



October 4, 2013

The Alavi Foundation
Board of Directors
c/o Dr. Ali Aliabadi
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2320
New York, NY 10110

The President's Office

Heidi Hadsell, Ph.D.
President

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To the Board of the Alavi Foundation:

I write to acknowledge and express Hartford Seminary's gratitude to the Alavi Foundation, which has provided financial support allowing us to expand and maintain our commitment to Shi'a studies.

Hartford Seminary is a recognized leader in interfaith dialogue and Muslim Christian relations, committed to study of all expressions of Islam in their own right and as part of our interreligious academic program. The Alavi Foundation has enabled us to have the Shi'a scholar Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub on our faculty, underwriting a portion of Dr. Ayoub's salary in previous years. Alavi has also been extremely supportive of our efforts to permanently endow the Imam Ali Chair for Shi'a Studies at Hartford Seminary, funding a conference on Shi'a Islam to launch that campaign and continuing to help us make connections with Shi'a communities and benefactors.

Because of our ongoing connection with the Alavi Foundation, Hartford Seminary has advanced understanding of the importance and contributions of the Shi'a expression of Islam, enabling us to provide programming to students, religious communities, and the general public.

We are most grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Alavi Foundation.

Sincerely,

Heidi Hadsell, Ph.D.