

MSA National Continental Conference 2007 – PROGRAM

Planting Our Feet Firmly: Embracing, Empowering, Educating

Qur'aan 3: 147 - "All that they said was: Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and anything We may have done that transgressed our duty: *Establish our feet firmly*, and help us against those that resist Faith."

4th Annual MSA Speech Contest

"Take A Stand and Speak Out"

Speeches will be presented prior to main sessions. Winners will be granted credit to study abroad with Muslim Study Abroad - <http://www.muslimstudyabroad.com>

Friday August 31st, 2007

8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

Introduction & Welcome to MSA Continental Conference

Speakers: Hisham Hussain, Conference Chair
Asma Mirza, MSA National President

8:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

Main Session 1 – Planting Our Feet Firmly

Qur'aan 3: 147 - "All that they said was: Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and anything We may have done that transgressed our duty: **Establish our feet firmly**, and help us against those that resist Faith."

The challenges facing Muslims in North America are different from those facing Muslims elsewhere in the world. We live in a powerful society not so different from those that our prophet's confronted and worked to improve. What principles did they work with, fundamental to Islam, which allowed them to win the hearts and minds of their communities? We may learn through their stories that our struggles are not so unique, and that by using their models of justice, service to the poor, sincerity and trust in Allah, we may fulfill our vicegerancy.

Speakers: Zaid Shakir, Dr. Ingrid Mattsen, Yasir Qadhi

10:00 p.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

MSA National Entertainment Session

Islamic Expressions: Art of the Righteous
Co-organized by the Andalus Media Group

Moderator: Dash Brookins

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Prayer Room in Hyatt

Qiyam ul-Layl

The Prophet (saw) has said: "Keep up qiyam al-layl. It was the way of the virtuous who came before you, it draws you nearer to your Lord, atones for your sins, forbids you from evil and protects the body from sickness." (Tirmidhi.)

Saturday September 1st, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

Main Session 2 – Evolution of the North American Muslim

To better plan for success and chart the future of Islam in North America, a critical analysis of the past efforts of Muslims establishing themselves in North America is essential. How did Muslims integrate and respond to the society at the time, how did they shape their surroundings or allow their surroundings to

shape them? We take from this analysis, lessons to chart a successful path for Islam in the West.

Speakers: Dr. Hatem Bazian, Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-allah, Dr. Jamal Badawi

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont A

Parallel Session 2a – Islamic Entertainment: How Can I Be Down?

This session will discuss the spiritual and religious ramifications of Islamic expression, art and entertainment. This session will review the hot-button issues in Islamic entertainment as well as how to produce Islamically sound entertainment for Muslim youth. Speakers in this session will discuss how interested Muslim youth can become involved in producing and creating healthy Islamic entertainment.

Speakers: Abdullah Adhami, David Hawa, Adam Soltani

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont B

Parallel Session 2b – COMPASS Session: Effective Expressions

This is an interactive session that trains participants to become more effective communicators. This module combines references from the Islamic tradition, state-of-the art communications theory and hands-on learning experience. It stresses personal accountability and responsibility in personal and organizational communications, and presents scenarios and examples relevant to university students.

Speakers: Mohamed Shiliwala

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont C

Parallel Session 2c – The Treaty of Hodaybiyyah

One of the most important parts of Islamic history is that involving the Treaty of Hodaybiyyah. Negotiated by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to ensure safe passage for Muslims making pilgrimage, this treaty teaches us many things about the etiquette of negotiation and peace making.

Speakers: Mokhtar Magharoui, Yasir Qadhi

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

LUNCH TIME

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

The Walk of Light

Ready to put your faith into action? Join MSA students on The Walk of Light, part of Action Hour. Visit the MSA Information Booth or Bazaar Booth to sign up.

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Rosemont A

Alumni Meetings – Cornell University

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Rosemont B

Alumni Meetings – University of Texas

12:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Rosemont C

Alumni Meetings – University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

Main Session 3 – Finding Our Way Forward: Empowering Our Institutions

Every community needs focus, direction, and a leader to guide it to success. Knowledge of both the spiritual and worldly serves as the foundation of a successful leader. As the Muslim community in North America expands, there is a need for more Muslim institutions that provide resources to create effective leaders. This session will also discuss how we should promote such scholarship and where we should be putting our resources to meet this critical need.

Speakers: Zaid Shakir, Dr. Abdul-Hakim Jackson, Asma Mirza

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Rosemont A

Parallel Session 3a – Creating & Sustaining North American Muslim Scholarship

This session will discuss and describe the current state of Islamic education in North America. What opportunities and institutions currently exist and how these institutions and resources can be cooperate to increase our ability to create viable North American Muslim Scholars. This session will also describe in detail where the gaps are and where North American Muslim communities should focus their resources to expand future opportunities.

Speakers: Faraz Rabbani, Yasir Qadhi

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Rosemont B

Parallel Session 3b – How To Revive Your MSA

Students will learn how to improve their MSA Chapter and carry it to the next level.

Speakers: Sumrah Haider, Nura Sedique, The MSA National Zonal Reps

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Rosemont C

Parallel Session 3c – The Soul & The Student Struggle

This session will discuss the struggle Muslim student's face as they grow spiritually at College. How can Muslim students strengthen their spiritual drive and respond to the Prophet's call to Allah (swt). Many Islamic educational organizations have responded to their needs with distance learning classes, online education and other opportunities. This session will describe the full array of available opportunities for MSA's to increase their educational abilities. This session will also discuss their plusses, minuses and other aspects.

Speakers: Mohamed Magid, Noura Shamma

6:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Rosemont A

MAGHRIB & DINNER MSA Executive Roundtable

10:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

MSA Sisters' Entertainment Session

12:00 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Qiyam ul-Layl

The Prophet (saw) has said: "Keep up qiyam al-layl. It was the way of the virtuous who came before you, it draws you nearer to your Lord, atones for your sins, forbids you from evil and protects the body from sickness." (Tirmidhi.)

Sunday September 2nd, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

Main Session 4 - Eliminating Ethnocentrism: Creating Connections

A melting pot of Muslims has been created in North America. The diversity of thought and experience gives a uniquely global feel to the Muslims community. But with it come challenges to interact and get along for the greater good. To what extent has culture/ethnicity restricted bonds of brotherhood in Muslim communities in North America? Where does compromise play a role in ideological and methodological differences? Diversity brings both exciting opportunities and unique challenges to the Muslim community of North America.

Speakers: Siraj Wahaj, Altaf Hussain, Faraz Rabbani

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont A

Parallel Session 4a – Islamic Leadership: Avoiding Arrogance

A trait of a great leader lies in humility, realizing one's shortcomings, and asking others for help. Muslim leadership in North America has often failed by assuming that their way is the only way. This session details how to create a more Islamic form of leadership that emphasizes humility and understanding that there may be many right paths to the solutions we seek.

Speakers: Mokhtar Maghraoui, Faraz Rabbani

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont B

Parallel Session 4b – Silent Islam

Learn about the experience of Muslims who are deaf. Students will also have the opportunity to learn how to communicate using basic signs.

Speakers: Nashiru Abdulai

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont C

Parallel Session 4c – COMPASS Session: Gender Relations for an Inclusive MSA

This module allows participants to explore the issue of gender interactions in a safe and empowering setting. Participants are actively engaged in contextualizing and applying Islamic gender guidelines to their environment and circumstances. The purposeful-public-limited (PPL) model is presented and discussed.

Speakers: Mohamed Shiliwala

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rosemont D

Parallel Session 4d – Project Downtown

Speakers: Project Downtown Staff

12:15 p.m – 2:15 p.m. LUNCH TIME

12:15 p.m – 2:15 p.m.
Rosemont A

Alumni Meetings – University of Michigan

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hyatt Grand Ballroom

Main Session 5 – In The Face of Ignorance & Hostility

Facing a tough crowd? What better example of dealing with ignorance and hostility than the Prophet (PBUH) himself? This session discusses how the Prophet Muhammad faced such situations and how his demeanor changed hearts. Learn how to adapt his technique into our own struggles facing a tough crowd.

Speakers: Abdullah Adhami, Yasir Qadhi, Mokhtar Maghraoui

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Rosemont A

Parallel Session 5a – Serenity in Every Struggle

Our hardships can become the impetus for an awakening of the soul. As the Prophets struggled for faith, they grew in piety. It is with each new challenge that our faith is affirmed. As our brothers and sisters, in America and abroad, experience the injustices of war, poverty and discrimination we must incorporate principles of Islam in our quest for justice. Our hearts will find peace with God as our actions bring forth His message.

Speakers: Yasir Qadhi, Noura Shamma

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Rosemont B

Parallel Session 5b – COMPASS Session: MSA meets the Press - Crisis Management

Post 9/11 and PEW research study show Muslim youth are in the focus in the media. MSA's are approached by media outlets, and asked to respond within few hours on hot button issues. Learn how to play a proactive role, and in helping to shape the story. Session will also talk about development and need of Crisis Management Plan.

Speaker: Farhan Latif

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Rosemont C

Parallel Session 5c – Combating Islamophobia on Campus

Faced with inaccurate portrayals of Islam on your campus? Learn from professionals on how to effectively deal with Islamophobia.

Speakers: Haris Tarin, Arslaan Iftikhaar

6:00 p.m – 8:15 p.m

DINNER & MAGHRIB

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
ISNA Hall A

Main Session 6 – Creating & Sustaining Indigenous Islam

This session will explore how North American Muslims should better communicate their vision for community to their neighbors. This session will discuss how the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) established ties with his neighbors in Medinah and how North American Muslims can learn from those lessons.

Speakers: Hamza Yusuf, Zaid Shakir, Mokhtar Maghraoui, Altaf Husain

10:00 p.m – 10:15 p.m
ISNA Hall A

Closing Message

12:00 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Qiyam ul-Layl

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Monday September 3rd, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m MSA National Volunteer Appreciation Session