



DĀNESH Newsletter

Spring 2008

Conference Announcement

Iranian Students in the United States: Challenges and Opportunities

Co-sponsored by the DĀNESH Institute and sponsored by the IUPUI Office of International Affairs, this conference is scheduled for April 18, 2008* with a reception in the preceding evening. Dr. William Lacy, Vice Provost of the University of California-Davis has been invited to deliver the keynote address. In addition, several panels and workshops are being planned.

Members of the Conference Planning Committee are Sara Allaei, Cyrus Behroozi, Irene Queiro-Tajalli, Susan Sutton, Oner Yurtsevan, and a student representative. In addition, several university and community leaders have agreed to serve as consultants. They include Reza Espahbodi, William Plater, Homayoon Shidnia, and Behrooz Vakily.

Further information about this conference, including its program and registration, will be available early in March. Information about future DĀNESH conferences will be communicated later.

* Please note the date change.

Elections Committee Report

The 2008 Elections Committee reports the result of the DĀNESH Institute latest elections. Accordingly, the 2008-2011 elected officers and at-large members of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Irene Queiro-Tajalli, President
Sara Allaei, Treasurer
Ebrahim Fakouri
Mary Elaine Hegland
Patricia J. Higgins
Yahya R. Kamalipour
Ali Akbar Mahdi
Kazem Tehrani
John Walbridge

Congratulations and best wishes to the elected officers and at-large members of the Board. Also, many thanks to the appointed members of the Elections Committee, Nahid Shahnava (Chair) and Mohammad Kaviani.

Message from the President

It is my pleasure to welcome the first 2008 issue of the DĀNESH Institute Newsletter. Much of this issue is devoted to many of our projects and planning.

First, some board matters. I would like to thank all who participated in the board elections. In January of this year, we elected a new Board of Directors. I would also like to thank Mahvash Hariri for her years of service to the board as Treasurer. While Dr. Hariri did not run for another term, I am sure that her solid board contributions will continue as always. Sara Allaei will serve as the new Treasurer. Welcome and congratulations.

We are making good progress on the development of the modules on aging and soon we will start the interview process. Related to the topic of the modules, Khadija Khaja and I will present a paper on older

Iranians living in US at the Third Social Sciences Conference in Tuscany, Italy in July. This presentation will expose our project to an international audience.

The highlight for this Spring is the upcoming conference, *Iranian Students in the United States: Challenges and Opportunities*. We are delighted to have the IUPUI Office of International Affairs as the sponsor of this stimulating and thought-provoking event. In this issue, you will find more details and information on the conference. We will also keep you abreast of all conference information via our website and through our e-distribution list. Personal invitations will be mailed out early in March. I hope many of you will be able to participate.

As always, I thank you for your continued support. Each one of you is key to the continuation and success of the DĀNESH Institute. I look forward to seeing you all in April!

Irene Queiro-Tajalli,
President

MODULES ON AGING PROJECT

An ongoing program of the DĀNESH Institute is its research and training project on older Iranian immigrants in the United States. This project is led by Irene Queiro-Tajalli with the close cooperation of Carolyn Fakouri, Mary Hegland, and Khadija Khaja. The expected final product of this project will be a number of modules on such immigrants, which will identify their struggles and resiliency throughout the immigrant journey and adjustment processes.

The modules are intended to be used in the training of human service providers and students. Furthermore, the final product is to be shared with the Iranian community since significant others play an important role in the lives of older adults.

An extensive literature review has already been done. The next step will be to interview selected older Iranian adults in this country to learn about their experiences firsthand. For this purpose, a nonprobability purposive sample will be used. Key informants will be chosen based on the availability of their knowledge related to the study areas.

As part of this project, a number of presentations have been made, including the one at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in San Francisco last October. In the CSWE presentation, Drs. Hegland, Khaja, and Queiro-Tajalli discussed an emerging culturally-sensitive framework appropriate for working with older Iranian immigrants.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

Cyrus Behroozi was elected to the Indiana Council on World Affairs (ICWA) Board of Directors. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee of the Board, he is the co-chair of the ICWA Great Decisions series. Held at Butler University, the series include eight scholarly presentations on current international issues. For further information, please contact Dr. Behroozi at CSBehroozi@AOL.com or (317)283-8757.

In addition to her position as the Executive Director of Undergraduate Education, **Irene Queiro-Tajalli** was appointed Interim Executive Director of Indiana University (IU) Labor Studies last fall. The Labor Studies program is now one of the programs under the umbrella of IU School of Social Work. The program educates students for the workplace and labor movement. It offers a Minor, a Certificate and an Associate of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Labor Studies degrees. Courses are offered online and face to face.

Homayoon Shidnia is the President-Treasurer of the newly formed Foundation for the Preservation, Distribution, and Critique of Rare

Manuscripts, Inc. Events leading to the formation of the Foundation began several years ago as part of activities of the Society for Promotion of Persian Culture. Last year, the Foundation was approved by IRS as a 501(c)(3) independent educational organization. The central purpose of the Foundation is to locate and reproduce rare manuscripts related to Persian literature and culture and to make such manuscripts available to educational institutions, libraries, and scholarly organizations. In addition to Dr. Shidnia, other members of the DĀNESH Institute serving on the first Foundation Board are **Cyrus Behroozi, Ebrahim Fakouri, Rahim Farid, Hossein Hariri, Mohammad Kaviani, and Nahid Shahnavaaz**. For further information, please see the related item under News from the Field.

Fostering Cultural Identity Creation for New Americans was the title of a presentation by **Diane Tehrani** and Karen Swallow at the annual conference of the Oregon Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ORTESOL) on November 3, 2007 at the Portland Community College. Thirty instructors of English as a second and non-native language participated in discussions about qualities and abilities of instructors to help students with cultural adjustment. Dr. Tehrani also published *Creating Effective Tasks for Oral Fluency* in the current issue (October 2007, Vol. 32, Issue 4) of the *Newsletter* of the Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages (WAESOL). Furthermore, she assisted the *Oregon Women's Caucus for Art* to facilitate an art exhibit entitled *Iranian Women Speak Out Through Art* at the Interstate Cultural Center in Portland from January 3-26, 2007. In the course of this exhibit, a symposium highlighted two artists speaking about their art of traditional miniature and contemporary pre-Raphaelite painting styles.

Frances Trix, who is associate professor of linguistics and anthropology at Indiana University, is in Turkey on a Fulbright, doing research on Muslim families who were forced out

of the central Balkans and fled to modern Turkey. Dr. Trix is finishing work on a biography of Baba Rexheb, an Albanian Sufi leader who established the first Bektashi monastery in the United States. The Bektashis were a Sufi order closely related to the early Safavids. Baba Rexheb was, among other things, evidence of the influence of Iranian culture in the Ottoman world, since despite being educated in Albania, he knew Persian and was well read in Persian mystical poetry.

John Walbridge is in Istanbul this year on a Fulbright Fellowship doing research on the relationship between medical theory and medieval Islamic philosophy. Dr. Walbridge is working in particular on a very large commentary that the 12th century scientist and philosophy Qutb al-Din Shirazi wrote on Ibn Sina's Canon of Medicine.

Drs. Walbridge and Trix have just completed editing a volume of biographies of contemporary Muslims, "Muslim Voices and Lives in the Contemporary World," which also includes a chapter on the life of an Iranian village woman by **Mary Hegland**, also a DĀNESH member. The project was begun by the late **Linda Walbridge**, who was an early supporter of the work of DĀNESH.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The National Iranian American Council (NIAC) conducted a Civic Participation Workshop for the 2008 U.S. election cycle titled "Demystifying Democracy: The Seven Ingredients of Influence" in Boston on Saturday February 16, 2008. This workshop was intended to familiarize Iranian-Americans with the ways that they can leverage their role as constituents and citizens in order to influence elected officials and impact the American policy on issues that matter to them. The theme of this non-partisan and an-issue-specific workshop was the ingredients of political influence in the United States beyond voting and donating money. For further information, please see www.niacouncil.org/BostonWorkshop.

The Seventh Biannual Conference on Iranian Studies is scheduled for July 31-August 3, 2008 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The conference is sponsored by the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS). For further information and submission of proposals, please contact Mohamad Tavakoli at m.tavakoli@utoronto.ca.

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) is scheduled for November 22-25, 2008 in Washington, DC. For further information and submission of proposals, please contact Mark Lowder at mldowder@u.arizona.edu.

The Iranian Studies Group at MIT (ISG) is conducting its second survey focusing on migration of Iranian skilled individuals. This study is a follow up to the ISG's previous study of economic status of Iranian-Americans and an opinion survey about characteristics of Iranians in the United States. For further information and participation in the ISG's second survey, please visit its website at www.isg-mit.org.

On February 23, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Preservation, Distribution, and Critique of Rare Manuscripts held its first meeting in Indianapolis. Several important decisions were made by the Board. These included reaffirmation of the Foundation Bylaws, implementation of the IRS Conflict of Interest Policy, and determination of membership dues and means of recruitment. For further information and membership, please contact Dr. Shidnia at shidnia@msn.com.



SELECTED BOOKS

Fariba Adelkhah. Being Modern in Iran, 2000.

Gelareh Asayesh. Saffron Sky: A Life between Iran and America, 2000.

Richard C. Foltz. Spirituality in the Land of Noble: How Iran Shaped the World's Religions, 2004.

Richard Frye. Greater Iran: A Memoir, 2005.

Fatemeh Keshavarz. Jasmine and Stars: Reading More Than Lolita in Tehran, 2007.

Robert Litwak. Regime Change: U.S. Strategy Through the Prism of 9/11, 2007.

Abbas Milani. Lost Wisdom: Rethinking Modernity in Iran, 2004.

Farzaneh Milani. Veils and Words: The Emerging Voices of Iranian Women Writers, 1992.

Morteza Miraftabi. Mystical Realities, 1993.

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

Nahid Mozaffari. Strange Times, My Dear: The PEN Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Literature, 2006.

Marina Nemat. Prisoner of Tehran: A Memoir, 2007.

Farhad Nomani and Sohrab Behdad. Class and Labor in Iran, 2007.

Trita Parsi. Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Iran, Israel, and the United States, 2007.

Tara Wicox-Ghanoonparvar (Editor). Hyphenated Identities: Second Generation Iranian-Americans Speak, 2007.

Nahid Rachlin. Persian Girls: A Memoir, 2006.

Barbara Slavin. Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies: Iran, the U.S., and the Twisted Path to Confrontation, 2007.

