



November 2014 (Q4)
Volume 1; Issue 2
Atlanta, Georgia
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POOIA Mission: (1) Improve our Image (2) Help the Young (3) Facilitate Networking

Upcoming POOIA Party

Second Annual Holiday Party
Monday December 8, 2014
Flavor Restaurant; 7:00 pm
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Events around town [See Page 6](#)

Past POOIA Events . . .

POOIA organized two successful panel discussions in the last few months. The first one was held on September 24, 2014 and focused on legal issues under the title of "Know Your Rights." Three attorneys took part in the panel, which was moderated by Kamy Molavi, an attorney and a member of POOIA Board of Trustees (BOT). Molavi gave an overview of US judicial system and the functions of various state and federal courts. Attorney Fariba Bayani (POOIA Chairperson) shared valuable information on personal

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Senior Professional Spotlight

Dr. Roya Akbar



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your involvement in the Persian community?

I came to United States when I was 13 years old. I am married and have three children. I enjoy staying fit by playing tennis and jogging and I love my profession. My involvement in our community is mostly in a supporting role to my husband and his contributions to Pardis magazine. My children have been attending the IAAB's camp Ayandeh for the past 5 years so Persian roots are very important in our home.

What is your profession?

I am a dentist specializing in all aspect of dentistry, but mostly focused on cosmetic and full mouth reconstruction.

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Prominent Iranian Professionals Around the World

Maryam Mirzakhani, an Iranian-American professor of mathematics at Stanford, has been awarded the 2014 Fields Medal, the most prestigious honor in mathematics. Mirzakhani is the first woman to win the prize, widely regarded as the "Nobel Prize of mathematics," since it was established in 1936.

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Pardis Sabeti

The furious effort to sequence the genome of the Ebola virus this summer attracted a devoted team of researchers from around the world. A young Harvard geneticist of Iranian descent named Pardis Sabeti was at the forefront of that push. The researchers have also paid a price during the crisis. In recent months, Sabeti has lost several colleagues to Ebola, including Mbalu Fonnio, the head nurse in the hemorrhagic fever ward at the Kenema Government Hospital in Sierra Leone..

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Gen-Y Professional Spotlight

Milad Makkie

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your involvement in the Persian community?

I was born in Iran and grew up in a caring family who set education as a high priority. As I grew older I learned how to stand on my own feet and launched my own company in telemedicine. This company is my passion and has improved the quality of health services in Iran. I am proud to say that it has become very successful over the past few years and has equipped numerous hospitals in Tehran with the highest telecommunication capabilities for remote patients.

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*Senior Professional Spotlight: **Dr. Roya Akbar** (cont'd from page 1)*

Which university did you attend?

I attended the Bernau University and continued my post graduate at Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. I received my doctorate degree in dentistry in 1990. I continued my education by attending the Oklahoma University where I completed my residency in advance education in general dentistry.

What was your major and what prompted you to choose that particular course of study?

I was a biology major and pre-dent in college. For as long as I remember, I have always wanted to be nothing but a dentist. At 9 years old I attempted to pull other kids' teeth and now approaching 50, I think I have become pretty good at it!

What would you say you are most proud of right now? What has been your greatest accomplishment?

I am mostly proud of who I have become as a person and as a dentist. I'm an avid learner and have an obsession for perfection. However, I have to say my proudest accomplishment is my family. Mojtaba, my best friend and partner in life, and my three beautiful children Kameron, a Georgia Tech student, Lily, an honor student at Georgia State, and Jasmine, a rising high schooler.

*“WORK HARD AND BELIEVE
IN YOURSELF, AND HAVE FUN
REACHING YOUR GOALS.”*

What are your future goals and/or greatest ambition?

I recently expanded my practice by moving to a brand new facility and simultaneously opening my second office in Alpharetta. It is my goal to build my practices and possibly pass them on to my daughters who also express an interest in becoming a dentist.

How has your identity as an Iranian-American played a role in your endeavors?

After living in US for over 36 years, my Persian may be watered down but at heart I am all Persian. It shows itself in the way I feel toward others and how I view my patients with compassion and respect.

Gen-Y Professional Spotlight: Milad Makkie (cont'd from page 1)

After launching the virtual school, Tehran University of Medical Science, I decided to extend my knowledge both in science and business and applied for a PhD. I was accepted at the University of Georgia, Athens. Since then I have had the honor of becoming a member of POOIA and GISO (Georgia Iranian Student Organization) where I have had the privilege of meeting and learning from so many Iranians.

Which University did you attend?

After passing all hard exams in high school, especially Konkoor (as many of Iranian students do), I was admitted to Science and Research Branch of Azad University. Amirkabir University of Technology (known as Tehran Polytechnics) was my second destination to pursue my Master's degree, and then I went to University of Georgia, UGA as a PhD student.

What was your Major? What prompted you to choose that particular course of study?

I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and my Master of Science in Biomechanics Information Technology Management in Medicine. My family's background in medicine played a huge role in my life and I thought it would be the best route for me. My mother was a hospital manager and my brother is a physician. In addition, I was always curious about technology. After receiving my certification as an Enterprise Network Administrator from both Microsoft and Cisco, I became curious to see how they will each work together in areas of my interest.

What is your profession?

Considering PhD as a full time job, I am doing research at Cortical Architecture Imaging and Discovery (CAID) lab at the University of Georgia.

***“WORK HARD AND NEVER
GIVE UP!”***

What would you say you are most proud of right now? What has been your greatest accomplishment?

At the age of 27, I believe there are so many things that I have yet to explore and conquer and look forward to pursuing each. My motto in life is to “never give up” and follow your passion!

What are your future goals and/or greatest ambition?

My short-term goal is to attend business school and my long-term goal is to be a meritorious representative of Iran within American society. Undoubtedly, it would be achieved only through teamwork and participation in Iranian-American organizations such as POOIA and GISO!

If you could give the next generation of Iranian- Americans one piece of advice, what would it be and why?

If we look at other nations, the most important point is that they generally have their people's support and work together to improve the overall image and performance of the community as an integrated unit. It's been seen so many times that a united strong network of individuals is much harder to defeat. Having this model and its variations in mind, I believe serving Iranian/Persian community would first benefit the giver and then the community. We have so many invaluable resources from x and y generations in Georgia that will benefit the next generation if they keep their connections to the older generation strong. Determination and smart-working have been the key factors in my education and profession so far.

Maryam Mirzakhani (cont'd from page 1)

“This is a great honor. I will be happy if it encourages young female scientists and mathematicians,” Mirzakhani said. “I am sure there will be many more women winning this kind of award in coming years.” Officially known as the International Medal for Outstanding Discoveries in Mathematics, the Fields Medal will be presented by the International Mathematical Union on August 13, 2014 at the International Congress of Mathematicians, held this year in Seoul, South Korea. Mirzakhani is the first Stanford recipient to win this honor since Paul Cohen in 1966.



The award recognizes Dr. Mirzakhani's sophisticated and highly original contributions to the fields of geometry and dynamical systems, particularly in understanding the symmetry of curved surfaces, such as spheres, the surfaces of doughnuts and of hyperbolic objects. Although her work is considered "pure mathematics" and is mostly theoretical, it has implications for physics and quantum field theory.

“On behalf of the entire Stanford community, I congratulate Maryam on this incredible recognition, the highest honor in her discipline, the first ever granted to a woman,” said Stanford President John Hennessy. “We are proud of her achievements, and of the work taking place in our math department and among our faculty. We hope it will serve as an inspiration to many aspiring mathematicians.”



Pardis Sabeti (cont'd from page 1)



Pardis Sabeti is an Associate Professor at the Center for Systems Biology at Harvard University, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, and in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Disease at Harvard School of Public Health, and is a Senior Associate Member of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

Dr. Sabeti is a computational geneticist with expertise studying genetic diversity, developing algorithms to detect genetic signatures of natural selection, and carrying out genetic association studies. She completed her undergraduate degree at MIT and her PhD at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, before returning to earn her medical degree from Harvard Medical School as a Soros Fellow. Sabeti's lab focuses on detecting and characterizing signals of natural selection in humans and pathogens.

Dr. Sabeti is supported by a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award, a Packard Foundation Fellowship in Science and Engineering, and an NIH Innovator award, and awards from NIAID, TMTI, and the Gates Foundation. Dr. Sabeti is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, a PopTech Science Fellow, National Geographic Emerging Explorer, and is the lead singer of the alternative rock band Thousand Days.



Dear Members and Friends of POOIA

POOIA invites you to its **second annual holiday party**, silent auction, and networking mixer.

Our guest of honor is **Mr. Sam Olens**, Attorney General of the State of Georgia.

We also will be honoring the recipient of POOIA's first Community Service Award, Dr. Mandana Amiri.

POOIA is going to fund one college scholarship in 2015. We are trying to raise funds for at least two more. Net proceeds of the event will fund the scholarships, as well as POOIA's future events.

Admission: \$75.00 per person including dinner.

Location: Flavor Restaurant in Sandy Springs

Date/time: Monday December 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Cash bar.

Please visit www.pooia.com to pre-pay your admission to confirm your reservation and receive one extra raffle ticket at the door to win prizes.



Past POOIA Events . . . (Cont'd from page 1)

injury and DUI. Peter Ackerd, an immigration attorney, provided insight into immigration laws and regulations, particularly as they apply to Iranians. Finally, attorney Forrest Morad gave an interesting and useful overview of bankruptcy laws. The panelists answered many questions from the audience. The session was attended by more than 50 POOIA members and friends.

The second POOIA panel was held on November 13, 2014 and it focused on "Ethics in Medicine." Two prominent specialists discussed issues related to embryo selection and fertility in light of new scientific discoveries and innovations in genetics. Dr. Shahrokh Bagheri, a physician and member of POOIA BOT, moderated the session and started by asking some leading questions from Dr. Ceana Nehzat on fertility and use of new technologies like laparoscopy. Dr. Nehzat, a fertility specialist, gave a description of processes to enhance a woman's chances to bear a healthy child and various technology enhanced procedures to accomplish it. That was followed by a presentation by Dr. Masood Khatamee on embryo selection and the ethical issues surrounding it. Dr. Khatamee, who was our out-of-town guest panelist, is a professor of medicine at NYU and Executive Director of the Fertility Research Foundation in New York City. His presentation focused on new technologies for screening the embryo for genetic diseases as well as for gender selection. He also answered many questions on ethics of embryo selection. The session was attended by more than 50 POOIA members and friends.

POOIA wishes to sincerely thank all our distinguished panelists and moderators, as well as all those who attended these informative and educational sessions. We will try to hold a major panel discussion on topics of interest once each quarter.

Events Around Town [Suggestions? Email: fmoosazadeh86@gmail.com]

Christmas Light Displays!

The biggest places to go are the following:

• **Atlanta Botanical Gardens:**

November 15-Jan 3 from 5-10pm

• **Callaway Gardens Holiday Lights:**

November 21 - Dec. 30

• **Lanier Islands Christmas Lights:**

November 21- December 31

Woodruff Arts Center

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will have guest jazz musician Wynton Marsalis on December 9 at 8pm. <http://www.woodruffcenter.org>

Radio Javan Thanksgiving Bash!

Radio Javan is having a party, with Iranian DJs, at Whiskey Blue bar at the W Hotel Midtown, on November 26. <http://www.radiojavan.com>

Center for Civil and Human Rights has opened downtown. It is on 100 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30313

