**Wells College to Host Talk by Professor Jamsheed Choksy of Indiana University**

*The 2018 Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar will give a keynote lecture, “State and Faith in Iran: Recent History as a Key to Understanding the Present,” as part of his Sept. 20–21 visit to Wells.*

AURORA, N.Y.— The Wells College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa welcomes its 2018 visiting scholar, Professor Jamsheed K. Choksy of Indiana University–Bloomington. Choksy will speak on the topic “State and Faith in Iran: Recent History as a Key to Understanding the Present.” The lecture will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 20 in Stratton Hall 209 (the Hostetter Lecture Hall). This event is free and open to the public.

 During his two-day visit to Wells on Sept. 20–21, in addition to delivering his keynote lecture, Choksy will visit several classes, where he will engage with students and speak on a variety of subjects, including religious minorities in contemporary Iran, the rise of monotheism, and the spread of Islam. He is currently a Distinguished Professor in Indiana University–Bloomington’s Department of Central Eurasian Studies, where he previously served as department chair.

 He is a leading authority on the Arab conquest of Iran, Iraq, the Persian Gulf, and Central Asia; the spread of Islam; and the impact of faith on politics, international relations and national security. His writings and lectures explore why human existence is viewed as a struggle between good and evil, and how beliefs and practices shape people’s lives and actions.

 Professor Choksy is a member of the National Council on the Humanities, and has held fellowships from the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton University), the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Religion. ([Read more about Jamsheed Choksy here](http://indiana.edu/%7Erelstud/people/profiles/choksy_jamsheed).)

**About Phi Beta Kappa’s Visiting Scholar Program**

In existence for over 60 years, the Phi Beta Kappa’s Visiting Scholar Program offers undergraduates the opportunity to spend time with some of America’s most distinguished scholars. The visiting scholar spends two days on campus, meeting with students and faculty members, taking part in classroom discussion, and giving a public lecture open to the entire community. Read more about Wells College’s Chapter Xi of Phi Beta Kappa at [wells.edu/academics/academic-services/phi-beta-kappa](http://wells.edu/academics/academic-services/phi-beta-kappa), and more about the national Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program at [pbk.org/VisitingScholars](http://www.pbk.org/VisitingScholars).