October 23, 2008

Dear Members, Alumni and Affiliates,

It is a great honor and pleasure for the Persian Student Association to present a collection of Persian books to the Stanford Libraries. This collection includes more than 500 books in contemporary Persian poetry, prose and literary criticism. We hope this collection will provide enjoyable and thought-provoking reading for members of the Stanford community and instill in them an understanding of Iran and Iranian culture.

We would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers whose hard work and diligence over the past six months made this donation possible. Many individuals and organizations provided us with financial support for this great cause. In particular we would like to thank Dr. Abbas Milani, director of the Iranian Studies Program at Stanford University and the Bita Daryabari Endowment for Persian Literature for their encouragement and generous support. We also wish to express our gratitude to Mr. John A. Eilts, curator of the Islamic and Middle-Eastern Collection at Stanford University for his help. Finally, we are indebted to Mr. Kavous Barghi at Stanford Libraries for his relentless efforts that paved our way through a lot of hassles in this project.

Over the past 70 years, Stanford University has witnessed the expressions of genius of great Iranian individuals who have always made us proud with their remarkable achievements. Dr. Simin Daneshvar, who spent a year at Stanford as a Fulbright scholar in 1952, is undoubtedly one of our most influential scholars, whose career span of more than six decades has brought immense esteem and reverence to Persian literature and in her honor we would like to dedicate this collection.

It is our firm conviction that this collection can be a key contribution to cultivating understanding of modern Persian literature for research scholars and the general public at Stanford University. We eagerly hope it would provide inspiration to foster similar cultural endeavors in future.

Sincerely yours,
Mohammad Hekmat
President, Persian Student Association