 5, 1971 and UNLA 45.8.2 (c) on August 10, 1984.
- The Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002, E/CONF.94/CRP.87, Item 17 (a) of the provisional agenda, has based its decision of the discussion of "Arabian Gulf" versus the "Persian Gulf" on the reference "TOPONYMY, the Lore, Laws and Language of "GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES", by Naftali Kadmon Vantage Press Inc., New York, 2001, 333 pp., 35 illustrations, ISBN 0-533-13531-1, Chapter 8 "Persian Gulf or Arabian Gulf"?, which argues that the use of "Arabian Gulf" is faulty. The United Nations website only uses the term "Arabian Gulf" when presenting transcripts of speeches by Arab delegates.
- The United Nations Oceans and Law of the Sea Office uses only the term Persian gulf in its legal documents.

### **U.S. Government Designation**

- A decision by the State Department's Board of Geographical Names in 1917 makes the "Persian Gulf" the only acceptable label for that body of water.

### **Historical Maps of the Region**

- Starting from the earliest maps, the body of water has been called Persian Gulf by European sources. Among the first atlas in the world is that of Jean Baptiste Anville, 1751. This map of western Asia shows the body of water labeled as "Golfe Persique" or Persian Gulf. ...

