



a place of mind

STEWARDSHIP

REPORT



## PERSIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

### 2011-2012 Report to Donors and Friends

May 2012



Thank you for generously supporting the Persian language program at UBC. With your help and encouragement, the Department of Asian Studies was able to teach Persian language at UBC for the very first time in the 2011-2012 academic year.

The courses we were able to offer have helped students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to increase their knowledge about Persian language and culture, and to enhance their respective research activities.

We are pleased to present the following report which provides highlights from the overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and speaks to the overall success of the courses to date.

### Student Testimonials

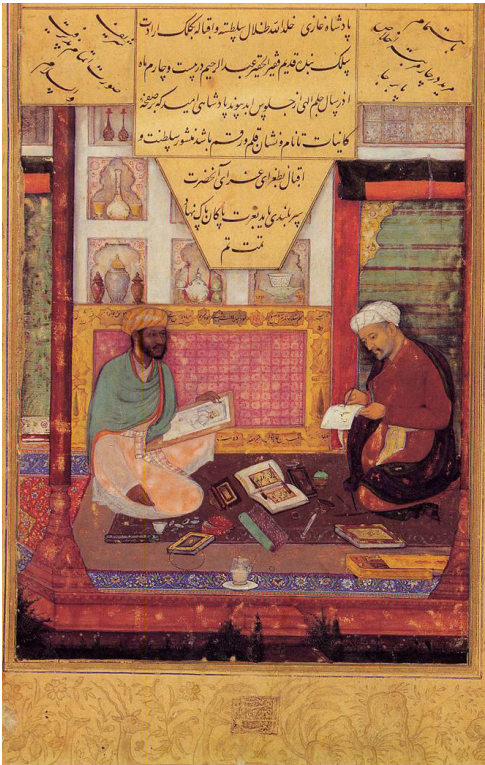
#### Persian 100: Basic Persian

##### **Maggie Drinkwater, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Arts**

Persian language is such an important program because not only does it allow people with Persian ancestry to connect with their roots, but it also allows people like me, who have no connection to the culture, to explore it and learn more. Now, with less than a year of instruction, I feel almost as comfortable conversing in Persian as I do in French, a language I've been learning for almost 12 years! Persian 100 is the most fulfilling class that I have ever taken at university. As a political science student with a strong interest in the Middle East, I will continue to take Persian language courses.

##### **Peder Gedda, PhD candidate, South Asian History**

As a first year PhD student in Asian Studies, I am interested in the dynamics of religious identity in the pre-colonial period in Northern India. Learning Persian is a must for me, since the Persian language was a transmitter of culture from present-day Turkey to the borders of China. The Persian language program at UBC fulfills every expectation and the instructor is by far the best language instructor I have encountered in the academic context. My interest in Persian has grown exponentially as a result of her instruction and I have chosen to incorporate Persian sources from Iran into my project.



## **Persian 104: Persian Reading and Writing for Persian-Speaking Students**

### **Nader Malekyazdi, 1<sup>st</sup> Year, Commerce**

I was quite fluent in Farsi prior to enrolling in Persian 104 since my parents have always encouraged me to speak the language at home. My reading and writing, however, was a different story.

When I found out about Persian courses being offered at UBC for the first time, I jumped at the opportunity.

At the end of term one, I was surprised at how much my reading and writing skills had improved. While our instructor had high expectations, she was extremely motivating and down to earth. I have also made great friends in that class and have built some strong relationships.

I am definitely taking the next level of this class next year and highly recommend it to anyone interested.

### **Kaveh Sarhangpour, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Arts**

By taking Persian 104, I went from knowing virtually nothing about Farsi to writing an essay in my native language that I was genuinely proud of.

As a result of learning this language I have become closer with my mom, and although my dad never got the chance to see me learn to read and write Farsi, I am sure he would have been proud. I now have the basics, and I'm going to continue learning Farsi.

After taking this class I have developed a deeper appreciation for my culture. As a result, I plan to pursue studies in international security with a focus on the Middle East. I hope to better understand Persian culture and improve the living quality of Iranians by working in foreign affairs.

## **Thank You**

Thank you for supporting the Persian language program at UBC. Through your generosity, you have helped to provide students with access and exposure to Persian language, history, culture and traditions. This would not have been possible without your support.

We look forward to the next academic year and to building a solid foundation for a future Persian Language and Iranian Studies Program at UBC.

For more information, please contact:

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