



In Mourning and Memory of Late Professor Behboodian

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I was kindly asked to write a note in mourning and memory of Professor Behboodian to be included in the Iranian Journal of Science and Technology. It is a pity that we are in mourning for this great person but cannot hold a memorial service with the presence of his family, friends, and colleagues due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although two virtual wakes have already been held to honor him, the tragic news of his passing will never fade from our memory.

Many people live long and leave nothing, but only a few, despite their short lives, leave an enormous heritage and a permanent print.

Dr. Behboodian, a distinguished, high-principled, firm, unassuming, humble, and kind academic passed away on April 3, 2020, during a short illness and joined eternity, but surely his scientific legacy and deeds have earned him immortality in our hearts.

I have always felt indebted to him for all that he taught me. The loss of this great man will be felt deeply and keenly in the scientific community and beyond.

Although I knew Dr. Behboodian for over 35 years and was fortunate to be his student during my BA, MA, and PhD studies and later have the honor of collaborating with him in the Department of Statistics, Shiraz University, it is not easy to write about him because his substantial contributions to research and education have been so extensively acknowledged in mathematical and statistical communities that little is left to be added.

A short list of students who have, directly or indirectly, benefited from his mentoring and expert knowledge and followed his footsteps and a brief description of the great efforts he made to train a generation of highly-skilled, helpful, and service-oriented students and scholars can reflect part of his lasting contribution to the scientific community.

Dr. Behboodian was a teacher who literally encouraged his students to think and not just consume thoughts. He always tried to help students to visualize ideas by hand-somely illustrating those ideas to them. He avoided providing students with long and tedious proofs; rather, he tried to inculcate the meaning and interpretation of the content into their minds. He wrote concisely and eloquently in a way that conveyed meaning, rather than words, and always shared his knowledge generously with students and those interested in statistics.

What I learned from him, along with the scientific content, was his sense of calmness, open-mindedness, and warm-heartedness, which was always marked with his trademark winning smile. I never found him angry with somebody or at something, nor do I do remember him being in conflict with anyone, even verbally. He held middle-of-the-road ideas and I never felt he was for or against anyone.

He was well-informed about world affairs and read avidly to keep his information about Iran and the rest of the world up-to-date. His views on human dignity, social justice, democracy, and a range of other key issues, which lack of space precludes me from addressing in detail, were carefully thought-out and extremely thought-provoking.

My heart will always be heavy with deep grief over the loss of this remarkable man and it is hard to believe that we have lost him, but his friendly face with penetrating eyes, unimpeachable character, affable manner, profound wisdom, deep knowledge, and memories will be remembered forever by us, his students, and his colleagues. I can still clearly hear the echoes of his supporting words in my ears, see his welcoming smile in my eyes, and feel his kind spirit in my heart. His passing is an immense loss for all those who knew him, but we will carry his scientific legacy and contribution by our hearts. I believe that he is now in a more peaceful place, looking down on us with contentment, satisfaction, and pride.

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1 A short biography of Javad Behboodian

Javad Behboodian (23 March 1931–31 March 2020) was a professor of Statistics at the Shiraz University from 1964 to 2001. He was born in Shiraz in 1931 and completed his primary and high school education in Ibn-Sina schools of Shiraz, Soltani of Shiraz, and Dar-al-Fonwan of Tehran. He started his university studies in mathematics and in 1954 and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the Faculty of Science of the University of Tehran and in the same year he received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the teacher's college of the University of Tehran. Then, in 1954–1958, he worked as a mathematics teacher in Shiraz's high schools.

Dr. Behboodian went to the USA in 1958 to continue his studies in higher education as a scholarship holder. He successfully completed his master's degree in mathematical statistics at the University of Michigan in 1961, and in 1964 he obtained a doctorate in mathematical statistics from the same university.

He started his educational activity in 1964 with the rank of assistant professor in the former mathematics department of Shiraz University and in 1968 he was promoted to the rank of associate professor. By obtaining the necessary research and educational points in 1971, he achieved the degree of professor of the former Faculty of Literature and Sciences of Shiraz University.

He has been engaged in education and research throughout the entire period of Shiraz University in undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Dr. Behboodian was a visiting associate professor at the University of North Carolina in 1970, a visiting professor at Stanford University in 1975 and a visiting professor at the University of Leuven in Belgium in 1988. He taught statistics, probability and mathematics at different levels of education and has articles in foreign and Iranian journals on mathematics statistics, statistics education and mathematics education in English and Persian. He has also supervised 46 master's and 12 doctoral dissertations and completed several research projects at Shiraz University.

Dr. Behboodian, while conducting educational and research activities, has also paid special attention to the authorship of the book. His books are as follows:

1. Non-parametric statistics, Publications of Shiraz University Publishing Center, 1987, second edition 1993, third edition 1999.
2. Preliminary statistics and probability, Astan Quds Razavi Publications, first edition of 1991, 42th edition with revision in 2018.

3. Mathematical Statistics, Amir Kabir Press Institute Publications, first edition 1991 and second edition 1997.
4. Statistical decision, Publications of Shiraz University Publishing Center, 1995.
5. Regression, Payame Noor University Press, 1997.
6. Non-parametric methods of statistics, Payame Noor University Press, 1998.
7. Correlation and regression and the book of Khayyam-Pascal triangle (In press).

He collaborated with the editorial board of several journals and was a member of the editorial board of the Statistical Thought Magazines of the Statistical Association of Iran, the bulletin of the Mathematical Society of Iran, Golchin Riyazi and the Science and Technology of Shiraz University and the Reviewer of the American Mathematical Society.

Among his activities in the executive position, the head of the mathematics department in 1349–1346, the head of the mathematics and statistics department in 1971–1974, the head of the former Faculty of Literature and Sciences in 1974–1975, and the head of the statistics department in 1995–1998 can be named. Dr. Behboodian is a member of the Iranian Mathematical Society, the Iranian Statistical Society, the Academy of Sciences, the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the International Statistical Association, and the Statistical Association of Islamic Countries. He was also an honorary member of the Fars and Isfahan Mathematical Teachers Association. He was the secretary of the first mathematical conference in Shiraz University in April 1970, the scientific secretary of the first Iranian statistics conference in Isfahan University of Technology in 1991, and the scientific secretary of the congress Hatam Neyrizi in 1999 in Neyriz. In addition, he was one of the founders of the Statistics Association of Iran and the secretary of this association in the years 1995–1996.

Dr. Behboodian retired at the end of September 2001 according to university regulations. But for the rest of his life, he continued to teach, research, and collaborate in the master's and doctoral courses of Shiraz University.

The best honor earned by him, based on his own words, was his former students who have achieved scientific and academic positions in Iran and abroad.

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