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Cal Poly’s Provocative Perspectives to Feature Author Firoozeh Dumas on Jan. 26

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s Provocative Perspective series will feature Firoozeh Dumas, author of “Funny in Farsi,” on Thursday, Jan. 26. Dumas will speak on, “Laughing Without An Accent.”

Dumas was born in Abadan, Iran, and moved to Southern California with her family in the 1970s. She attended UC Berkeley, where she met and married a Frenchman.

Dumas grew up listening to her father, a former Fulbright Scholar, recount the many colorful stories of his life in Iran and America. In 2001, with no prior writing experience, she decided to write her stories as a gift for her children.

“Funny in Farsi” was on the bestseller lists of the Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle and was a finalist for the PEN/USA award in 2004 and a finalist in 2005 for an Audie Award for best audio book. Dumas was also a finalist for the prestigious Thurber Prize for American Humor; she is the first Middle Eastern woman ever to be considered for this honor.

Firoozeh’s one-woman show, “Laughing Without an Accent” opened in April 2005 to sold-out audiences at Theatreworks in Mountain View, Calif. Firoozeh incorporates much of what she learned from her one-woman show in her speeches, adding another layer of entertainment to her thought-provoking, yet humorous talks.

Dumas will speak at Sage Restaurant on campus at 7:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. A follow-up student session discussion will be held in the MultiCultural Center at 10 a.m. in the University Union, Room 217. Reservations are required for breakfast; please RSVP by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20.

For more information call 756-0327 or e-mail Liz Cofer at lcofer@calpoly.edu. Attendees with disabilities may request accommodations in advance by contacting the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 805-756-1521.

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