Dr. Parisa Saboori
Distinguished Lasallian-Educator
School of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering Department
2018-2019

I am extremely happy to present Dr. Parisa Saboori as the newest Lasallian Scholar, because she is a perfect example of a Lasallian educator and is the embodiment of the Twelve Virtues of a Teacher. However, even more than this, every aspects of Parisa's life is a credit to Manhattan College, her profession, her faith, her family, and herself; and it is not difficult to find examples of her many virtues.

As a teacher, Parisa is patient, respectful, and well organized. However, outside of class she is even more determined to ensure that every student reaches her or his full potential as an engineer AND as a person. This is best seen in her open door policy, where students seek her help at any time. Even in the late afternoon, when she is on her way home, she will stop and help students asking for assistance; and all of this is in spite of the fact that she teaches the heavy-load fundamental sophomore classes.

In addition, Parisa also advises several sections of senior design and always does her best to offer interesting and creative projects. The most recent example of this is a project that involved designing a toy for a child with Down's syndrome. In this case, Parisa went out of her way to make the project as productive and realistic as possible, and assembled an interdisciplinary team of students from the Schools of Business and Education, and the Department of Kinesiology along with the mechanical engineering student to address all aspects of the project. Ultimately, her guidance on this project allowed the students to earn second place in the most recent Innovation Challenge competition at Manhattan College.

In all of these projects, she draws on her years of experience working in the oil industry designing oil field equipment, but it is her extensive knowledge of biomechanics that makes all of her student projects unique and productive. It is here where she shines even more brightly than in class. It is in her biomechanics classes where you will see a passion that truly inspires even the most jaded student. It is here where she brings together her desire to help others, and her love of engineering and scientific research.

In research, Parisa's love of learning has also resulted in her very active contribution to the promotion of undergraduate research at Manhattan College by being a part of the undergraduate summer research program, and being a faculty advisor for several of these projects. As a result, many mechanical engineering undergraduates have had the opportunity to attend and have papers published in several conference proceedings. In addition, as would be expected, her enthusiasm also extends to the graduate program, where Parisa has worked on many graduate research projects that have ultimately led to the publication of papers as conference proceedings or journal articles.

Parisa's own research is equally active with her area of study being head modeling and traumatic brain injury. This work started during her doctoral thesis where she not only performed work that identified the structure of trabeculae that exist between the brain and the skull, but also

involved developing a unique standalone finite element model of the brain. Since then she has used this model to explore different aspects of head impacts and brain injury with the results being presented at many conferences and published in various journals, with her most recent paper being on impact profiles and brain injury. In addition, her interest in brain injuries has also lead to a joint research project with a neurologist at Mount Sinai to study the biomechanics associated with shaken baby syndrome.

However, Parisa has also published articles on other biomechanical issue. These have included studies designed to study ACL injuries in women due to valgus (which was a collaborative work with the Kinesiology Department), aneurysm formation, prosthetic knee design for third world applications, and the development of a car seat mechanism designed to prevent positional asphyxia in infants.

Parisa has also been active in various college committees and organizations with the one of which she is most proud being the creation of a women's group within the Mechanical Engineering Department that complements the Society for Women Engineers by addressing more societal issues associate with how women can function within a male dominated profession. Equally, for several years, she has been the faculty advisor for the student branch of the ASME, has served on the CFA for many years, and has been a member of the EAC several times.

Outside of Manhattan College, Parisa's has also been an active participant in the International Symposium on Lasallian Research, and the IALU Program in Rome where she was able to make further engineering and biomechanical contacts, especially with Bethlehem University. Then outwith the Lasallian community, she has been a session topic organizer and session chair for the ASME's International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition; and in January, she was selected by the ASME to participate in their Eclipse program, which exists to develop leadership talent for the future of mechanical engineering.

Beyond her academic accomplishments, Parisa has also contributed significantly to her religious community. Since arriving in the US, she has been an active member of the local Mandaeian community; but more recently, she has become an organizer of their yearly national convention.

However, even more that all of her academic success, I know that Parisa is most proud of her family: her, mother, husband, and two daughter. In recent years, her mother has been a mainstay of her family, while her husband Mehran has supported her throughout the years. Finally and most importantly are her two wonderful daughters, Misha and Rosha, who are the light of her life; and whenever she has the opportunity, she brings them to Manhattan College, and by doing so she brings joy and laughter to our department.

Now having described a few of Parisa's many virtues, what is evident above all else is that she is a truly good person and a worthy role model for her students, and for her two girls. However, there is one thing that makes her unique and that is her joyful spirit, which bring happiness to all of those who know her. In conclusion, I would therefore like to say how appropriate it is that Dr. Parisa Saboori has been chosen to be this year's Lasallian Scholar, and hope that she will have added success in the years to come. Congratulations, Parisa!

Presented by Dr. Graham Walker, Mechanical Engineering Department
Faculty Convocation, April 23, 2019