

MSA National Continental Conference 2008

“Celebrating the MSA Legacy: Moving Forward Together”

Please visit the MSA National History display to celebrate the 45 year Anniversary of MSA National!

Please note the majority of the MSA National sessions will be held in the Hyatt.

Friday August 29th, 2008

8:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. **Introduction & Welcome to the 45th MSA Continental Conference**  
Room: Regency Ballroom

Speakers: Maaz Asad Hamid, Conference Co-Chair  
Asma Mirza, MSA National President

8:45 p.m. – 9:45 p.m. Main Session 1 Room: Regency Ballroom

**Celebrating MSA’s Legacy: Moving Forward Together**

MSA National has a proud history and legacy. While MSAs have made amazing strides on campuses across North America, our work is far from over. How can we create and implement a common vision? How do we erase the divides between immigrants and non-immigrants, and among young and older generations? How can we raise the bar of our institutions? What types of institutions and initiatives are critical for our future? Join us as MSA National pauses to take account of this long and storied history in North America, renew intentions, and surge forward.

Speakers: Tarek Elgawhary, Suhaib Webb, Yasir Qadhi  
Moderator: Randa Kuziez

10:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m. Parallel Session 1a Room: Franklin

**Living the Single life: Making the Most of Your Time Before You get Married**

Muslim youth spend a lot of time dreaming and waiting for the right person to show up. Society puts a lot of pressure on people to find the right person, to get married young and then to live happily ever after. So, what if this process is taking longer than you expected? Instead of wasting many hours, days and even years trying to find this person, how can we productively use this time to better ourselves?

Speaker: Faraz Rabbani, Omaira Alam  
Moderator: Danish Adil

10:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m. Parallel Session 1b Room: Delaware AB

**Tackling Social Issues: Confronting Racism**

Falafel vs. samosay, biryani vs. hot dogs, tres de leche vs. baklava. MSAs across North American bind together students from every color and every walk of life. Unfortunately, being together is not always a piece of cake. How can we stop ostracizing and labeling each other? How can we break away from our groups and come together, accepting each other along with our cultures? How can we learn to enjoy and celebrate our differences?

Speaker: Sulayman Nyang, Aneesah Nadir

Moderator: Karim Mirza

10:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m. Parallel Session 1c – Room: Delaware CD

**Silent Islam: Know the Deaf Muslims in Your Community**

Deaf Muslims are often unintentionally neglected from the ummah, and as a result, many Deaf Muslims are ignorant about Islam. This session is intended to inform the ummah about Deaf culture, the importance of sign language interpreters and the frustrations of Deaf Muslims from not being able to understand Jumah Khutbahs, or even attend workshops and lectures that most Muslims take for granted. We need to start including deaf Muslims into the ummah and to give them opportunities to pursue very basic Islamic knowledge and to understand the religion in which we all embrace so dearly.

Speakers: Bader Alomary, Brianne Weber

Moderator: Nashiru Abduali

10:00 p.m. – 10:45 p.m. Parallel Session 1d – Room: Hayes

**Allah Made Me Funny Movie Sampler and Q&A**

Come join the Allah Made Me Funny crew for a short screener of their upcoming unreleased film followed by a question and answer session with the crew themselves.

Speakers: Azhar Usman, Preacher Moss, Mohammed Amer

Moderator: Iman Sediqe

12:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. **Qiyam ul-Layl Room:**

**Overcoming our Weaknesses: Purifying the Heart**

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.)

Speaker: Mokhtar Maghraoui

Saturday August 29th, 2008

5:30 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. After Fajr Series, Tafseer of Surah Al-Hijr (Chapter 15)

Speaker: Hisham Mahmoud

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Chaplains' Forum** Room: Delaware AB

Are you a chaplain? Come network with other Muslim chaplains and discuss how to address issues on campus.

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Main Session 2 - Room: Franklin

**MSA: A Guide to our Internal Struggles**

Beginning as a movement of immigrant students, MSA's and MSA National have become the leading force of young indigenous Muslim Americans. Their goal is to do positive things in the community and live out the essence of Islam. How did MSA's journey begin? What has enabled MSA's to thrive despite the challenges that exist on campus? Muslim students struggle with various social challenges, such as depression, suicide, drinking etc. What lessons can today's MSA generation use to overcome the difficulties of campus life?

Speakers: Muhammad Ninowy, Aneesah Nadir, Faraz Rabbani

Moderator: Danish Adil

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshop Session 1a- Room: Delaware CD

**Saving Your Two Cents: Financial Planning 101**

One day they hand you your high school diploma, the next you find yourself without a plan. How are you going to pay for tuition, room and board, and books? How do you figure out your Zakat, when do you need to pay it? Do you even need to pay it? This session will give you some practical tips to help you pinch every penny to stay afloat during your college career.

Speaker: Monem Salam

Moderator: Samir Hassan

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshop Session 1b – Room: Hayes

**Gearing up for the 2008 Elections: Making Your Vote Count**

As Muslim citizens in North America, it is our responsibility to use our vote to improve the world around us. As Muslim Students, what should our role be? How do we educate ourselves and mobilize our community? Learn from grassroots activists about the unprecedented MSA National GOTV campaign and how to make your role in this year's US Elections count.

Speaker: Awais Khaleel, Asma Rehman

Moderator: Sami Elmansoury

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshop Session 1c – Room: Franklin

**A Smile is Charity, But We Brought Sandwiches: A Project Downtown Workshop**

Discover the community service phenomenon sweeping the Nation! Already involved in a local PD? Learn how other MSAs are serving their local community.

Speaker: Yasmin Hussein  
Moderator: Wajiha Akhtar

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshop Session 1d – Room: Delaware AB

**Lights, Camera, Action: Media & Crisis Management**

Picture this: Your MSA executive board gets a call from Fox News, the NY Times and CNN at 10.00 a.m. asking you to comment on current affairs and news headlines. The campus newspaper reads "University funding Muslim radicals on campus". They found out that your MSA is using school funding to support Islamic events. Your MSA needs to respond in the next few hours. Should you respond? Find out at the COMPASS Media and Crisis Management session geared towards MSA members in a media crisis situation. Be prepared before the camera and microphones are facing your direction. Session includes actual MSA case studies, implications and solutions.

Speaker: Farhan Latif, COMPASS Trainer

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lunch

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **MSA Executive Roundtable** Room: McKinley

Are you an MSA leader? Network with fellow MSAers from across the US and Canada and learn about the resources and services MSA National has to offer!

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Cornell University Alumni Meeting Room: Delaware AB

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. University of Michigan Alumni Meeting Room: Delaware CD

1:45 p. m. Zhur

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Main Session 3 Room: Franklin

**Fostering and Sustaining a Diverse Muslim Student Community**

While MSAs have made amazing strides on campuses across North America, the next step is to overcome the divides within our communities and create more widely diverse MSAs on campuses. Most Muslim students want to foster more diverse communities, but often don't know how to make it a reality beyond rhetoric. What are some practical steps towards making MSAs more inclusive?

Speakers: Abd al-Hakim Jackson, Suhaib Webb, Jamillah Karim  
Moderator: Yasmin Elhady

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Parallel Sessions 2a – Room: Franklin

**Living the Married Life: How to Stay Married and Stay Happy**

Many of us are mesmerized with glorious visions of living happily after only to find ourselves confused and dazed once the realities of marriage settle in. Now what do we do? Who is this person I've married and what is my life really like now? How do I deal with my in laws? Learn some tips for what it really takes to stay married and stay happy.

Speakers: Faraz Rabbani, Umm Hassan  
Moderator: Tauqeer Zaidi

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Parallel Sessions 2b – Room: Delaware AB

**Tackling Social Issues: Overcoming Depression & Suicide**

For many Muslim Students college life marks the beginning of a plethora of social, financial, mental, emotional, and physical changes. Unfortunately these changes come hand in hand with tremendous amounts of stress, confusion, and tough lessons learned. How can we keep ourselves and our brothers and sisters from cracking? How can we take and keep control over our lives? How do we keep afloat? How can we save ourselves from the disappear of depression and the horror of suicide?

Speakers: Shyam Siram, Fatima Mirza  
Moderator: Nura Sediqe

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 pm. Parallel Session 2c – Room: Delaware CD

**History of the Muslim Student Movement in North America**

Muslim students have made a powerful impact on Islam in North America. Learn how fledgling MSAs started and flourished. Discover interesting facts and stories about our legacy as Muslim students in North America.

Speakers: Altaf Husain, Tarek Elgawhary  
Moderator: Meraj Ahmed

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Main Session 4: **Beauty of Truth: An Evening of Qur'anic Recitation**

Hear renowned reciters as they demonstrate the beauty of the Qur'an through recitation and tafseer.

Room: Franklin  
Moderator: Ali Faruk

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. ASR & DINNER

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **ALIM Reunion** Room: Delaware AB

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **RIHLA Reunion** Room: Delaware CD

11:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Entertainment Session Room: Regency Ballroom

### **Rhythmic Reflections**

What happens when you put together some of the country's most gifted Poets and performers under one roof? You get Rhythmic Reflections! Rhythmic Reflections is a lyrical, smart, hilarious, entertaining, and an exciting new approach to bring entertainment to the students, as well as to our invited guests all across the country. MSA members from all over the continent will perform some of most original and entertaining pieces you have ever heard. Get ready for a night of entertainment of creativity and unique talents!

M.C.: Aatif Sharieff

12:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m. **Qiyam ul-Layl**

### **Overcoming our Weaknesses: Purifying the Heart**

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.)

Speaker: Mokhtar Maghraoui

Sunday September 1st, 2008

5:30 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. **After Fajr Series**, Tafseer of Surah Ar-Rum (Chapter 30)

Speaker: Hisham Mahmoud

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Main Session 5 Room: Regency Ballroom

### **No Shame in the Game: Finding the Right One**

Marriage is a huge milestone in the lives of Muslim students. Yet many students find the process difficult or daunting. This session will help Muslim students learn more about how to go about getting married. Promoting a healthy marriage process is vital to forming sustainable Muslim families and communities. What are some common problems when trying to get married? Have your common fears and questions addressed in this session.

Speakers: Altaf Husain, Suhaib Webb, Aamarah DeCuir

Moderator: Yasmin Hussein

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p. m Zhur

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Main Session 6 Room: Regency Ballroom

**A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action**

Muslim students have a proud history, but where do we go from here? What is the vision for the North American Muslim community? Have competing viewpoints and divisive rhetoric have impaired the Muslim community from progressing? This session will discuss the importance of a cohesive vision, what that vision is, and how we can mobilize our resources to start making this vision a reality.

Speakers: Yasir Qadhi, Faraz Rabbani, Abd al-Hakim Jackson  
Moderator: Tauqeer Zaidi

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 2a – Room: Franklin

**Islam Awareness Week: The Next Level**

Ever have trouble explaining an aspect of Islam to your classmates or professors? Holding an interfaith or dawah event on campus? Learn about resources has to help you effectively reach out to the broader campus community.

Speakers: Nasreen Badat, Daniell Tutt, Hind Makki  
Moderator: Randa Kuziez

3:30 p.m – 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 2b: Room: Hayes

**Muslim Public Servants: Exploring a Career in Politics**

Are you interested in Public Service? What does running for office entail? How can Muslims effectively communicate their faith visions to the voters? What other careers exist for Muslims in the government? Learn from Washington insiders what it takes to make it in US politics.

Speakers: Shaarik Zafar, DHS. Assad Akhter, Legislative Director, Mark Ward, USAID  
Moderator: Asma Rehman

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 2c: Room: Delaware AB

**What To Do, What Not to Do: Gender Relations in Islam**

Gender Relations can be the trickiest of all aspects with in an MSA. Contributions from both brothers and sisters are necessary and relevant in Islamic work. What are some appropriate guidelines when working with the opposite gender? What is your MSA doing that works and what can be improved on? This workshop will boil down common concerns regarding Islamic interaction between female and male Muslims into a three part analysis. Furthermore, the workshop will allow all interested parties to develop interaction guidelines for specific common scenarios. There will also

be a brief question answer period to discuss any relevant concerns specific to your MSA.

Speaker: Atifa Chiragh, COMPASS Trainer

3:30 p.m – 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 2d: Room: Delaware CD

**Combating Islamophobia**

This year, a mosque was found with graffiti saying "Go back home 9/11 murderers" and posters with large block letters displaying "Hate Muslims? So do we!" On another campus, a faculty member sent hate mail to the MSA asking Muslims to leave the country. Come learn how your university campus can be transformed from being Islamophobic to Muslim Friendly. This session will share best practices to make your campus more culturally sensitive to Muslim needs. Many campuses nationwide have made this positive transformation and you could help make your campus be next.

Speakers: Farhan Latif, COMPASS Trainer

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Main Session 7 Room: Main Hall

**Ramadan: An Impetus for Cures** Convention Center

Struggling with depression and addictions can weaken a person's faith. Many young Muslims struggle from a crisis of conscience. Some have been trying to overcome addictions to various things both physical and non-physical. Ramadan is an invaluable opportunity to begin making changes in our lives. This session will explore how Ramadan can help us overcome the weaknesses we've been struggling with all year. Now is the time to be inspired by Allah's mercy for sending us Ramadan. Now is the time to become motivated to not let our challenges hold us back any longer.

Speakers: Hamza Yusuf, Zaid Shakir, Suhaib Webb, Altaf Husain, Asma Mirza

Moderator: Mohamed Sheibani

8:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. MAGHRIB & DINNER

12:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. **Qiyam ul-Layl,  
Overcoming our Weaknesses: Purifying the Heart**

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).

Speaker: Mokhtar Maghraoui

Monday September 2nd, 2008

5:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. After Fajr Series, Tafseer of Surah Mulk

For those who are fasting, MSA National will be providing a modest Sahur near the prayer hall.

Speaker: Hisham Mahmoud

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m MSA National Volunteer Appreciation Session