



DĀNESH Newsletter

Fall 2008

Message from the President

Greetings. I hope this newsletter finds you well despite the difficult times we are going through.

I am proud to announce that overall the DĀNESH Institute is on track with its various projects. This is particularly important considering our limited resources. The Spring conference on *Iranian Students in the United States*, sponsored by the IUPUI Office of International Affairs and the DĀNESH Institute, was a significant accomplishment for DĀNESH. The conference was well received and gave attendees the opportunity to meet very dynamic and well versed presenters as well as an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and recommendations with a diverse group. A spirit of collegiality permeated the whole day. All of you have received the conference proceedings with a report of the presentations. I hope you enjoyed it.

Two main activities related to our Modules on Aging Project took place during the first half of the year. A modest grant application was submitted to the PARSA Community Foundation, a national philanthropic foundation. The request is in support of the research efforts connected to the development of the aging modules. Also, another presentation was given on Iranian older adults at a conference in Italy (see p. 2).

A long standing goal of DĀNESH is to increase the number of projects under our umbrella. An example of this is a possible study of coping behaviors of Iranian-Americans in the current political atmosphere of the United States.

A number of conversations have taken place regarding this project, and we will keep you abreast of our progress.

Finally, the Executive Committee met recently to discuss a number of topics related to DĀNESH, and its Board of Directors will be meeting in November to consider the merits of each. The growth of DĀNESH is closely linked to the faithful support of its members. It is my sincere hope that you approve the direction and tenor of our work, and that you are as proud as I am to be a member of this organization.

Irene Queiro-Tajalli

Professional Activities of Members

On October 26 – 27, 2008, **Leah Baer** is to present a paper titled "Iranian Jews in the United States: New Opportunities for a New Generation" at the Jewish Studies Conference jointly sponsored by the Midwest Jewish Studies Association and the DePaul University Center for Jewish Law and Judaic Studies. Dr. Baer is also to present a paper titled "Bridging Cultures: Being Iranian Jewish, Becoming Iranian-Jewish-American" at the Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies, December 21-23 in Washington, DC.

Cyrus Behroozi and **Nahid Shahnava** have embarked on an exploratory study of coping behaviors of Iranian-Americans in the current political atmosphere of the United States. This study is related to an earlier study entitled "Consequences of the September 11 Catastrophe for the Enculturation of Iranians in the United States."

Mary Elaine Hegland of the Anthropology Department of Santa Clara University has published two articles recently: "Modernization and Social Change: Impact on Iranian Elderly Social Networks and Care Systems," Anthropology of the Middle East 2(2): 55-74, 2008 and, "Esmat Khanum and a Life of Travail: You Yourself Help Me, God," pp. 57-68, in Francis Trix and John Walbridge, eds., Muslim Voices and Lives in the Contemporary World. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Dr. Hegland also presented a paper, "Education, Modernization, and Socio-Economic Transformation: Influences on Family and Kinship in an Iranian Village (FAMIL and QOM-O-KHEISH)," at the International Society for the Anthropology of Iran conference about Kinship in Iran and Neighboring Countries in Tehran, Iran, June 20-22. She stayed in Iran for two months, investigating issues of aging and the elderly and also social, religious, and political change and transformation.

Dr. Hegland's forthcoming publications are to be reported in the next issue of the Newsletter.

On September 25, 2008, **Yahya Kamalipour** moderated the panel on "US-Iran Conflict: Confrontation or Negotiation?" One of the Lecture Series on Global Understanding, the panel was held at Purdue University Calumet. He is also serving as a reviewer for papers submitted for the conference on Globalization and Media in the Middle East. This conference is to be held at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman, on October 20-21, 2008. The conference is being organized by Dr. Kamalipour's Global Communication Association in cooperation with Sultan Qaboos University, Purdue University Calumet, and Bayan College.

Khadija Khaja and **Irene Queiro-Tajalli**, both members of the DĀNESH Institute, and Dianne Cunningham, University of Utah, made a presentation on "Female Circumcision: Global Human Rights and the Marginalization of Cultural Traditional Practices" at the International Conference of Canadian Social Workers, May 2008.

Ali Akbar Mahdi, Professor of Sociology-Anthropology, was recipient of Ohio Wesleyan University's 2008 Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award.

Bruno Nettl taught a graduate course, as Visiting Professor of Music, on classical Persian music, particularly on the radif, at the University of Chicago Department of Music during the spring quarter of 2008. Dr. Nettl's class attracted eleven students, all in various doctoral programs in music.

Irene Queiro-Tajalli made a presentation on "Older Immigrants in the Diaspora: Emerging Issues in Interdisciplinary Approaches to Practice" with a focus on older Iranians at the 3rd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Prato, Italy, July 2008.

In June 2008, Dr. Queiro-Tajalli traveled to Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, with other colleagues from Indiana University to continue the work on their project of internationalizing the undergraduate curriculum of professional programs.

Diane Tehrani, with the cooperation of one of her colleagues at Clark College, shared many years of experience in teaching international students with a workshop on "How to Create a Humane Classroom to Support Diversity." The workshop was held at the 19th Annual Sara Varnum Institute for Instructional Excellence at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon, on May 2, 2008. The presentation is to be reported in the Fall 2008 issue of ORTESOL News.

Dr. Tehrani has also written an essay review of Marcello di Cintio's book, Poets and Pahlevans (2006). Further information about this review will be communicated in the future.

Kazem Tehrani has revised and updated his third year Persian language text, A History of Persian Language and Literature from Ancient Times to the Present, based on increased interest of his students in studying the Persian language at all levels. Dr. Tehrani's Persia House in Portland has added the celebration of Tirgan to the yearly festivals to remember the hero Arash

whose super bow shot peacefully established the boundary of the Iranian realm with the arch and perennial epic enemy of the Turanian people.

Reza Varjavand will be presenting three papers at the annual conference of the International Association of Business and Economics, October 2008 in Las Vegas: “A New Paradigm for Teaching Principles of Economics,” to be published in the Conference Proceedings; “The Effect of Oil Price Volatility on Government Expenditures in Iran,” to be published in International Journal of Business Research; and “Government Investment, Private Investment and Output: The Iranian Experience.”

Special Reports

Traditions Linger: Cultural Changes for Iranian Jews in the United States. Authored by Leah R. Baer, this book is an investigation of experiences that inform the cultural, social, and behavioral patterns of the Iranian Jewish community that evolved through the millennia of the Jewish presence on the Iranian plateau. Social and cultural traditions of a minority population reflect the values of the dominant society and are a reflection of historical events. In Iran the parameters for ethnic boundaries and accompanying behavioral patterns are determined by shi'i beliefs. Following the Islamic Revolution of 1979 and subsequent emigration to the United States, Iranian Jews were confronted with the concept of the separateness of culture from religion. The cultural dislocation necessitated the reconciliation of Iranian Jewish identity in a new environment as they combine their Iranian heritage with an American future.

The book's primary goal is to promote an understanding of the challenge that Iranian Jews encountered in their quest to preserve their traditions in a secular environment as well as to illuminate some of the obscurities about one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world.

Interview with Dr. Alicia M. Kirchner. In March 2008, Irene Queiro-Tajalli traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina to interview Dr. Kirchner, social worker and Minister of Social Development. The interview will be included in a book on

women in social work. While the book is written to appeal to an audience beyond social work, the main goal is to give readers a better understanding of the social work profession and the current achievements of female social workers around the world.

Dr. Kirchner is a dynamic and energetic minister. She works long hours. She travels endlessly throughout the country believing that her work needs to take into account each region's differences which merit different answers. During her tenure as minister, she has had a wide range of accomplishments with different educational and economic programs.

Nettl Foundation. Dr. Nettl and his wife have established a foundation called the Bruno and Wanda Nettl Distinguished Lecture on Ethnomusicology. Recently, the foundation sponsored a lecture on Music and Religious Diversity in Iran, delivered by Professor Stephen Blum at University of Illinois-Urbana.

News from the Field

Last May, six Iranian-Americans received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The honorees were Goli Ameri, Nooshen Hashemi, Laya Khadjavi, Darioush Khaledi, Parisa Khosravi, and Avid Modjtabei. Recognized by the United States Congress, the medal is awarded to individuals who exemplify American ideals while preserving their heritage.

The Iran Heritage Foundation has established the Future Generation Committee Partnership Scheme Support. The committee is to provide support to projects that (a) promote the awareness of future generations about Iran's heritage, and (b) raise the awareness of young Iranian's contributions to international arts and culture. For further information, see www.iranheritage.org/fgc.

A conference on Trade and Traffic of Persia was held on October 17-19, 2008, at Claremont, California. For further information, contact pardis.mahdavi@pomona.edu.

Books of Interest

Ervand Abrahamian. A History of Modern Iran. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Nasrin Alavi. We Are Iran: The Persian Blogs. Soft Skull Press, 2007.

Anita Amirrezvani. The Blood of Flowers: A Novel. Little Brown, 2007*.

Ali M. Ansari. Politics of Modern Iran. Routledge, 2009.

Davar Ardalan. My Name Is Iran: A Memoir. Kindle, 2008.

Michael Axworthy. A History of Iran: Empire of the Mind. Basic Books, 2008.

Robert Baer. The Devil We Know: Dealing with the New Iranian Super Power. Crown, 2008*.

Shiva Balaghi and Lynn Gumpert. Picturing Iran: Art, Society and Revolution. I.B. Tauris, 2003*.

Alexandru Balasescu. Paris Chic, Tehran Thrills, Aesthetic Bodies, Political Subjects. Zeta Books, 2007.

Ronen Bergman. The Secret War with Iran. One World, 2008.

Stephanie Cronin. Tribal Politics in Iran: Rural Conflict and the New State. Routledge, 2006.

Willem Floor. A Social History of Sexual Relations in Iran. Mage Publishers, 2008.

Akbar Ganji. The Road to Democracy in Iran. The MIT Press, 2008*.

Dilip Hiro. The Iranian Labyrinth: Journey through Theoretic Iran and Its Furies. Nation Books, 2005.

Homa Katouzian. Sadeq Hedayat: His Work and Wondrous World. Routledge, 2007*.

Homa Katouzian and Hossein Shahidi (Eds.). Iran in the 21st Century. Routledge, 2007.

Saira Khan. Iran and Nuclear Weapons: Protracted Conflict and Proliferation. Routledge, 2008.

Gholam Khiabany. Iranian Media: The Paradox of Modernity. Routledge, 2008.

Mohammad Khorrami and M.R. Ghanoonparvar (Eds.). Critical Encounters: Essays on Persian Literature and Culture in Honor of Peter J. Chelkowski. Mazda Publishers, 2007.

Mahnaz Kousha. Voices from Iran: The Changing Lives of Iranian Women. Syracuse University Press, 2002*.

Ali Mohammadi. Iran Encountering Globalization: Problems and Prospects. Routledge, 2006.

Afshin Molavi. The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom. W.W. Norton, 2005*.

Nima Naghibi. Rethinking Global Sisterhood: Western Feminism and Iran. University of Minnesota Press, 2007.

Shahrnush Parsipur. Touba and the Meaning of Night. The Feminist Press, 2006*.

Farhang Rajaei. Islamism and Modernism: The Changing Discourse in Iran. University of Texas Press, 2007*.

Darius Rejali. Torture and Democracy. Princeton University Press, 2007*.

Lloyd Ridgeon (Ed.). Iranian Intellectuals: 1997-2007. Routledge, 2007.

Scott Ritter. Target Iran: The Truth about White House Plan for Regime Change. Nation Books, 2007*.

Marijane Satrapi. Embroideries. Pantheon, 2008.

Cyrus Schayegh. Who Is Knowledgeable, Is Strong. Fletcher Jones Foundation, 2009.

Mehdi Semat. Media, Culture and Society in Iran. Routledge, 2007.

Hossein Shahidi. Journalism in Iran. Routledge, 2007.

Svat Soucek. The Persian Gulf: Its Past and Present. Mazda Publishers, 2008.

*Highly recommended.