



DREW UNIVERSITY

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September 9, 2003

Dr. Mohammad Geramian
President
Alavi Foundation
500 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10110

Dear Dr. Geramian:

Last year the Alavi Foundation made a generous contribution to support the Conference on Religious Pluralism after 9/11 at Drew University. Because of such support we were successfully able to bring together over 1,000 Muslims, Christians, and Jews on the first anniversary of 9/11 to both commemorate that tragic event and to discuss the possibility of a more hopeful future for religious pluralism.

In addition to three powerful and thought provoking presentations, by Professor Harvey Cox, Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, and Professor Sayyid Hossein Nasr before an assembled audience of over 1,000 people, we were also able to host a very enlightening roundtable discussion among these three men at the end of the day. Both the keynote speeches in the morning and the one-hour roundtable discussion in the evening were taped by a professional television camera crew. In the year since our conference many people have requested that we make these tapes available for public distribution. Unfortunately, the cost of professionally editing these tapes is high, approximately \$18,000. We believe that it may ultimately be possible to recoup this cost if we are able to sell the rights to the tape of the roundtable discussion to public television, or another interested party. However, before anyone will even consider this possibility, we need to have the tapes professionally edited.

Because our three keynote speakers made such powerful, honest, and ultimately very hopeful presentations, we believe that it is incumbent upon us as the conference sponsors to make the message of this conference available to a much wider audience. The roundtable conversation, I believe, will have particular and lasting significance as an

Dr. Mohammad Geramian

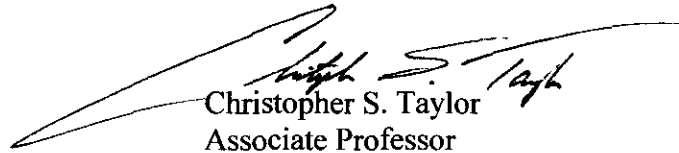
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important testament to the possibility of religious pluralism among the children of Abraham in the aftermath of 9/11.

In the spirit of our conference, which, as you know, was equally supported financially by Muslims, Christians and Jews, I am now reaching out to the three most important foundations that supported this project initially to request their assistance once more to ensure that the filmed record of what we accomplished last year is both preserved and distributed widely. I am asking The William and Mary Greve Foundation, the Wallerstein Foundation and the Alavi Foundation to each consider making a \$6,000 grant to this important effort. Any funds we may ultimately receive from the sale of these films will go to increasing the endowment of the Interfaith Community Forum at Drew University, thereby permitting us to sponsor additional high quality interfaith programs in the future. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Taylor
Associate Professor