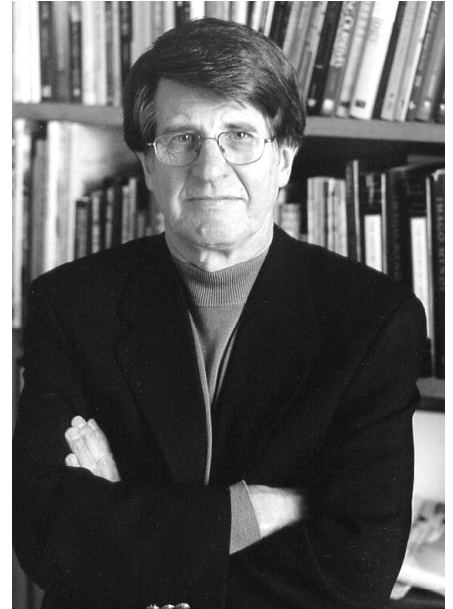


# ABS Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BAHÁ'Í STUDIES—NORTH AMERICA

## Will van den Hoonaard named 2007 Balyuzi Lecturer



Will van den Hoonaard, 2007 Balyuzi Lecturer

The Executive Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies has announced that Will. C. van den Hoonaard has been named to deliver the 25th Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture at the Association's 31st Annual Conference. The conference will be held in Mississauga, Ontario, over the weekend of 16–19 August 2007 on the theme "Scholarship and Community Building."

Dr. van den Hoonaard is Professor of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick. He has authored six books, including two on Bahá'í topics: *The Origins of the Bahá'í Community of Canada, 1898–1948* (1996) and *The Equality of Women and Men: The Experience of the Canadian Bahá'í Community* (2006), coauthored with his wife Deborah.

He has published or presented some 225 papers, some 50 of which deal with Bahá'í Studies.

Dr. van den Hoonaard obtained a B.A. (Honors in Sociology and Anthropology) at the University of New Brunswick in 1970, an M.A. in these fields at Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1972, and a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Manchester, England, in 1977.

He is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and is recipient of the Merit Award from the University of New Brunswick and the UNB President's Gold Medal in February 2007.

Dr. van den Hoonaard's scholarly work extends into the fields of cartography, marine resource management, human rights, multiculturalism, qualitative research, history, social move-

ments, chaos theory, and research ethics. He is a founding member of Canada's Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics and was the first Chair of the Panel's Social Sciences and Humanities Working Committee on Ethics. He served recently as a WHO consultant on ethics and qualitative health research. He takes special interest in nurturing new Bahá'í scholars or other scholars interested in studying the Bahá'í community. ☺

## Annual Conference update

### Three special programs planned for Thursday

The mandate of the Association for Bahá'í Studies is "to stimulate scholarly study of the Faith and its teachings, to promote a sound understanding of the Cause in academic circles, and to demonstrate its relevance to the study of social issues" and "to stimulate an appetite for learning within the Bahá'í community generally" (Written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, in a letter to an individual

believer dated 22 February 2005.) In keeping with this mandate, the Association is pleased to announce three new special programs to be held on the opening day of the 2007 conference, Thursday 16 August.

Each program will run from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., followed by an evening plenary session after dinner. There are no additional fees for the programs, and they are integral part of the conference which all participants

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# Plenary speakers at annual conference

Among the plenary speakers at this year's annual conference will be Haleh Arbab from the Bahá'í World Centre; Augusto Lopez-Claros, Chief Economist of the World Economic Forum; and Thomas Homer-Dixon, Director of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

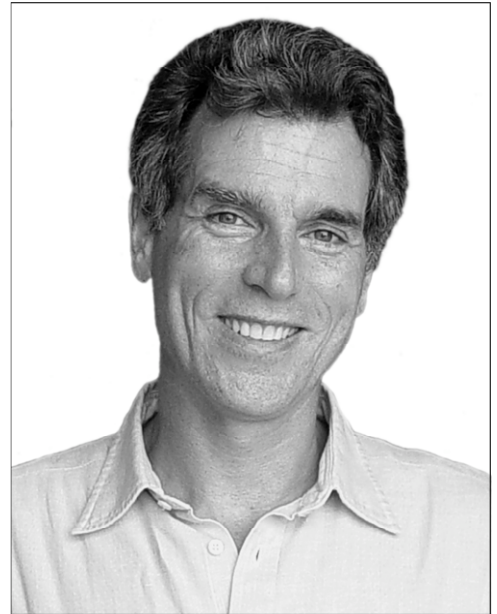
Dr. Homer-Dixon received his Ph.D. from MIT in international relations and defense and arms control policy in 1989. He then moved to the University of Toronto to lead several research projects studying the links between environmental stress and violence in developing countries.

Recently, his research has focused

on threats to global security in the 21st century and on how societies adapt to complex economic, ecological, and technological change.

His books include *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization* (Knopf, Island Press, 2006), *The Ingenuity Gap* (Knopf, 2000), which won the 2001 Governor General's Nonfiction Award, and *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (Princeton University Press, 1999), which won the Caldwell Prize of the American Political Science Association.

His most recent book, *The Upside of Down*, sets out a theory of the growth, crisis, and renewal of societies, arguing that today's converging energy, envi-



Thomas Homer-Dixon

ronmental, and political-economic stresses could cause a breakdown of national and global order. Yet there are things we can do to keep such a breakdown from being catastrophic; and some kinds of breakdown could even open up extraordinary opportunities for creative, bold reform of our societies, if we're prepared to exploit these opportunities when they arise. ☰

## Special Interest Group calls for presentations

Building on the success of last year's conference, and learning from experiences in this process, the Executive Committee would like to continue to integrate the presentations organized through the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) as tracks within the conference program, rather than having a separate "SIG Day" as was done in the past.

If you would like to submit a proposal to one of the Special Interest Group sessions, please go to <[www.bahai-studies.ca](http://www.bahai-studies.ca)>.

Below are the Special Interest Group calls for presentations that have been received as of press time.

### Business, Ethics, and Management Science

The Business, Ethics and Management Science SIG will meet for several sessions during the 31st Annual Conference. They invite your creative proposals for workshops, panel pre-

sentations, interactive activities, and presentations. Presenters from all backgrounds are welcome: students, recent graduates, entrepreneurs, employers, and employees.

Possible topics include Business Ethics and Community service; Community Economic Development; Corporate Social Responsibility; and Strategic Sustainability, Economic, Social and Environmental Value Creation. To join the Business, Ethics, and Management Science SIG please contact Nousha Etemad (coordinator), <[nousha@gmail.com](mailto:nousha@gmail.com)>.

### Education

The Education SIG will meet for several sessions during the conference, exploring the intersection between education and the conference theme. They invite your creative proposals for workshops, panel presentations,

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The *ABS Bulletin* (ISSN 0840-6138) is published quarterly by the Association for Bahá'í Studies, a nonprofit scholarly organization with 1487 international open memberships and 118 institutional memberships. The Association promotes scholarship on all aspects of the Bahá'í Faith; holds conferences and seminars on promising research fields; develops courses, lectureships, and other formal presentations relating Bahá'í principles to scholarly research fields; and publishes books, as well as the refereed *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*.

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# Announcements and Calls for Papers

## Science and Transcendence Research Grants

STARS (Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series), a program administered by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (<<http://www.ctns.org/>>), in Berkeley, California, seeks to sponsor research by small teams of scientists and humanities scholars on “the ways science, in light of philosophical and theological reflection, points towards the nature, character, and meaning of ultimate reality.”

Priority will be given to young scientists with outstanding potential who are relatively new to interdisciplinary research. STARS will award up to 27 grants totaling \$1.3 million to research teams on a highly competitive basis.

Twenty planning grants of \$20,000 each will be awarded to assist teams in the formation of a full proposal for a \$100,000 grant and/or to provide modest support for research by the teams even if it does not lead to a full proposal. Next, up to five grants of \$100,000 each will be awarded. Finally, research grant renewals of \$200,000 will be awarded to up to two winners of the \$100,000 grants.

Research planning grant applications are due **1 May 2007**. Research grant applications are due **1 November 2007**.

Visit the STARS Web site for complete program information and application procedures. RFP Link: <<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10005868/ctnsstars>>.

## 2007 ABS–Japan Conference Call for Papers

The 15th Annual Conference of ABS Japan will be held in Tokyo, October 6–8, 2007, at the Shinjuku Bunka

Center. The theme will be “Answers to Social Problems” and there will be a special emphasis on increasing the number of non-Bahá’í attendees. There will be a visit to Meiji Shrine after the conference, led by ABS Chair Hiroshi Tsunoi.

Conference attendees can stay at the Bahá’í Center if they wish. The organizers especially encourage presentations addressing basic themes relating the Bahá’í Faith to social problems of today, particularly within Japanese society, and hope to give these papers to the National Spiritual Assembly for use on its Web site as position papers. For more information about the conference, contact Sandra Fotos, e-mail: <[sfotos@gol.com](mailto:sfotos@gol.com)>.

## Religion and World Order Call for Papers

Although religion has for decades been marginal to the study of international affairs, it is forcefully reasserting itself upon the consciousness of scholars and world leaders.

Continuing global integration in economics, politics, and society creates new opportunities for religious ideas and communities to proliferate and engage—in both peace and war. From the “war on terror” to domestic crises in Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and Israel, religion features as a security liability. In the field of social welfare and development, religious communities employ innovative and humane strategies for promoting peace, relieving poverty, and building human capacity. However, while religion is “back” on the agenda, it is less clear how we should study it and to what extent it contributes to processes of disintegration and integration in world order.

For these reasons, the *St Antony’s International Review* (STAIR) invites

academics, young researchers, and policy experts to submit abstracts of papers that explore one or more of the following lines of inquiry for its forthcoming issue on “Religion and World Order.”

*Methodology: Studying Religion in International Affairs.* Religion, it is now commonly said, has returned to the academic study of politics and international relations. Confusion remains, however, about how religion should be studied in this context. Should we concentrate on religious ideas, actors, institutions, or traditions? How autonomous, if at all, is religion from other factors such as the national context and material interests?

By what standards—whether normative, ethical, or empirical—are we to assess the impact of religious communities and teachings on international affairs? Can social science methodologies that valorize materialist explanations help scholars to respond to pressing questions about religion and world order? What contribution can the history, teachings, and philosophies of world religions make to the study of international affairs?

*Disintegration: Extremism and Violence.* Although most religions share an aspiration for peace and justice, religion is implicated in the majority of the world’s civil conflicts. Whether as the rhetorical instrument of the state or as an ideology of resistance against the state, religious extremism justifies violence across the globe. How do these religious fault lines emerge? Are religious traditions incommensurable, or are we witnessing the creation of new forms of religious extremism?

Is “modernity” a bulwark against religious conflict, or an underlying cause? As patterns of community and sources of authority, ancient religions

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## SIG calls for presentations

*Continued from page 3*

interactive activities, and presentations. Presenters from all backgrounds are welcome: practicing teachers, Bahá'í school teachers, parents, academics, students, and others. If you want to discuss your ideas, please contact Kamilla Bahbahani (coordinator) at <kamillab@gmail.com>.

Possible areas of focus are:

*Education and Community*—The Oneness of Humanity and classroom community-building; forms of collective and group learning in classrooms; community involvement in schools, and school outreach into the community; education as a generative process for addressing community issues; community and education in the Five Year Plan; *Evolution of Education Systems*—evolving oneness-based models for new education systems; education as “enacting knowledge” versus replicating, reproducing, or ignoring learning and spiritual insights; how education can create agents of change and break from its historical pattern as a force of indoctrination and inertia; *Education as Scholarship*—creating new paradigms of scholarship and education, or scholarship in education; critique and possibilities of students as scholars, including through project-based and student directed learning; children's stories about and perspectives on the role of school in their lives; *Curriculum for “sincerity and purity of purpose”*—curriculum and instruction for enabling learners to “arise with complete sincerity and purity of purpose” to educate others; methods for educating learners in the “diverse religious, cultural, political, historical and scientific knowledge” required for the spiritually learned; how education can elicit both spiritual and material potential; any other topic that explores the conference themes.

## Philosophy

The Philosophy SIG is interested in receiving papers relating philosophy to the Bahá'í Faith for presentation at the Annual Conference. Presentations may be up to 45–50 minutes in length, which includes some time for questions and comments. However, shorter presentations are also appreciated. New and first-time presenters are especially encouraged to participate. Formal training in philosophy is not a requirement. All who have an interest in philosophy are welcome.

It is suggested that presenters bring copies of their talks for distribution to the audience afterwards. Attendance at Philosophy SIG presentations averages between 25 and 35 people. You will find there is great interest in these papers even among those who have not attended your session.

Presentations may be on any topic relating Western or non-Western philosophy to the Bahá'í Faith.

In keeping with this year's Theme Statement, there is a special interest in presentations showing how philosophers can make their knowledge and skills “an integral part of the dynamic of all community life” and how philosophy can contribute to an understanding of “the principle of the Oneness of mankind.” The Philosophy SIG is open to all approaches to philosophy.

Should you require further information or any assistance with your preparing your proposal, please contact Ian Kluge (coordinator) at <iankluge@netbistro.com>.

## Peace and Conflict Studies

Bahá'ís, and Bahá'í-inspired approaches to the study of peace have the opportunity to positively contribute to the shape of peace discourse on the basis of religious, scientific, philosophical, and ethical principles and ideas.

Specifically, the challenge is how to develop an approach to the study of peace which takes as its starting point the premise of the fundamental

oneness of humanity and the reality of unity.

Contributions are welcomed from persons in all walks of life who share the objective of demonstrating the relevance of the principle of oneness to the goal of universal peace, and the development of the field of peace studies. Suggested topics for presentations include reflections on the 95th Anniversary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's tour to North America and Europe, and the message of peace 'Abdu'l-Bahá delivered; explorations of the implications of the principle of oneness for peace studies; the role of consultation in the development of peace; conflict intervention and the oneness of humankind; the values and assumptions of the normative and contemporary Peace and Conflict Studies field; the values of Bahá'í-inspired peace science; peace studies: the role of religion, science, and/or philosophy in the development of the discipline; peace. Contact Kimberly Syphrett, e-mail, <ksyphrett@gmail.com>.

For other SIG calls, the proposal guidelines and to submit a proposal to any of the SIGs, go to <<http://www.bahai-studies.ca/>>. The deadline for submissions is **15 April 2007**.

## Annual Conference registration and hotel information

Hotel reservations for the ABS Annual Conference must be made directly with the conference hotel, the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 2L3; Tel.: 905-542-4003; toll-free reservation number: 800-422-8238 (Between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., Eastern time, Mon. through Fri.).

You must mention the **Association for Bahá'í Studies Conference** to receive the special conference rate. Room rates (in CDN dollars): \$109 single/double; \$129 triple/quad.

**“Scholarship and Community Building”**  
**Association for Bahá’í Studies**  
**31st Annual Conference**  
**16–19 August 2007**  
**Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, Toronto, Canada**  
**Online registration: [www.bahai-studies.ca/conferences.php](http://www.bahai-studies.ca/conferences.php)**

Please register for EACH person attending the conference by fax: 1-613-233-3644, by phone: 1-613-233-1903, online, or by mail: 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 7K4.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If this registrant is a child, please indicate age \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

		<b>ABS Member</b>		<b>Nonmember</b>	
<b>Full Conference (Four Days) Fees</b>	<b>Individual Adults</b>	<b>By May 31</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>\$140*</b>	
		<b>By July 31</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$150*</b>	
		<b>After July 31</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$160*</b>	
	<b>Couples</b>	<b>By May 31</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$200*</b>	
		<b>By July 31</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$210*</b>	
		<b>After July 31</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$220*</b>	
	<b>Seniors (65+)/ Students/ Unwaged</b>	<b>By May 31</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>\$90*</b>	
		<b>By July 31</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$100*</b>	
		<b>After July 31</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>\$110*</b>	
	<small>*This fee includes a 1-year membership in the Association, including a year's subscription to The Journal of Bahá'í Studies and ABS Bulletin, and discounts on ABS publications and conferences. U.S. memberships are charged at the U.S. currency rate.</small>				
<b>Children (ages 5–15)</b>		<b>\$60</b>	<b>Children must be registered by July 31</b>		

		<b>ABS Member</b>		<b>Nonmember</b>	
<b>One-day fees</b>	<b>Individual Adults</b>	<b>By July 31</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$50**</b>	
		<b>After July 31</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$60**</b>	
	<small>**This fee does not include membership.</small>				
<b>Children (ages 5–15)</b>		<b>\$30</b>	<b>children must be registered by July 31</b>		

		<b>Special Discounts</b>	
<b>New!</b>	<b>Senior Couple</b>	<b>10% discount on total registration fee</b>	
	<b>Family</b>	<b>20% discount on total registration fee</b>	
	<b>(parents and dependent children under 21—3 persons minimum)</b>		

**Special Thursday Programs**

I will attend (please tick one)

Student Development Program

Faculty Development Program

Intensive Study of the Bahá’í Writings on Conference Theme

**REGISTRATION FEES**  
Please circle one fee.  
**ALL CONFERENCE FEES ARE IN CANADIAN DOLLARS\***

Total Fees: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Contribution: + \_\_\_\_\_  
(Add any amount)

**GRAND TOTAL** = \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment

- Cheque                       Money Order
- VISA                               MasterCard
- American Express

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Expiry Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name (please print clearly)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature

CANCELLATION POLICY: Registration fees are refundable, less 10% administrative fees if the Association is notified by July 31, and less 20% administrative fees if notified after July 31. Registrants from outside Canada, please note: fees paid by credit card are processed in Canada. Some credit card companies apply a service charge for transactions taking place in another Country.

## Location and Reservations

The site chosen for the conference is the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, located in the suburban city of Mississauga, just 15 minutes by shuttle from Lester B. Pearson International Airport and only 30 minutes from downtown Toronto. Recreational features at the hotel include tennis, squash and fitness facilities, indoor and outdoor pools, steam rooms, whirlpool, a Children's Creative Centre and a five-hole putting green.

### **Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre**

**6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5N 2L3**

#### **Special conference room rate:**

**Single/double occupancy: CDN \$109 per night (plus tax)**

**Triple/ quadruple occupancy: CDN \$129 per night (plus tax)**

**Conference attendees must make hotel reservations directly with the hotel. To receive the special rate you must ask for the Association for Bahá'í Studies special conference rate when making your reservation.**

**Toll-free Reservations: 1-800-422-8238 (Between the hours of 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday).**

**Local Reservations: 905-542-4003**



Please note: ABS has been guaranteed a limited block of rooms at this rate until 16 July 2007. After that date, reservations may be accepted on a space-availability basis at the negotiated rate. To ensure that you obtain the low rate, be sure make your reservations as soon as possible, and no later than July 16th.



## Tourism and Entertainment

Toronto is the largest city in Canada, with more than 4.8 million residents. It is Canada's number-one visitor destination with all the amenities of a cosmopolitan centre including a spectacular skyline, fabulous restaurants, and an exciting cultural life—along with Canada's signature hospitality and cleanliness. Make it a family vacation and come before or stay on after the conference to enjoy the attractions such as the Casa Loma Castle, CN Tower, Harbor Cruises, Ontario Science Centre, African Lion Safari, Wild Water Kingdom, Metro Toronto Zoo, Royal Ontario Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada's Wonderland, and many other sightseeing delights. For those who are attending from the United States, your dollar buys you a lot

more than the Canadian price tag. Also, roughly an hour's drive from the city, you can visit North America's classic tourist attraction, Niagara Falls; The Shaw Festival (Niagara-on-the-Lake); and The Stratford Festival (world's major Shakespearean festival held annually in Stratford, Ontario). For further information about tours, attractions, and activities in Toronto, call Toronto Tourism at 1-800-363-1990, or check the Toronto Tourism Web site at <[www.torontotourism.com](http://www.torontotourism.com)>.

## Room sharing

Reduce your conference costs (and make new friends!) by sharing a room at the hotel. To contact other attendees interested in sharing a room, please join the Yahoo! Group "ABS-NA Conference" by visiting its site: <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/absconference>> or by sending an e-mail to <[absconference-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:absconference-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)>.

NOTE: attendees must make their own hotel reservations and are responsible for contacting interested parties to make their own sharing arrangements. If you encounter difficulties with the Yahoo! Group system, please contact the Association for Bahá'í Studies office for assistance.

## Conference update

*Continued from page 1*

are eagerly encouraged to attend. Preliminary details on each program are as follows:

### 1. Student Development Program.

This day-long special program for university students (and prospective students) offers an opportunity to develop and share insights, skills, and strategies for pursuing Bahá'í scholarship in a university setting. This participatory program will begin with an orientation to Bahá'í scholarship, followed by small-group study of the new ABS workbook on *Scholarship, Service and Social Action*, followed by consultation with members of the ABS Executive Committee. Students will then meet in a joint session with faculty to consult about Bahá'í scholarship and mentoring possibilities on university campuses.

### 2. Faculty Development Program.

This day-long special program for university faculty (including prospective faculty and advanced graduate students) offers a forum to consult about aspects of Bahá'í scholarship such as publishing opportunities and strategies, possible collaborations, methodological issues, tenure-related issues, the mentoring of youth, and the development of courses that incorporate Bahá'í content. During the latter part of the program, faculty will meet in a joint session with students to share experiences, respond to their questions, and consult with them about mentoring possibilities on university campuses.

3. *Scholarship and Community-Building: An Intensive Study of the Bahá'í Writings Relevant to the Conference Program – Open to All Conference Participants.* All conference participants are invited to attend the full-day session of guided study of the Bahá'í writings relevant to the conference theme, “Scholarship and Community Building.” The session will include presentations by prominent Bahá'í scholars, as well as partic-

ipatory workshops and study sessions. This session will be an invaluable preparation for the remainder of the conference, and a unique opportunity for developing one's understanding of the Bahá'í writings. More details of the session will be provided shortly.

## Conference theme

Community is the organic entity in which human spiritual and material potential can emerge. It is where people interact and where they try to enact the knowledge received from both spiritual insight and from the pursuit of sciences, arts, and humanities. The process of building a new kind of community, at once world-embracing and locally rooted, must acknowledge the community as a “comprehensive unit of civilization”<sup>1</sup> and its capacity to set a “new course in social evolution.”<sup>2</sup>

Within the community, those pursuing scholarship, through whatever diverse paths, can play specific roles. They not only contribute to the community's evolution through their expertise<sup>3</sup>, but also are an integral part of the dynamic of all community life. This dynamic changes and grows with new understandings of human realities, which in turn stimulate new knowledge and new ways of sharing that knowledge. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, defining the characteristics of the spiritually learned, advised that they should acquire both spiritual and material perfections in order to serve society, should be knowledgeable in diverse religious, cultural, political, historical and scientific knowledge, and should “arise with complete sincerity and purity of purpose” to educate people.<sup>4</sup>

The Bahá'í efforts in community building require a profound understanding and exploration of the Guardian's statement that “The principle of the Oneness of mankind—the pivot round which all the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh revolve . . . implies an

organic change in the structure of present day society, a change such as the world has not yet experienced.”<sup>5</sup>

The Association for Bahá'í Studies Executive Committee invites both new and more experienced presenters to explore the theme of scholarship and community building at its annual conference in Toronto. Possible sub-topics might include: scholarship and social responsibility, the Five Year Plan, religious scholarship without priesthood, creating new paradigms of scholarship and education, and new ideas of community and relationship within the physical and life sciences, among others.

## Call for presentations

Proposals are invited for presentations and workshops on (but not limited to) the above themes, as well as performing arts presentations.

Proposals must be submitted online at the ABS Web site. Potential presenters unable to submit online may contact the address below for further information on alternate means of submission. Presentation content should go beyond the overview and summary approach typical of a summer school course or talk to explore an original question or proposition through a clearly described method or theoretical approach.

While many presentations are in the style of academic talks or workshop-discussions, the use of the arts and other diverse approaches is also encouraged. All presentations should engage the participants in review and in contributing to the development of the ideas raised.

Presentations must be substantially original work, unpublished and not previously presented. Papers will be considered for publication in *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies*. Proposals are especially welcome from youth and first-time ABS presenters.

Guidelines for submissions and the

*Continued on page 8*

## Announcements

*Continued from page 3*

adapt and transform in response to contemporary challenges. What are these challenges and adaptations, particularly in terms of the construction and contestation of identity, and what are the hopes of peace?

*Integration: Belonging and Community.* While religion has a deeply spiritual and mystical dimension, it also promotes distinctive patterns of community life. Religious communities assume identities that may be cosmopolitan, parochial, or strictly national—each with diverse conceptualizations of how space is made sacred. How do religious communities and states negotiate religious pluralism, and how can religious traditions foster integration in pluralist societies?

With increasing global mobility, how do migrant believers adapt or sustain their religious practices in secular societies? What is the condition of religious minorities in theocratic or autocratic states? How is religion used to support nationalism or envision cosmopolitanism? How does religiously inspired action promote democratization processes? What are appropriate roles for religion in international development? How might religion contribute to diplomacy? What are the promises, pitfalls, and results of interfaith dialogue?

The deadline to submit abstracts is **30 April 2007**. Papers are due **31 August 2007**.

In conjunction with this general call for papers, STAIR also seeks to publish book reviews of works that adhere to the advertised theme of the

issue. If you are interested in submitting book reviews related to the theme “Religion and World Order,” please contact Kalin Ivanov at <kalin.ivanov@politics.ox.ac.uk>. Notes for contributors are available at <www.sant.ox.ac.uk/STAIR> or contact: <stair@sant.ox.ac.uk>.

## Members' News

**Rhett Diessner (Lewiston, Idaho)** has published *Psyche and Eros: Bahá'í Studies in a Spiritual Psychology* in the George Ronald Bahá'í Studies Series. **Deborah van den Hoonaard and Will van den Hoonaard (Fredericton, New Brunswick) van den Hoonaard** have published *The Equality of Women and Men: The Experience of the Bahá'í Community of Canada* (2006). **Will van den Hoonaard** has been selected as a recipient of the University of New Brunswick President's Medal. The award honors outstanding teaching, research and/or service over the span of a career at the University of New Brunswick.

### Conference update

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online submission form are available on the ABS Web site, <www.bahai-studies.ca>, and you can also contact ABS, tel.: (613) 233-1903; fax: (613) 233-3644; or e-mail: <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca> if you would like assistance preparing a proposal.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **15 April 2007**.

#### Notes

1. Universal House of Justice, Ridván 1996, to the Bahá'ís of the World.
2. Universal House of Justice, Ridván 1984, to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States.
3. Universal House of Justice, 21 August 1977, to an individual, Scholarship compilation, #39.
4. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Secret of Divine Civilization*, 35–36.
5. Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 43.

## Excerpt from Peter Khan's talk at 2006 annual conference

“The Faith has, without any equivocation, emphasized the continuing need for Bahá'í scholarly activity. Again and again we have passages from the Guardian, and from the House of Justice which say, without hesitation: we want more Bahá'ís to be engaged in scholarly activity. Don't hold back. Don't run away. Don't feel afraid that it will disturb your adherence to the Covenant or that you will be a source of headache and difficulty and nuisance to the Bahá'í community. Go for it. Be part of the Bahá'í scholarly community.

“The House of Justice has said in a recent letter—or a letter written on its behalf by its secretariat, “The Universal House of Justice regards Bahá'í scholarship as of great potential importance for the development and consolidation of the Bahá'í community as it emerges from obscurity.” That statement of the House of Justice is without qualification, and it does no more than reiterate statements made equally as strongly by the Guardian. So those who have some concerns should not do so. At the same time, obviously they should be smart and intelligent. They should make themselves strong in the Covenant. They should become steadfast believers in the Cause. They should immerse themselves deeply in the provisions of the Covenant—understand it at a deep fundamental level so nothing can shake them and the nasty statements that sometimes appear on the Internet will not be a source of spiritual disturbance to them. . . .”

*You can download the text of Dr. Khan's presentation on the ABS Web site or purchase the audio CD at the ABS online store at <www.bahai-studies.ca>.*