

**Ascending Heights of Excellence:
Scholarship, Service and Social Action**

Conference for Young Adults

Organized by the Association for Bahá'í Studies-North America
at the request of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States

Skokie, Illinois
April 1-3, 2005

Friday evening (Empire Room)

Session chair: Matt Weinberg

- 6:00 pm Registration opens
- 7:30-7:55 Devotions
- 7:55-8:20 Welcome, Overview, and Thoughts about “Questions”
- 8:20-8:50 Welcome by National Spiritual Assembly (Robert Henderson) and
Continental Board of Counselors (Stephen Birkland)
- 8:50-9:10 Youth Desk Presentation, “What is Bahá'í Scholarship?” (Javad Luckey)
- 9:10-9:30 Brief Reflections from John Hatcher and Charles Carnegie
- 10:15-10:45 House of Worship open for prayers – carpool/shuttle from hotel

Saturday morning (Empire Room)

Session chair: Martha Schweitz

- 8:45-9:00 am Devotions
- 9:00-10:00 Presentations by Stephen Birkland and Robert Henderson, followed by
discussion
- 10:00-10:30 What's on your Mind and Heart? A Time for Questions
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:25 **Young Adult Panel**
- Husayn Allmart, “My Own Seven Valleys: Finding my Voice and Calling in the Academy”
 - Camille Henderson Zorich, “Serving the Faith through Study”
 - Ashkon Monfared, “Qualities of the Scholar”
 - Lisa Dufraimont, “Reflections on the Study of Law”

12:25-12:30 Introduction of other resources/participants and afternoon workshops

12:30-2:00 Lunch will be served in the Concourse Room (included in registration)

Saturday afternoon

2:00-3:30 **Workshop Session I -- Dimensions of Bahá'í Scholarship**

The purpose of this set of workshops is to give all conference participants the opportunity to share and discuss in a small group setting their own reflections, experiences and questions regarding Bahá'í scholarship. (See your conference packet cover for your workshop number.)

- #1 - Boulevard Room
- #2 - Beijing Room
- #3 - St. Charles Room
- #4 - Batavia Room
- #5 - Tokyo Room
- #6 - Hong Kong Room

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-5:15 **Workshop Session II -- Outward Looking Orientation**

This set of workshops focuses on various expressions and outcomes of advancing Bahá'í scholarship and integrating it with other service and social action.

- A - Promoting Bahá'í Scholarship on Campus** – N. Kourosch & Javad Luckey of the Youth Desk discuss various methods of building bridges between academic studies and the Bahá'í Teachings (Boulevard Room)
- B - Approaching Contemporary Issues** - Aaron Emmel, author of *Taking Action* (George Ronald, forthcoming 12/05), offers tools for evaluating and addressing contemporary social problems through the application of Bahá'í principles (Beijing Room)
- C - Academic Publishing** - Charles Carnegie, Prof. of Anthropology, gives an overview of his recent book offering the Bahá'í community as a model, *Postnationalism Prefigured: Caribbean Borderlands* (Rutgers Univ. Press), and the publication process (Tokyo Room)
- D –Bahá'ís and Public Policy**, “Treading the Path of Principle” - Matt Weinberg, formerly with the Bahá'í International Community and the U.S. Congress, discusses how Bahá'ís engage in public policy at the individual and community levels (Hong Kong Room)

5:15-7:30 Dinner and social time (on your own)

Saturday evening (Empire Room)

Session chairs: N. Kourosh and Javad Luckey

7:30-7:45 pm Devotions

7:45-9:00 Keynote Presentation: John Hatcher, followed by discussion

9:00-9:30 Music: Half Caste (Ekundayo, Jon Ellis, Jessica Gaines, Emiliano Morondos, Mia Townsend)

10:15-10:45 House of Worship open for prayers – carpool/shuttle from hotel

******Please remember to set your clock ahead one hour - Daylight Savings Time begins******

Sunday morning (Empire Room)

Session chair: Robert Henderson

8:45-9:00am Devotions

9:00-10:30 **Young Adult Panel**

- Ron Tingook, “Some Thoughts on Earth Science”
- Kelly Snook, “The Best Field of Study for Bahá’í Service – Finding your Path”
- Olya Vinnik, “Bahá’í Principles and Career Development: Choosing a Field and Finding a Job”

10:30-10:45 Youth and Social Change Task Force presentation

10:45-11:0 Break

11:00-12:00 A Time for Answers: Did you get some? How are we learning? Can we integrate Bahá’í scholarship, service to the global plans of the Faith, and social action? What new questions do we have? What do we do next?

12:00-12:30 Closing comments by Stephen Birkland, Robert Henderson and the ABS Executive Committee
Closing prayers