

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF PERSIAN

## BULLETIN



VOLUME 2, WINTER 2016

### *President's Farewell*



Dear AATP members,  
Welcome to the second issue of the AATP bulletin. As my two-year term as the president of the AATP is coming to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on and highlight our organization's activities and accomplishments during my tenure. Throughout the past two years, we increased our membership by 30% (34 new members), held two productive teacher training workshops during MESA meetings as well as two exciting lifetime award ceremonies. Additionally, we will have a ground-breaking roundtable focusing on the current issues that teachers of Persian are dealing with at the Ira-

nian Studies Conference in Vienna. I would like to thank the program committee of the Iranian Studies conference who agreed to add a new category of submission on "Persian Pedagogy" to the conference program, which provides a platform to our members to showcase their research and to provide more visibility for our organization. I would like to thank the Middle East Center at University of Pennsylvania and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at University of Arizona for their continued support. It has been truly a joy to serve as the president of the AATP for the past two years. I have learned so much during this time and I am thankful to the previous executive board as well as the current executive board for their help and support. This organization would not exist without its membership so thank you for your active participation and involvement. I foresee a great future for our organization and I especially encourage the younger generation to get more involved with their organization and to carry the torch in order to further professionalize the field of Persian language teaching.

Sincerely,  
Anousha Sedighi, President

### *AATP Workshop at MESA 2015*

The AATP held an engaging and diverse workshop during the MESA meeting which brought together presenters from across the nation and provided a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to learn from each other and to share new ideas. We would like to thank the workshop blind-review committee members: Mohamad Esmaili-Sardar and Mahyar Entezari. Below is the workshop program:

#### **Multiliteracies: Language, Culture, Communication and Technology in Today's Persian Classroom**

Co-sponsored by the Middle East Center at University of Pennsylvania  
and Center for Middle Eastern Studies at University of Arizona

*Chair: Latifeh Hagigi (UCLA)*

Using Project-Based Language Learning in Teaching Persian Language  
Ladan Hamedani (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

A Study of Two Persian Language Classrooms: How Language Teaching Methodology Affects Learners' Motivation and Learning

Zahra Karimi (University of Arizona)

Employing Social Media Technologies such as Facebook in the Persian Classroom  
Amir Irani-Tehrani (West Point University)

To Learn or Not to Learn: An Exploration in the Pedagogical Use of Theatrical Exercises in Teaching Persian  
Marjan Moosavi (York University & University of Toronto)

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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### *Lifetime Achievement Award*

The AATP held a wonderful Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony during the MESA meeting where we honored Dr. Mahvash Shahegh for her many years of service to Persian language and literature and her decade-long service to the AATP as its Executive Secretary. Dr. Shahegh's colleagues and friends including Dr. Mehdi Khorrami, Dr. Maryam Borjian, and Dr. Firoozeh Dianat shared wonderful statements about her achievements and contributions. Dr. Shahegh accepted the award in absentia and attended the event via Skype. *Photo on the right.*



AATP's Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony, Nov. 22 2015, Denver.

### *Membership*

We are delighted to report that during 2015, the AATP's family has expanded and 17 new individual members joined us. We would like to welcome our new individual members:

Zari Amini, Golbarg Bashi, Farzaneh Kordbacheh, Sahba Shayani, Marjan Moosavi, Sally Doane, Zahra Karimi, Mahshad Mohit, Fattaneh Naermi-Rad, Amir Irani-Tehrani, Mahyar Entezari, Garrett Guinivan, Ghazal Najmi, Mehdi Jami, Paksima Mojavezi, Ramin Hadizadeh, and Razi Ahmad.

The name of the new members who registered after our annual meeting in November 2015 will be announced in the next bulletin. We are also happy to welcome our new institutional member: University of Southern California, Middle East Studies Program.

Each organizational membership comes with a complimentary individual membership. We hope other institutions will consider becoming a member of the AATP and take advantage of the benefits it offers including the complimentary individual membership, inclusion of news and announcements in the AATP Bulletin, and more. For more information about the advantages of joining the AATP please visit our website at: [www.aatpersian.org](http://www.aatpersian.org)



### *AATP's Non-profit Status*

We are very excited to report that we have successfully completed the lengthy process of converting the AATP's status to non-profit 501 (C) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has sent us the written approval. The AATP can now enjoy the benefits of non-profit status and individual or institutional contributions to the AATP are now tax-deductible. This has been a long and complicated process and we worked with an accounting firm to satisfy all the IRS's requirements in a timely manner. We have enjoyed our new non-profit status since September 2015. Congratulations to all members!

### *Fundraising Activities*

During 2015, the AATP submitted a grant proposal to Farhang Foundation to support its activities and events. Unfortunately, Farhang Foundation rejected the grant proposal stating that "they are focusing on only sponsoring events and projects directly located in the Southern California region."

We remain thankful to our institutional members especially our workshop co-sponsors: the Middle East Center at University of Pennsylvania and Center for Middle Eastern Studies at University of Arizona and we hope more Title VI grant holders decide to collaborate with the AATP and co-sponsor our events and projects.

The AATP has been in contact with ACTFL to create the World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages for Persian but this project requires financial support that can only be achieved through collaboration with several centers.

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### *Executive Secretary's Farewell*



Dear AATP members and supporters,  
As we prepare for upcoming AATP elections and my term as executive secretary comes to an end, I'd like to take a few moments to reflect upon the state of our field and to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve our organization. In the two short years that I have served as your executive secretary, I have been impressed with the growing sense of professionalism and professional collaboration in our field. Whether through conference panels, workshops, and roundtables like the programs we

have organized at the MESA and Iranian Studies conferences or through members' active participation in related organizations like ACTFL and NCOLCTL, the trend for Persian instructors seems to be towards increased awareness of language acquisition theories and ever-greater commitment to state-of-the-art pedagogical practices. So, thank you all for making the AATP an organization that brings together Persian instructors and professionals from all stages in our careers and that provides resources and networking opportunities that help us develop and grow. It has been an honor to serve with and learn from my colleagues on the executive board; I look forward to welcoming a new president and executive secretary who will no doubt carry AATP in exciting new directions.

Sincerely,  
Samad Alavi, Executive Secretary

### *Note from the Treasurer*



Dear AATP supporters,  
I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of our organization. If you have not already done so, please be sure to renew your membership for 2016. It is indeed with your help and support that the AATP can continue with its activities and endeavors. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the coming year.

Yours,  
Haideh Sahim, Treasurer

#### ♦ **Web Maintenance**

We would like to thank our volunteer webmaster, Dr. Peyman Nojournian for his continuous efforts to keep the AATP's website updated and running.

### *AATP's Roundtable at Iranian Studies Conference in Vienna*

We are excited to report that the AATP's roundtable has been accepted and will take place during the Iranian Studies conference in August 2016 in Vienna, Austria. As you recall, in June 2015, we had sent an email to the members to invite them to participate in the round-table. We are very glad that all the members who responded have been accepted and their names will appear on the program. The discussion will include reflections and responses on the proliferation of lectureships nationwide and the decline in tenure-line positions in Persian and related fields. Please consider attending the roundtable and be sure to encourage colleagues in the broader field of Iranian Studies to attend as well.

### **The Current State of Persian Instruction at Colleges and Universities**

#### *Chair*

Anousha Sedighi (Portland State University)

#### *Participants*

Farmia Mostowfi (Georgetown University)  
Latifeh Hagigi (UCLA)  
Haideh Sahim (Columbia University)  
Jaleh Pirnazar (University of California, Berkeley)  
Soheila Kian (University of California, Irvine)  
Peyman Nojournian (University of Southern California)  
Nahal Akbari (University of Maryland)  
Pounch Shabani-Jadidi (McGill University)  
Ladan Hamedani (University of Hawaii at Manoa)  
Sahba Shayani (Oxford University)



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## Announcements

**NCOLCTL 2015 CONFERENCE:** The annual conference of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages took place in April 2015 in Washington D.C. The AATP had a strong presence there as several colleagues presented their scholarly research at that conference:

**Learning a Foreign Language as ‘Strategy’: Learners’ Motivation and Attitudes toward the ‘Strategic’ Language Persian,** Fatemeh Mirsharifi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Big Data and Language Learning,** Pardis Minuchehr (George Washington University)

**Persian Heritage Language Learners,** Ladan Hamedani (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

**Task Based Language Teaching (TBLT) in Language Instruction and Materials Development,** Aazam Feiz (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

**Enabling Acquisition and Sustainment of Student Heritage Language through Adequate Teacher Training,** Shahnaz Ahmadian & Breshna Aziz (Language Acquisition Resource Center)

**Persian in Use: An Elementary Textbook of Language and Culture,** Anousha Sedighi (Portland State University)

**MESA 2015 CONFERENCE: PANEL: Defining Approaches, Curricula, and Assessment Tools for Advanced Persian Instruction,** Organized by Samad Alavi

Chair/Discussant: Blake Atwood (University of Texas, Austin)

**Content-Based Instruction of Persian Through Web-Based Modules**

Anousha Sedighi (Portland State University)

**What Is “Advancedness” in Foreign Language Education and How Do We Get There?**

**The Case of Persian as an Additional Language**

Nahal Akbari (University of Maryland)

**Teaching Advanced Persian through Persian Media**

Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi, (McGill University)

**Teaching Medieval Persian Texts in the Twenty First Century Classroom**

Samad Alavi (University of Washington)



## Job Opportunities

Below is the list of 2015 job announcements in the field of Persian teaching. All job opportunities were advertised on our website:

**Resident Director for Persian,** Study Abroad program in Tajikistan

**Lecturer in Persian Language,** University of California, Berkeley

**Assistant Professor of Persian,** University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Faculty Research Assistant,** University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language

**Instructor of Persian,** University of Oxford

Congratulations to all who were accepted for the above positions.

Congratulation to Dr. Mehrak Kamali for translating professor Kamran Talattof's book *The Politics of Writing in Iran: A History of Modern Persian Literature* into Persian. The book was recently published by Nashr-i Namak in Iran. It offers a new approach to modern Persian literature based on the main concept of episodic literary movement and its sub-concepts: ideology of representation, metaphor, and discursive interpretation.

### Inventory Sale

*Persian Language Resources* has a number of instructional materials on sale:

80% Discount on an album of four CDs and one DVD with the purchase of Proficiency in Persian, Book one or Book two at regular price.

30% Discount on all other instructional items listed on the website: [www.persianlanguageresources.com](http://www.persianlanguageresources.com)

15% of all proceeds will be donated to the AATP.

### Teaching Persian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

On October 3-4, 2015, a workshop was held in Los Angeles by Khaneh Iran for K-16 Persian teachers. The workshop which was organized by Dr. Peyman Nojoumian was supported in part by Farhang Foundation, University of Southern California, and the Association of Professors & Scholars of Iranian Heritage. Fifteen teachers attended the workshop. Participants received a certificate and gained online access to the workshop presentations and materials through [www.teachmepersian.com](http://www.teachmepersian.com)