

Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America
29th Annual Conference
“Science, Religion, and Social Transformation”

11–14 August 2005
Hyatt Regency Cambridge
Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

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Important Information

Conference Badge. Your conference badge is your “ticket of admission” to all sessions. You must wear it to attend conference sessions. The security personnel will not allow admittance to anyone without a badge.

Security. The security personnel are there to assist you. Please follow their instructions at all times. They can be identified by red ribbons on their badges.

Promptness. This year the schedule of sessions is very full. To give equal time to the speakers, the sessions must begin on time. We request your cooperation in arriving promptly.

Cell Phones. The ringing of mobile telephones in the audience is very disruptive to a presentation. Please turn off your cell phone or put it in “silent” mode while you are in the conference sessions.

The Children’s and Junior Youth Program. (Children must be preregistered to attend.) The Children’s Program, for ages 5 to 15, is being held in Cambridge and Aquarium Rooms on the 2nd Floor. Parents may drop off children at their program 15 minutes before the adult session starting time. Parents are asked to pick up their children promptly at the close of each session and for the lunch breaks. (Meals are not included in the children’s program.) The times for Children/Junior Youth sessions are

Thursday 11 August	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Friday 12 August	9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Saturday 13 August	9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 14 August	9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The program of children's activities is available at the Conference Registration Table. Parents are required to sign a Medical Information and Emergency Health Care Release form and return it to the Children's Program coordinators.

The Conference Bookstore is operated by the Bahá'í Distribution Service. The bookstore is located in the Paul Revere Room on the 1st Floor and offers a wide selection of books and materials, including books and CDs by authors and artists presenting at the conference, and Bahá'í jewelry. Hours of operation are

Thursday 11 August	2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Friday 12 August	9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Saturday 13 August	9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Sunday, 14 August	9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Evaluation Forms. The ABS Executive Committee asks for your assistance and cooperation in filling out the conference evaluation forms provided in your conference kit and for each breakout session. Please drop off your evaluations in the containers provided or at the Conference Registration Table. Your feedback is very valuable to us in our continuing efforts to improve the Conference.

Membership. In support of the Association's membership drive, we ask you to encourage your friends and Spiritual Assemblies to join the Association. Please use the membership form enclosed in your conference kit. More forms are available at the Conference Information Table.

Audio Recordings. Conference plenary sessions will be recorded and will be available for purchase on audio CD. An order form is included in your conference kit and additional forms are available at the Conference Information Desk. Please fill out the form with your credit card number and the CDs will be mailed to you after the conference.

Lost and Found. Lost and found articles should be reported to the Conference Registration Table. After the close of the conference, any items not picked up will be turned over to the hotel.

Prayer Room. The Regency Room, on the 10th Floor, has been set aside for prayer and meditation from Friday to Sunday, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

SPECIAL FEATURES AT THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR

☆ **Evening Coffeehouse.** After each evening's program there will be three coffeehouses where conference attendees can socialize and enjoy listening to live music until midnight. Performing artists at the conference are encouraged to sign up to perform at these events. A sign-up sheet will be available near the Conference Registration Table. The coffeehouses will be located in President's Ballroom D, Empress Room on the 14th Floor, and Spinnaker Restaurant on the 16th Floor.

☆ **"Office Hours"**—Meet the presenters at "office hours." Check the information board in the Conference Registration area.

☆ **Networking Lunches**— Check the information board for time, topics, and locations.

Thursday, 11 August 2005

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Special Interest Groups

Location

Regency Club
1:00–5:00 p.m.

Architecture and the Built Environment

Convener: DOUGLAS RAYNOR

There will be an organizational meeting for those interested in discussing how the values and principles of the Bahá'í Faith relate to the built environment. This meeting will serve to renew a forum for discussion earlier known as the Bahá'í Institute for the Built Environment. Architects, engineers, property and facility managers, landscape architects, interior designers and those with an interest in the built environment from an environmental perspective are encouraged to join an open consultation to organize an ABS Special Interest Group for the Built Environment. An architectural tour of the State of Massachusetts Transportation Building is planned for the afternoon.

Crispus Attucks

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

The Arts

Convener: ANNE GORDON PERRY

9:00 a.m. Creative Devotions

9:10 a.m. Announcements and unveiling of *ORISON XI*

9:20 a.m. The Power of the Image BARBARA CURRY, HAL WILLIAMSON,
and SHARON EAKES

10:15 a.m. *Break*

10:30 a.m. An Artist Paints In Xinjiang JALALIYYIH QUINN

11:15 a.m. Chanting and Musical Therapy JOAN M. BARDEN

12:00 p.m. Dramatic Performance JACQUELINE RUSSELL

12:30 p.m. *Lunch Break*

2:00 p.m. Creative Devotions

2:15 p.m. Solid Smoke: Poetry of the Spirit ROBERT MICHELL and
IAN KLUGE

2:45 p.m. Poetry as Transformation PETER MURPHY

3:30 p.m. The Roots of Modern Poetry MICHAEL FITZGERALD

3:45 p.m. The Wisdom of the Dance LAWRENCE MCCULLOUGH

4:15 p.m. Dramatizing History: Creating the Sarah Farmer Monologue
ANNE GORDON PERRY

4:30 p.m. Consultation on the Arts

5:00 p.m. Closing Devotions

Thursday

Thomas Paine A
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Bahá'í Language Educators
Convener: SANDRA FOTOS

- 9:00 a.m. The Conversive Turn in Bahá'í Scripture: Knowing as an Intersubjective Communications Act SUSAN BRILL DE RAMÍREZ
- 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Panel: Language Teaching and International Service: Sharing Our Stories JOY ALLCHIN, chair
- 10:00 a.m. Teaching as Pioneering DAN VAILLANCOURT
- 10:30 a.m. Combining Bahá'í Travel Teaching with Professional Endeavors in Brazil, Cuba, Mozambique, and Venezuela DARA SHAW
- 11:00 a.m. Second Language Teaching Concepts RODNEY CLARKEN
- 11:30 a.m. Audience participation
- 12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:30 p.m. The Soul of Education DAN VAILLANCOURT
- 2:30 p.m. *Break*
- 3:30 p.m. Roundtable on Bahá'í-Inspired Activities DARA SHAW, chair
1. Story Writing to Develop Moral Judgment JOY ALLCHIN
 2. The Virtues Poster DAN VAILLANCOURT
 3. Guidelines for Second Language Instruction RODNEY CLARKEN
- 4:30–5:00 p.m. BLE-SIG Annual meeting
- 5:30–7:00 p.m. *Fellowship dinner*

William Dawes B
2:00–5:00 p.m.

Bioethics
Convener: MARYAM VALAPOUR

The Bioethics and Health Sciences Special Interest Group has the specified goal of the study and development of the Bahá'í perspective on ethical, moral, and societal implications of scientific discovery and medical practice. In this session, we will discuss the challenge to the Bahá'í community to provide a framework for moral judgment and decision making in the wake of the rapid advances in science and social developments.

Haym Saloman
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Communication
Convener: AMROLLAH HEMMAT

- 9:00 a.m. Using Computers to Help People Communicate with Deaf Signers BARBARA L. LOEDING
- 10:00 a.m. External Affairs: The Bahá'í Community's Connection with the Policy Makers KIT BIGELOW
- 11:00 a.m. Communication SIG Mission and Activities (discussion)
- 11:30 a.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:30 p.m. Reunion with the Beloved: The Challenge of Translating the Affect of Culturally Based Poems about Martyrdom from Persian to English JOHN S. HATCHER and AMROLLAH HEMMAT

- 2:30 p.m. The Bahá'í International Radio Service GUTTY EJTEMAI
 3:30 p.m. *Break*
 3:40 p.m. The U.S. National Spiritual Assembly Office of Communications
 GLEN FULLMER
 4:40 p.m. Discussion and Closing Remarks

Ballroom A
 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Consultation and Conflict Resolution

Convener: TRIP BARTHEL

- 9:00 a.m. Overview and Introductions
 9:30 a.m. Developmental Stages of Conflict Resolution Culminating in
 Transformative Learning GREG KAGIRA-WATSON
 10:30 a.m. An Overview of Family Mediation KIMBERLY WILLOWS
 11:15 a.m. Theory and the Religious KIMBERLY SYPHRETT
 12:00 p.m. *Lunch*
 1:15 p.m. Moral Authenticity and Ethical Decision Making MICHAEL PENN
 2:00 p.m. The Language of Virtue in Group Transformation: A Case
 Study of Building an Interreligious Coalition of Bosnian Women
 JOHN WOODALL
 3:15–4:30 p.m. SIG Formation Meeting

William Dawes B
 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Ecology and Sustainable Development

Convener: JOHN STEERE

- 9:00 a.m. Opening and Introduction
 9:15 a.m. Contact and Conflict: African Natural Medicine, Modern
 Medicine, Spirituality, and Conservation JOSEPH NGA
 10:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Greening our Faith and Communities: How Do
 We Make Sustainable Development and Outlooks Real in our
 Lives? A Dialogue/Symposium JOHN STEERE

Molly Pitcher
 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Education

Convener: KAMILA BAHBAHANI

- Morning Program: Education for Personal Transformation*
 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Devotions
 9:15 a.m. A Simplified Four-Stage Model of Human Transformation
 Incorporating Individual/Collective, Subjective/Objective, and
 Scientific/Religious Perspectives RODNEY CLARKEN
 10:05 a.m. Transformative Teaching/Learning Environments for Diverse
 Adult Learners LINDA MECCOURI
 11:05 a.m. In Response to BIC Document No. 93-0614, What Kind of
 “Standard Education” of World Citizenship for All Children Could
 Be Capable of Helping Transform Society? GREG KAGIRA-WATSON
 11:50 p.m. *Lunch Break*

Afternoon Program: Education for Social Transformation

- 1:15 p.m. Group Discussion: Integration of Concepts of the Role of Education in Personal Transformation
1:45 p.m. Education for Sustainable Development DIMITY PODGER
3:40 p.m. School Programming for Transformation: Curricula at Rabbani and Maxwell Bahá'í Schools ANNE WAITE
4:30 p.m. Evolution of the Education SIG: Consultation on the development of the Education SIG

Empress

8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Indigenous Studies

Convener: PAULINE TUTTLE

Theme: “The Interface of Spirit and Matter in Community-based Research”

- 8:30 a.m. Opening Prayers
9:00 a.m. Panel: The Integration of Art, Spirit, and Medicine in the Healing of FAS/E Children
Thoughts on the Development of an Arts-Based Curriculum for FAS/E Children RUBY GUBATAYAO
FARANEH VARGHA-KHADEM
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. Wakpala: Youth Empowering Youth—Youth Empowering Community DANIELLE LOCKE
11:30 a.m. Contradictions, Challenges, and Successes for Gender and Development and Rural Community Sustainability in Puka Puka, Bolivia MELINDA SALAZAR
12:05 p.m. Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. Some Early American Indian Believers LITTLEBRAVE BEASTON
1:35 p.m. Honoring for Patricia Locke
MICHELLE LANGAN, Patricia Locke Scholarship Recipient
2:20 p.m. Break
2:35 p.m. Interactive Workshop: Transformative Communications as Advocated in Bahá'í Scripture and as Modeled in Indigenous Oral Tradition SUSAN BRILL DE RAMÍREZ
3:35 p.m. The Aboriginal Person as Peacemaker CAROL ANNE HILTON
4:10– 5:00 p.m. Closing Consultation

William Dawes A

1:00–5:00 p.m.

International Affairs

Convener: MARTHA L. SCHWEITZ

This session will consist of presenters speaking for 10–15 minutes each on their recent work in international affairs in relation to their life and service as Bahá'ís, plus consultation on the following questions: (1) How can we assist the Bahá'í community to “respond effectively to the challenges posed by the spread of distress and dismay” (Universal House of Justice, Ridván letter 2003)? (2) What can we do to support the external affairs work of our respective National Spiritual Assemblies? (3) What

specific purposes should the International Affairs SIG serve? How can it be developed to do so?

Set 1

The Role (and Limits) of Law in Generating Civic Trust

NEYSUN MAHBOUBI

Using Spiritual Insights in Developing a Model for Systemic Evolution of Global Politics JALÍL-AMÍN JACALLEN

The Challenges of Studying International Affairs as a Bahá'í

JALEH DASHTI-GIBSON

Young Adults and the New World: The Bahá'í Funds and the Global Economy HUSAYN ALLMART

Set 2

A New Way: Public Policy and the Bahá'í International Community

MATTHEW WEINBERG

GERALD FILSON, Director of External Affairs, Bahá'í Community of Canada

KIT BIGELOW, Director of the Office of External Affairs of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States

Correlating Bahá'í Ideas on Collective Security with the Current Needs of the International Community SOVAIDA MA'ANI Ewing

Thomas Paine B
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Philosophy

Convener: IAN KLUGE

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Devotions

9:10 a.m. The Spotless Source of the Ten-thousand Things

ROBERT MICHELL

10:05 a.m. Break

10:10 a.m. Of What Use to the Bahá'í Community Is Philosophy?

ROGER COE

11:05 a.m. Break

11:10 a.m. Buddhism, Hegel, and Bahá'í Ontology IAN KLUGE

12:05 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Divine Philosophy: A Bahá'í Discipline PETER TERRY

2:00 p.m. Break

2:05 p.m. Reason and Faith in the Bahá'í Writings IAN KLUGE

3:00 p.m. Break

3:05 p.m. A Bahá'í Epistemology PETER TERRY

4:00 p.m. Break

4:05 p.m. Session evaluation, announcements, and SIG business

Thursday

Riverside
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Science and Religion
Convener: RON SHIGETA

Session 1: Cosmos

9:00 a.m. Devotions and Greetings

9:05 a.m. Navigating the Borders of Science, Religion, and Superstition
JESSE RICHARDS

9:30 a.m. Cosmology and the Bahá'í Writings DALE LEHMAN

9:55 a.m. What Can Bahá'ís Offer to the Dialogue between Science and
Religion? PETER TERRY and STEPHEN FRIBERG

10:20 a.m. Break

Session 2: A Special Focus on China

10:35 a.m. China in the New Millennium MARY HO

11:00 a.m. The Link between Scientific Rationality and Religious Belief
SHANBO WANG

11:25 a.m. Science and Religion in China and the West: Superstition and
Materialism ALBERT CHEUNG

11:50 a.m. Lunch Break

Session 3: Science and Religion Talk

1:00 p.m. Cloning and Stem Cell Research MARLEEN CHASE

1:25 p.m. Topology and the Cosmos: A Pruning Back DANA PAXSON

1:50 p.m. An Unfolding Universe NAHAL MAVADDAT

2:15 p.m. The SIG Steering Committee—Current and future
developments of the ABS Science and Religion SIG

2:35 p.m. Open consultation

2:55 p.m. Break

Session 4: A Science and Religion Book Club

Discuss books that can stimulate discussion in a book club at home.

3:10 p.m. Book Club Introduction

3:15 p.m. And Then There Was a Miracle: Intelligent Design and the
Fight for God in Science STEPHEN FRIBERG

3:30 p.m. It's All in Your Head: The Neuroscience of Mysticism
ALEXALI BRUBAKER

3:45 p.m. *Fifty Facts that Should Change the World* by Jessica Williams
RON SHIGETA

4:00 p.m. *The God Gene: How Faith Is Hardwired into Our Genes*
by Dean H. Hamer TAMARA BOND

4:15 p.m. *Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo*
and the Making of the Animal Kingdom by Sean B. Carroll
DALE LEHMAN

4:30 p.m. Discussion—other books

4:50 p.m. Close of Program

5:00 p.m. The Life of the Mind and the Spirit of Enlightenment: SIG-
and MIT Bahá'í Club-Cosponsored Student Dinner Session
Current and soon to be undergraduate and graduate students are
invited to discuss over dinner how our education and our spiritual
lives can coexist.

5:00 p.m. Science and Religion Steering Committee Dinner
Join the Science and Religion Steering Committee in its annual consultation (meet in Hyatt Lobby)

Ballroom B
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

The Study of Religion
Coordinator: HAROLD ROSEN

9:00 a.m. “I’ve Heard the Master Say...”: Pilgrims’ Notes in the Ministry of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá PETER TERRY
10:00 a.m. Harbingers of Hope: Ann Lee, William Miller, Joseph Smith and the Advent of the Bahá’í Faith in America TERRI YORK
11:00 a.m. A Look at the Source Tablets used by Shoghi Effendi in preparing the *Gleanings* SHAHROKH MONJAZEB
12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
1:30 p.m. Organizing an Approach to the Comprehensive Study of the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh ROGER COE
2:30 p.m. The Virtues Project in International-Interfaith Perspective ROBIN CAIN
3:30 p.m. Ransom, Redemption, Atonement, and Salvation GREG KAGIRA-WATSON
4:30 p.m. Study of Religion SIG Business Meeting

Thursday Evening

President’s Ballroom
7:00 p.m.

Plenary Session
Chair: MICHAEL KARLBERG

Official Conference Welcome

Speaker: STEPHEN BIRKLAND

8:30 p.m.

Break

8:45 p.m.

Artistic Program

ONE HUMAN FAMILY GOSPEL CHOIR (ERIC DOZIER, guest conductor and soloist)
Modern Dance Ensemble—DIGBY DANCE (KATE DIGBY, artistic director)

Friday, 12 August 2005

President's Ballroom

9:00 a.m.

Plenary Session

Chair: JUDY FILSON

Devotions

The Bahá'í Community and the Life of the Mind

DOUGLAS MARTIN

10:15 a.m.

Break

10:45–11:45 a.m.

Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

Ballroom B

Community Development in a Bahá'í Context I

How Are We Connected? Using Social Network Theory to Understand Young Adults in the Bahá'í Community

DAVID KALIM DIEHL, NAGHMEH ROWHANI, and RON SHIGETA

Crispus Attucks

Cross Cultural Learning in the Bahá'í Community I

Learning to Transgress: Pioneering and the (Re)Construction of Identity

SIEW-SIM CHIN

Haym Saloman

Law and the Divine

The Revealed Law, the Lawgiver, and the Book of Laws

BAHARIEH MA'ANI and SOVAIDA MA'ANI EWING

Ballroom D

Literature and the Revelation I

Táhirih's Unknown Poems

JOHN S. HATCHER and AMROLLAH HEMMAT

Thomas Paine

Psychology and Mental Health I

The Role of Justice in Moral Development: An Empirical Study of the Impact of Trauma and Injustice on the Moral Development of Kenyan, Indian, and American Young People

MICHAEL L. PENN

Ballroom A

Religion and the Natural Sciences I

Elements of a Bahá'í-Inspired Natural Theology

WILLIAM S. HATCHER

William Dawes

A History of Science, Religion, and Social Transformation: Islamic Civilization I

What Ever Happened to A Priori Truth? The Modern Oblivion of the Metahistorical and the New Myopia of the Religion-Science Dichotomy

BABAK ROD KHADEM

Molly Pitcher

Social and Economic Development

Science, Religion, and Women's Rights

ANDRA NAHAL BEHROUZ

2:45–3:30 *p.m.* Where Are the Troops? Religious Trends among Young Adults DAVID KALIM DIEHL

3:45–4:30 *p.m.* Measuring Intensity and Evolution of Growth within/ across Bahá'í Communities: A Herfindahl Index Approach GABRIEL POWER

4:40–5:15 *p.m.* Computer Analysis of the Global Growth of the Bahá'í Community: A Research Proposal DINESH SINGH

Molly Pitcher

Literature and the Revelation II

2:00–3:00 *p.m.* Who Doesn't Love Dreams? MARYANNE DEWOLF

Molly Pitcher

3:15–4:45 *p.m.* **Imagination, Intuition, and Influence in the Life and Work of Sarah J. Farmer** ANNE GORDON PERRY, chair
Sarah Farmer as a Catalyst for Social Transformation and as the Only Woman to Witness the Signing of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty ANNE GORDON PERRY
Seeking and Finding at Sarah Farmer's Green Acre LEIGH SCHMIDT
Respondents: AFAF STEVENS and ROBERT STOCKMAN

Ballroom D

Medical Research and the Bahá'í Teachings I

2:00–2:45 *p.m.* The Application of Bahá'í Writings to Racial Disparities in Medical Research PAYAM DEGHANI and ASHLEY ROBERTS

2:45–3:30 *p.m.* Definitions of Health and Well-being: Perspectives from Science and Religion JOHN LEBLANC

3:45–4:30 *p.m.* An Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention using the Principles Outlined in *The Advent of Divine Justice* as Its Theoretical Construct ASHLEY ROBERTS and PAYAM DEGHANI

4:30–5:15 *p.m.* Inching towards Mutual Helpfulness and Reciprocity: Cooperation in Biomedical Scientific Research JOANNE M. LANGLEY

Riverside

Psychology and Mental Health II

2:00–3:00 *p.m.* Creating Your Own Reality through Attunement to God, Self, and Others PATRICIA ROMANO MCGRAW

3:15–4:15 *p.m.* The Spiritual Basis of Psychosocial Health and Healing as Elucidated by the Bahá'í Revelation DAVID TRAUTMANN

4:30–5:30 *p.m.* Harmony between Religion as Giving Meaning and Science as Finding Meaning from the Viewpoint of Positive Psychotherapy NOSSRAT PESECHKIAN

Ballroom A

Religion and the Natural Sciences II

2:00–3:00 *p.m.* The Unity of Science and Religion in First Nations Beliefs CAROL ANNE HILTON

3:15–4:15 *p.m.* The Need for an All-Unifying Mind Force to Direct and Coordinate the Universe SABA MAHANIAN and FARJAM MAJD

4:30–5:30 *p.m.* The Creation of Complex Life Forms—Scriptural Analysis and a Unified Thought System BAHMAN NADIMI

Empress

The University and the Bahá'í Faith I

2:00–3:30 p.m. Panel: Teaching University Courses with Bahá'í Content
MICHAEL KARLBERG, TODD LAWSON, GRANT MARTIN, HAROLD
ROSEN, ROBERT STOCKMAN, ANNE PEARSON (chair)

Part of the mandate of the Association for Bahá'í Studies at its inception was to foster courses on the Bahá'í Faith at institutions of higher learning. Over the last two decades, Bahá'ís have prepared and taught over a dozen such courses, both credit and noncredit, at universities and colleges across North America. Panelists will share their experiences with mounting such courses, addressing the questions of how the course got started (challenges and opportunities), course content and methodology, and lessons learned.

3:45–5:15 p.m. Student-Taught Courses: Experiments with FUNDAEC
Material on Critical Thinking, Leadership, and Social Action
TAHIRIH NAYLOR and SAHBA SABET

5:30 p.m.

Dinner Break

Friday Evening

President's Ballroom

7:30 p.m.

Plenary Session

Presentation of the Association for Bahá'í Studies Award of
Excellence to JUNE MANNING THOMAS and LAWRENCE ARTURO

A Concert of Voices

Music by ensemble of performers

Sarah Farmer: Raising the Flag of Peace ANNE GORDON PERRY

Musical interlude

Dawn Letters 1

Dawn Letters 2

Dawn Letters 3

performed by BERNICE LIUSON SIM and

SAFA SADEGHPOUR (photography and images: FARBOD HAGIGI

and ANIS SADEGHPOUR; written and directed by SAFA SADEGHPOUR)

Music by ensemble of performers

Saturday, 13 August 2005

President's Ballroom

9:00 a.m.

Plenary Session: Towards the Spiritualization of Reality; the Convergence of Science and Religion

Chair: HUSAYN BANANI

Devotions

That "Eureka" Moment: The Role of Reflection and Inspiration in
Scientific Discovery REDWAN MOQBEL

Mind and Spirit: Convergence of Neuroscience and Revealed
Knowledge FARANEH VARGHA-KHADEM

Saturday

11:00 a.m.

Lunch Break

Ballroom D
12:30–2:15 p.m.

Annual General Meeting of the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America

All are cordially invited to attend, to meet the Executive Committee, and to share in consultation about the activities and future directions of the Association.

2:30–6:00 p.m.

Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

Thomas Paine A

Built and Planned Environments and the Spirit

2:30–3:30 p.m. The Spirit of Space NOUSHIN EHSAN

3:35–4:45 p.m. Cultivating Divine Nature: The Garden as a Universal and Transformative Symbol JOHN THELEN STEERE

Haym Saloman

Computers and Virtual Reality: New Means for Investigating God and Creation

2:30–3:30 p.m. Science, Religion, and the Holy Grail WILLIAM H. SHARP

3:45–4:45 p.m. Computer Modeling of the Universe for Insight into Creation HOOMAN KATIRAI

Ballroom B

Cross Cultural Learning in the Bahá'í Community II

2:30–3:30 p.m. Hermeneutics and Exegesis: Before New Sciences, Arts, and Crafts KIMBERLY SYPHRETT

3:45–4:45 p.m. African Spiritual Renewal: Cultural and Environmental Dimensions JOSEPH NGA

Crispus Attucks

Cross-Cultural Learning in the Bahá'í Community: A Workshop

2:30–4:00 p.m. Spiritual Tools of Progress: Bahá'í Refugees as Case Studies of Overcoming Oppression PURAN STEVENS

Molly Pitcher

Marriage: Implications of Recent Research

2:30–3:15 p.m. The Year of Patience: A Tool for Transformation, An Exploration of the Year of Patience in Light of Current Findings in Social Psychology KELLY MONJAZEB

3:15–4:00 p.m. Consciously Influencing the Course of Love DANIEL B. LORD

4:00–4:45 p.m. The Science of Religion and Marriage RON SHIGETA

William Dawes

Medical Research and the Bahá'í Teachings II

2:30–3:15 p.m. A Study of Some Physical Effects of the Bahá'í Fast C. MURRAY SKEAFF, S. BOOTH, B. GUTHRIE, and A-L. HEATH

3:15–4:00 p.m. Limitations of the Scientific Method in Assessing the Power of Prayer CLAIRE LEVESQUE

4:00–5:45 p.m. Praying Our Way to Wellness: What the Health Services Research Literature Tells Us about Spirituality and Medicine JONATHAN D. AGNEW

*Ballroom A***Religion and the Natural Sciences III**

- 2:30–3:30 *p.m.* Awesome Undertakings: The Concept of “Awe” in the Pursuit of Scientific and Religious Understanding STEPHANIE URIE
- 3:45–4:45 *p.m.* A Comparison of Different Formulations and Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics with the Bahá’í Faith
DINESH SINGH

*Empress***The University and the Bahá’í Faith II**

- 2:30–6:00 *p.m.* Envisioning Bahá’í Universities of the Future ANNE PERRY, chair
- Inspiration from the Bahá’í Writings Related to the Development of Institutions of Higher Education ELIZABETH BOWEN
- Starting a Bahá’í-Inspired College in Stratford, Ontario DUNCAN HANKS, TODD SMITH, and GORDON NAYLOR
- Steps Toward a Future Bahá’í University in the U.S. ROBERT ATKINSON
- The Wilmette Institute and the Development of Bahá’í Education
ROBERT H. STOCKMAN
- Spiritualizing the Academy MICHAEL L. PENN
- Pinetree Institute: Translating Sarah Farmer’s Vision into Reality
LAWRENCE MCCULLOUGH
- Envisioning Monsalvat University RICHARD HOLLINGER and SANDRA HUTCHISON

*Ballroom D*2:30–5:30 *p.m.* **Panel: What Is Science?**

- SUSAN STILES MANECK, chair
- The Meaning of Modern Science and Its Bahá’í Ramifications
MARLEEN CHASE
- Harmony without Hegemony: The Sciences and the Bahá’í Faith
MARK FOSTER
- A Historical Perspective on Relations between Science and Religion
SUSAN STILES MANECK

*Thomas Paine B***The Writings and Personal Transformation**

- 2:30–3:15 *p.m.* The True Seeker and the Mystic Herald LEROY JONES
- 3:30–4:15 *p.m.* Exploring the Tablet of Ahmad as Revealed Word
DON JOHNSON and WELKIN E. JOHNSON

6:00 *p.m.**Dinner Break*

Saturday Evening

8:00 p.m.
President's Ballroom

Plenary Session

The 23rd Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture

Introduction JACQUELINE LEFT HAND BULL

Musical Performance SMITH AND DRAGOMAN

Unveiling the Húrí of Love JOHN S. HATCHER

Sunday, 14 August 2005

9:00 a.m.
President's Ballroom

Plenary Session

Devotions

Chair's Introduction

Panel: Walking the Academic Path with Bahá'í Feet
NAVA ASHRAF (chair), ARASH ABIZADEH, JULIA BERGER, JOSE URIBE, STEPHANIE URIE

Presentation of the Patricia Locke scholarship to MICHELLE LANGAN by the ABS Executive Committee

11:45 p.m.

Closing remarks on behalf of the Executive Committee

12:00 p.m.

Closing musical presentation

VOICES OF GLORY

MARDI (MARDI JAYDE, vocals and percussion; GAD FOLTYS, acoustic guitar, vocals; REZA MOSTMAND, percussion, vocals; LAURA FRIEDMANN-MOSTMAND, percussion, vocals)

Abstracts and Biographical Notes

Arash Abizadeh (panelist) • Walking the Academic Path with Bahá'í Feet

ARASH ABIZADEH (arash.abizadeh@mcgill.ca), assistant professor of political science, McGill, specializes in contemporary political theory and the history of political philosophy, and researches the relation between emotions, rhetoric, discourse, practical reason, and politics; democratic theory, identity, nationalism, nation-state, and cosmopolitanism; territoriality, globalization, and sovereignty; Rousseau and the French Enlightenment; Habermas and German critical theory.

Jonathan D. Agnew • Praying Our Way to Wellness: What the Health Services Research Literature Tells Us about Spirituality and Medicine

The growing number of studies incorporating measures of spirituality as predictor of health and well-being suggests the importance of and interest in this subject area. This presentation has three objectives: to analyze findings in the health services research literature on the relationship(s) between spirituality and health; to translate these findings into insights for health care providers; and to suggest directions for further research. Spiritual well-being is positively associated with improved quality of life and “fighting-spirit,” but negatively associated with cognitive avoidance and anxious preoccupation. However, generalizable findings are confounded by the variations in methodology, particularly multiple approaches for operationalizing spirituality.

JONATHAN D. AGNEW, PhD (JAgnew@bcma.bc.ca), is a senior policy consultant at the British Columbia Medical Association. He holds a bachelor's degree (honors) from Brown University and a PhD in health services and policy analysis

from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Agnew resides in West Vancouver, Canada, with his wife, Negar.

Joy Allchin • Story Writing to Develop Moral Judgment

NANCY JOY ALLCHIN (njallchin@comcast.net) has degrees in TESOL/linguistics, Spanish, and art. She has taught English as a second language at Greenbelt Middle School, the University of Maryland, and West Virginia University. Ms. Allchin is a BLE-SIG coordinating committee member.

Husayn Allmart • Young Adults and the New World: The Bahá'í Funds and the Global Economy

HUSAYN ALLMART recently graduated with an MEd in educational policy analysis from the University of Illinois–Urbana–Champaign, with a focus on globalization and moral education. He now serves at the Bahá'í National Center in the Young Believers Programs for the Office of the Treasurer. His recent work focuses on how the Bahá'í Funds relate to global economic trends, particularly among young people.

Nava Ashraf (chair) • Walking the Academic Path with Bahá'í Feet

NAVA ASHRAF (ashraf@fas.harvard.edu) is assistant professor at Harvard Business School, and received her PhD in economics from Harvard University in June 2005. Her research involves the application of “behavioral economics” to the design, implementation, and evaluation of development field projects in Africa and Southeast Asia.

Robert Atkinson • Science, Revelation, and the Dialectic of Transformation

Using a principle-centered approach, this presentation shows how and why we are closer to witnessing the convergence of science and religion. It will (a) consider current stances regarding the relation of science and religion and identify the difference between secular views and the Bahá'í perspective, (b) elucidate the social implications of progressive revelation, and (c) explore implications of a full understanding of an overarching principle of conscious evolution. One such implication might be that science, too, is governed by a natural progression of evolving thought, leading to a harmony and unity of thought among the scientific and sacred ways of knowing.

Robert Atkinson • Steps Toward a Future Bahá'í University in the U.S.

Much focused, long-term, principle-centered planning and development will be needed to bring into being the vision of Sarah Farmer, confirmed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá nearly one hundred years ago. What will it take to build "the finest university on the planet," drawing students from all over the world? This presentation will identify and explore some of the key questions of this process, including: What resources are needed to initiate and fulfill this vision? What would distinguish a Bahá'í university from other universities? What educational values would it build upon? This session is meant to stimulate reflective thought and discussion among educators and others interested in helping to fulfill this vision.

ROBERT ATKINSON, PhD (atkinson@usm.maine.edu), directs the Center for the Study of Lives and is a professor of human development at the University of Southern Maine. He is author of seven books including *The Gift of Stories*, *The Life Story Interview*, and numerous articles, and he is coauthor of *Green Acre on the Piscataqua*.

Joan M. Barden • Chanting and Musical Therapy

In my past professional life I was activities director and social services director in a skilled nursing home. I discovered that some of my aphasic patients could chant their needs, but could not speak them. This is why I know there is some-

thing unique in chanting and its healing properties. It affects memory as well. The presentation will include history of chant (canto); history of music therapy; psychological and spiritual benefits of chanting; English as a language of chant; and applied technique.

JOAN BARDEN (joanymom@surewest.net), a student of music for sixty-five years, has an interest in the relationship of chanting to spiritual health, the importance of chanting from a musical therapy approach, and how understanding the Bahá'í writings through chanting enhances mental health. She was trained in chant in Latin and English and has sung in Italian, German, Spanish, and Portuguese choirs.

LittleBrave Beaston • Some Early American Indian Believers

In this presentation, I will share vignettes of what I have learned about the early American Indian Bahá'ís in the United States, our spiritual ancestors. I offer this presentation as a way of showing our due respect for these audacious men and women, who became Bahá'ís at a time when it must have been extremely difficult in the Indian community to step out and try something very new. As Aboriginal Bahá'ís we would not be where we are today if it were not for their courage, wisdom, and ability to see and commit to the Truth.

LITTLEBRAVE BEASTON (Tsimshian and Makah) (littlebrave@gmail.com) received her naturopathic doctorate at Bastyr University and her MEd in counseling from North Dakota State University. She has been a Bahá'í since 1969 and is interested in health and healing; American Indians, especially in relation to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's promise; world religions; and divine philosophy. Currently she resides in Seattle, Washington.

Andra Nahal Behrouz • Science, Religion, and Women's Rights

The present system of international human rights law protects both the right to health and the right to religion (including the free practice of religion). There are many examples today where these two rights come into conflict, where religious beliefs and practices clash with science

and, specifically, with measures that are necessary for the promotion of public health. This presentation will examine, in particular, one such example—the practice of female genital cutting (FGC) in Muslim communities in Africa and the Middle East—in considering the conflict between science and religion in the modern context.

ANDRA NAHAL BEHROUZ (anb25@columbia.edu) is an attorney at Simpson Thacher and Bartlett LLP. A graduate of Columbia Law School, she is the author of “Transforming Islamic Family Law: State Responsibility and the Role of Internal Initiative,” which was published in the *Columbia Law Review*, of which she was an editor.

Julia Berger (panelist) • Walking the Academic Path with Bahá’í Feet

JULIA BERGER (jberger@bic.org) is senior researcher/writer for the Bahá’í International Community, New York, and was previously research associate at Harvard’s Program on Religion and Public Life, where she analyzed and documented relationships between religion and politics at local level. She has her master’s in international development education from the University of Toronto.

Kit Bigelow • External Affairs: The Bahá’í Community’s Connection with the Policy Makers

This presentation will look at highlights of two decades of Bahá’í external affairs in the U.S.: at the State Department, Congress, the White House, and the UN. Informing the U.S. government and national media about the persecution of the Bahá’í communities in Iran will be discussed along with activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, religious freedom, women’s rights, U.S. ratification of United Nations human rights treaties, and the elimination of racism.

KIT BIGELOW is the director of the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly Office of External Affairs. She works with the State Department, Congress, the White House, and the UN on human rights, women, religious freedom, and the persecution of Bahá’ís and has published on human rights, international law, and the UN system.

STEPHEN BIRKLAND is a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for the protection and propagation of the Bahá’í Faith in the Americas. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Huqúqu’llah in the United States.

Tamara Bond • *The God Gene: How Faith Is Hardwired into Our Genes* by Dean H. Hamer

Dr. Dean H. Hamer, a prominent geneticist, identifies a specific gene that is influential in the propensity of humanity toward spirituality, while at the same time acknowledging that there are likely myriad genes involved in the complexity that is human spirituality. I connect this book to two principles of the Bahá’í Faith: the first is that we are created to know God, and the second is that God is unknowable. Is it possible that our genetic makeup drives us toward a knowledge of God?

TAMARA BOND is a Bahá’í from New Jersey. She has come by an interest in the unity of science and religion by her prior frustration with experiences in other faiths, and an avid interest in science-fiction. This principle of unity of science and religion helped attract her to the Bahá’í Faith.

Elizabeth Bowen • Inspiration from the Bahá’í Writings Related to the Development of Institutions of Higher Education

The Secret of Divine Civilization by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá provides unique perspectives on the aims of education. Excerpts and ideas from this text and other specific Bahá’í writings will be shared that may illuminate our individual and community efforts in the development of institutions of higher education from a Bahá’í-inspired perspective.

ELIZABETH BOWEN, MD, EdD (BethBowen9@aol.com), collaborates with Bahá’í-inspired educational and development programs worldwide, representing the World Citizenship Education and Development Association. She served as acting president of Landegg International University and director of its master’s program in social and economic development. Dr. Bowen has visited Bahá’í communities in more than sixty countries.

Susan Brill de Ramírez • The Conversive Turn in Bahá'í Scripture: Knowing as an Intersubjective Communications Act

This presentation looks at the fundamental communications shift in Bahá'í scripture as the first revelation of God that is explicitly offered to a literate world articulates its teachings in new ways for textually grounded readers.

Susan Brill de Ramírez • Transformative Communications as Advocated in Bahá'í Scripture and as Modeled in Indigenous Oral Tradition

In the Bahá'í writings, Bahá'u'lláh presents a conversive communications mandate for the world. Conversive communications are inherently transforming (conversional) and relationally based (conversative). The specific form of conversive communications with which Bahá'ís are most familiar is that of consultation. In contrast to more discursive and op/positionally-based forms of communications, which distance speaker and listener, conversive communications build unity through the development of relationships. This talk will include a workshop exercise for participants to experience heart-to-heart conversive communications (as Bahá'u'lláh urges us, "Ponder this in thy heart") in the form of a Native American storytelling circle and in a consultative session.

SUSAN BERRY BRILL DE RAMÍREZ (brill@bradley.edu), professor of English, teaches Native literatures, environmental literatures, and literary criticism and theory at Bradley University. Dr. Brill has published extensively and is currently completing two books for University of New Mexico Press, one on Navajo storytelling and a second on the lifework of Simon J. Ortiz.

Alexali Brubaker • It's All in Your Head: The Neuroscience of Mysticism

Although union with the Divine seems ineffable by definition, apparently a SPECT brain scan is worth a thousand words. The paradox of the mystic experiential unity common to many faiths—that when one's attention is fully focused upon God there can be none left to experience the separate self—is seen to be quite true in neural terms. The potential of such discoveries to impact

our understanding of the nature of reality is profound, and carries provocative implications for such divergent areas of inquiry as the evolution of the human brain and the development of religion, and interactions of mind, body, and spirit.

ALEXALI BRUBAKER earned a BA in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Virginia. She is currently completing an MA in psychological research at San Francisco State University, and looks forward to more research in areas such as cross-cultural psychology, emotion and cognition, and interactions of the mind, body, and environment.

Robin Cain • The Virtues Project in International-Interfaith Perspective

The Virtues Project is cultivated from the sacred traditions of the world's cultures. It is used in sixty-five countries as a systematic approach for cultivating the virtues. The Virtues Project incorporates the sacred scriptures in the *Family Virtues Guide* format, and presents no religion in the *Virtues Project Educator's Guide*. This presentation includes profiles of communities from the United States, Canada, Australia, Greece, and Japan using the Virtues Project and a description of the case study research proposal.

ROBIN CAIN is an educator certified for elementary and Montessori with endorsements for teaching ESL, talented, and gifted, and is a Virtues Project facilitator. She has presented at conferences for American Montessori Society and Virtues Project Mentorship. She contributes to *Public School Montessorian* newspaper and *Montessori Life*, the journal of the American Montessori Society.

Marleen Chase • Cloning and Stem Cell Research

Cloning and stem cell research are controversial topics and likely will continue to be so in the years ahead. Misinformation regarding these research techniques abounds in the media. We will begin by surveying the breadth and complexity of cloning and stem cells to understand how popular presentations have simplified and scientifically distorted these techniques. We will conclude by considering the specific circumstances

under which Bahá'ís might consider cloning and stem cell research as compatible with or contrary to Bahá'í spiritual principles.

Marleen Chase • The Meaning of Modern Science and its Bahá'í Ramifications

We will review what modern science is and how scientists understand and practice science. Misconceptions and simplifications of science abound in the media and popular literature. Religion and science are conceived as mutually exclusive when their actual relationship is more complex. Bahá'í writings allude to the importance of science in conquering superstition and prejudice and in advancing the lives and well-being of all living creatures. How science is understood has significant implications for the promotion of the oneness of humanity and for the application of the harmony of religion and science.

MARLEEN CHASE (mchase11@earthlink.net), scientist and former Howard Hughes Medical Institute research fellow, demonstrated the viricidal effect of stimulated human monocytes on HIV and the loss of viricidal activity as monocytes differentiated into macrophages. She has served on committees reviewing ethical issues in medicine and science, including human subjects and recombinant DNA.

Helen Cheng • The Implications of Thinking of the Bahá'í Administrative Order as a Social Experiment

What are the distinctive aspects of a process that qualify it as a scientific experiment? And how does thinking about the Bahá'í Administrative Order as a social experiment affect the way we relate to it? What approach should we take so as to reflect a scientific approach? Since the Bahá'í Administrative Order is still nascent, its development remains incomplete. How, then, should we respond, in a scientific and spiritual manner, to situations when Bahá'í community life fails to conform to the spiritual principles that it is supposed to reflect?

HELEN CHENG (hhlcheng@rogers.com) is a mother and a lawyer currently working in Toronto. She received her Master of Law degree from Harvard Law School. Her research interests

include constitutional law, alternative dispute resolutions, and Bahá'í Studies.

Albert K. Cheung • Science and Religion in China and the West—With their Superstition and Materialism

Science and religion developed differently in China and the West. Their thought processes and tools are very different. Chinese thinking is holistic and relational. Western thinking is analytic and reductionist. Chinese language uses pictures. Western languages use alphabets. Chinese medicine employs herbal formulae and acupuncture. Western medicine emphasizes chemical drugs and surgery. When Chinese and Western approaches are integrated, they can contribute to a comprehensive understanding of human knowledge systems. The Bahá'í writings provide new approaches for the harmony of science and religion.

ALBERT CHEUNG works with startup technology companies in China with venture capital and technology transfer. He has deep interests in the globalization of modern cultures, especially the meeting of the East and West. He received his PhD in mathematical sciences from Johns Hopkins University in 1985.

Siew-Sim Chin • Learning to Transgress: Pioneering and the (Re)construction of Identity

This presentation discusses the pioneering experiences of twelve women pioneers who have returned to the U.S., particularly as that experience relates to how they narrate and make meaning of the intersection of ethnicity, nationality, and gender across borders. I highlight their narratives as Bahá'ís, Americans, women, and pioneers, and point out some contesting features of their experiences with these various aspects of identity in pioneering across borders. Through a conceptualization of the “Pioneering Self” I suggest some core dimensions for learning to transgress in the Bahá'í enterprise of “becoming a new race of men” as citizens of the world.

SIEW-SIM CHIN (siewsim@niu.edu) is currently completing her dissertation on women pioneers from the perspective of transformative adult education. The inspiration for her dissertation

research topic springs from having lived among many pioneers in Malaysia and Thailand.

Rodney Clarken • Second Language Teaching Concepts

From October 1995 to June 1996 I traveled throughout Sichuan, China, teaching demonstration lessons for teachers of English. It is said that I have visited and taught in more primary and middle schools in China than any other foreigner. I have taught English lessons to thousands of Chinese students and have observed and met with thousands of others in their classrooms. The educational leaders and English teachers for these schools always asked me for suggestions on how to teach a second language. In this presentation, I will give some guidelines based upon my experiences, observations, and reading, and share some of my story.

Rodney Clarken • A Simplified Four-Stage Model of Human Transformation Incorporating Individual/Collective, Subjective/Objective and Scientific/Religious Perspectives

Individual/collective and subjective/objective stages of human development will be compared and these scientific-rational theories examined using a simplified four-stage model of infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood, including the following: cognitive (Piaget), moral (Kohlberg, Gilligan), ego (Loevinger), needs (Maslow), socio-emotional (Erikson), self sense (Cook-Greuter), faith (Fowler), cultural (Beck and Cowan), social/cultural/economic worldviews (Wilber) techno-economic (Lenski), sociocultural (Gebser), religious systems (Bellah), epochs (Habermas), and others. These theories will be compared with the Bahá'í teachings to determine areas of agreement to see what we might use to guide or processes to improve education.

RODNEY CLARKEN (<http://www-instruct.nmu.edu/education/rclarcken>) has graduate degrees in administration and supervision, general and experimental psychology and elementary education. Dr. Clarken has taught in various elementary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions; has served as an international consultant, board member, and administrator; and has given numerous presentations around the world.

Roger Coe • Of What Use to the Bahá'í Community Is Philosophy?

Philosophers are enormously undervalued in American culture and society. Students are not trained in school to think with philosophical rigor, or to even imagine that there may be a system of universal laws that is potentially discoverable, or that there may be something like “philosophical right thinking.” Yet it is philosophy that must underlie the science of our methods, that frames the set of principles we must systematically apply. And it is the *sound* principles of Bahá'u'lláh's philosophy that will reveal to us the “one natural system, one universal law and divine organization.”

Roger Coe • Organizing an Approach to the Comprehensive Study of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh

In *Secret of Divine Civilization*, 'Abdu'l-Bahá states that comprehensive knowledge is a necessary qualification for those who would be of the spiritually learned. Comprehensive knowledge may be approached on two levels: (1) knowledge of all particular aspects of the Revelation; and, (2) knowledge of the general Order, which underlies all aspects of the Revelation. This paper explores some major considerations and suggests a variety of means by which a student of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh might organize the seemingly overwhelming task of approaching the comprehensive study of the Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

ROGER COE has been a serious student of the Bahá'í writings for more than thirty years. His work on the philosophy of Bahá'u'lláh was published in *The Vision of Shoghi Effendi*, and his work on technology and scholarship in connection with the construction of the Administrative Order was published in *Bahá'í News* in February 1986.

Barbara Curry, Sharon Eakes, and Hal Williamson • The Power of the Image

Images communicate. Advertisers, TV producers, and newspaper and bill board designers know the power of the image. Images we see even fleetingly can influence how we feel, what we buy, how we define ourselves. A painting we respond to

can move us to tears. In this session we will be asking questions about the power of the image, answering some of the questions in terms of what happens in the brain to create or view an image, and inviting the audience to explore with us how this enormous power can be tapped in a positive way.

BARBARA CURRY (cre8iv@adelphia.net) is a painter, graphic designer, advocate of the arts, and art teacher living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has exhibited work in galleries in Dallas, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; and Aspen, Colorado. Her paintings continue to win awards in art competitions, including two Grumbacher Gold Medal Awards.

Jaleh Dashti-Gibson • The Challenges of Studying International Affairs as a Bahá'í

JALEH DASHTI-GIBSON is director of academic programs for the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She holds a master's in peace studies and a doctorate in international relations. Her areas of interest include world order, international law/organization, human rights, and conflict resolution.

Payam Dehghani and Ashley Roberts • The Application of Bahá'í Writings to Racial Disparities in Medical Research

Minority races are underrepresented in clinical trials, yet the conclusions drawn therefrom are extrapolated to them. Proponents of this practice argue that race is a social construct, not a scientific classification; thus, attributing therapeutic effectiveness to race is meaningless. Opponents argue that social perception of race influences the availability and outcome of medical care. We use Bahá'u'lláh's Writings—which clarify that inequality between the sexes, suppression of minorities, income disparities, and disunity prevent healthy social functioning—to assert that participation of minority races in medical research is necessary to investigate the effect of structural violence on our physiologic response to medications.

Payam Dehghani • An Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention using the Principles

Outlined in the *Advent of Divine Justice* as Its Theoretical Construct (See page 43)

PAYAM DEHGHANI (payamdehghani@hotmail.com) completed his Doctor of Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He undertook his residency at Queen's University and is a cardiology fellow at UBC. He is currently completing a Master of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

MaryAnne DeWolf • Who Doesn't Love Dreams?

Bahá'u'lláh tells us, in the Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys, that God has placed dreams in men “to the end that philosophers may not deny the mysteries of the life beyond nor belittle that which hath been promised them.” I propose to explore the use of “literary” dreams (i.e., literature functioning as do dreams, reflective of and susceptible to similar liberating perceptions) and psychoanalysis as a cognitive procedure in the development of spirituality. The dream, and its interpretation, is a channel through which creative thinking is released, leading to the construction of psychoanalytic subjectivity, spiritual awareness, and self-knowledge.

MARYANNE DEWOLF (dewolf@genevaonline.com), born in Alberta, became a Bahá'í during the first of twelve years in the Northwest Territories. Her work as a doctoral candidate in French literature at the University of Wisconsin in Madison reflects an interest germinated while in the NWT, researching and writing films for Canada's National Film Board.

David Kalim Diehl • Where Are The Troops? Religious Trends Among Young Adults

Growth in the American Bahá'í community is the lowest it has been in decades while newer forms of Christianity are flourishing, especially among young adults. Such popular contemporary forms of worship include extensive use of the arts and music, storytelling, and personal experience, as well as focus on the individual experience of the Divine. Understanding contemporary religious worship can help us to craft a community worship style that can simultaneously attract people and be more satisfying for Bahá'ís by seeking to

answer the question, “what do we have to offer that is different than what is already out there?”

David Kalim Diehl, Naghmeh Rowhani, and Ron Shigeta • How Are We Connected? Using Social Network Theory to Understand Young Adults in the Bahá’í Community

Social networks are a rapidly growing topic in social science. Understanding how people are connected and how networks evolve helps explain such phenomena as interracial relations, popular fads, and finding jobs. Some important aspects of networks are the sharing of new information and experiences, the spreading of new ideas, and the facilitating of new interaction between people. This workshop examines how social networks help us understand the Bahá’í community, especially the young adult experience. A network exercise will allow meeting people outside of usual social circles and discussing the challenges of being a young adult in the Bahá’í community.

DAVID KALIM DIEHL (diehld@stanford.edu) is a doctoral student in the sociology of education at Stanford University. Before coming to Stanford, David earned a master’s degree in elementary education with a specialization in conflict resolution and peaceable schools at Lesley University in Boston. While in Boston he taught for two years at the Mission Hill School.

Sharon Eakes • The Power of the Image (*See page 22*)

Sharon Eakes joined HOPE UNLIMITED in 1996 as a trainer and executive coach. For twenty-five years she worked at Gateway Rehabilitation Center in western Pennsylvania, as vice-president of treatment programs. She has published articles on management and leadership and appeared on radio and TV. She is certified to interpret Herrmann brain dominance instruments.

Noushin Ehsan • The Spirit of Space

The feeling encountered when entering a built environment is the spirit of that space, which directly influences human behavior. Designers must become catalysts for designs that inspire. Harmony between a designer’s vision, thought,

and spirit cultivates a sense of holistic design. Holistic design encompasses clarity of thought, simple and proportionate form, natural light, and color harmony. It has a unified form which culminates in a positive spirit and is characterized by its aura, airiness, order, joy, and warmth. The presentation includes examples such as the Bahá’í House of Worship in India and summarizes the design elements that uplift the spirit.

NOUSHIN EHSAN, AIA (noushinehsan@earthlink.net), has over thirty years’ international experience as an architect. She founded Accessible Architecture, which promotes spiritual and practical approaches to architecture; taught at London North East Polytechnic Institute and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.; and served as adjunct professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Guitty Sedaghat Ejtemai • The Bahá’í International Radio Service

Familiarity with the Message of Bahá’u’lláh is a decisive factor in how humanity finds its way to a future where acceptance, cooperation, and understanding will replace prejudice, contest, and conflict. How this Message is relayed and received in the age of communication where entry by troops in the Bahá’í Faith is the goal to strive for, is discussed in the light of the achievements of Payam-e-Doost, the Persian radio broadcasts of the Bahá’í International Radio Service. This presentation will discuss the history, mission, and operation of Payam-e-Doost and the effectiveness of this mode of communication.

GUITTY SEDAGHAT EJTEMAI completed her education in international relations and communication, French, and human resource development. She has been director of public relations and international affairs for Iran’s Ministry of Agriculture, managing editor of the Farsi service for the Voice of America, and Bahá’í International Radio Service executive director.

Sovaida Ma’ani Ewing • Correlating Bahá’í Ideas on Collective Security with the Current Needs of the International Community

Sovaida Ma’ani Ewing • The Revealed Law, the Lawgiver, and the Book of Laws (*See page 35*)

SOVAIDA MA'ANI EWING (maaniewing@comcast.net), barrister-at-law of England and Wales, and U.S. attorney-at-law, LLM Cambridge, practiced law for fifteen years, most recently as an international lawyer at the U.S. State Department. She is currently an independent scholar writing on collective security, and is the author of *Creating A Bahá'í Identity in Our Children* and coauthor of *Laws of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas*.

GERALD FILSON has served as director of external affairs for the Bahá'í Community of Canada since 1993. He was the producer of "The Bahá'ís" on Canada's VisionTV network, 1988–2002. Previously, he was a teacher while pioneering in the Magdalen Islands, Quebec. He holds a PhD in philosophy of education from the University of Toronto.

Michael Fitzgerald • The Roots of Modern Poetry

A brief essay exploring modern poetry's roots and a reading of several poems by the author.

MICHAEL FITZGERALD is the author of fifteen books of poetry, nonfiction, and children's literature, and is the winner of several awards. He has worked on writing projects for the Association for Bahá'í Studies, the Folger Shakespeare Library, National Public Radio, the Smithsonian Institution, and others. His recent work includes *Sonata of Spirit* (George Ronald) and *Anthems for Earth* (White Mountain).

Parnaz Foroutan • The Pedagogy of Democracy

This presentation describes the pedagogical theory behind research (within my own classrooms) concerning which pedagogical approaches promote a morally awake critical humanist perspective, in contrast to the traditional pedagogy of competition and elitism. The latter are the trademarks of capitalist society and the learning goal of our schools. I employ the notion of a true democratic education as education that promotes equality and a just society. With this in mind, I have focused on creating a curriculum that attempts to communicate this message in both the lessons and in

the systematic method of their delivery, as well as their learning goals.

PARNAZ FOROUTAN (ParnazF@aol.com) is a graduate student in education at U.C. Berkeley researching democratic pedagogy and its applications within the American classroom. She also teaches in a high school where she teaches, learns, and researches the issues of democracy, equity, and social justice.

Mark Foster • Harmony without Hegemony: The Sciences and the Bahá'í Faith

This paper will suggest a possible Bahá'í approach to the harmony of the sciences and the Bahá'í Faith. Several previous interpretations of this doctrine will be summarized. In this writer's view, most of them are largely unsatisfactory. The model proposed here will argue that the sciences and the Bahá'í Faith have differing areas of authority. The sciences have jurisdiction over empirical investigation, and the Bahá'í Faith has direction over ethics and spiritual development. Neither the sciences nor the Bahá'í Faith should interfere with the competencies of the other. Focuses will include evolution, ether, healing, and life on other planets.

MARK A. FOSTER (mfoster@jccc.edu) received his PhD in sociology in 1984 from Mississippi State specializing in religious studies and social theory. He has since been an assistant professor, acting department chair, and division chair at post-secondary institutions and is currently professor of sociology at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.

Stephen Friberg • And Then There Was a Miracle: Intelligent Design and the Fight for God in Science

Intelligent Design has won popular support—and nearly universal scientific opposition—as an alternative to evolutionary and Darwinian explanations of human origins. This report examines Intelligent Design through the sympathetic lens of the book *By Design: Science and the Search for God*, by the science journalist Larry Witham. Particularly good is its description of the motivations and reasonings of leading Design proponents such as Michael Behe, William Dembski,

and Phillip Johnson, while giving equal time to ID critics. We contrast Design views with Bahá'í statements on divine creation.

Stephen Friberg • What Can Bahá'ís Offer to the Dialogue between Science and Religion?
(See page 48)

STEPHEN R. FRIBERG, a PhD physicist with a research background in optics and quantum phenomena, has published several articles on science and religion from a Bahá'í perspective. A founding member of the ABS Science and Religion SIG, he believes the dialogue between science and religion to be a key component to societal advancement.

Glen Fullmer • The U.S. National Spiritual Assembly Office of Communications

The U.S. National Spiritual Assembly created the Office of Communications in September 2004. This presentation will review the office's public information and media relations goals for the next five years: doubling the percentage of Americans who are aware of the Bahá'í Faith, from about 30 percent to 60 percent; strategically placing Bahá'ís in the public discourse on issues of concern to Americans; building on lessons learned during the 1996–2002 national media campaign to systematize the use of media in cluster growth programs; and using innovative approaches, such as Internet marketing, to dramatically lower the cost of reaching seekers and targeting demographics with particular interests.

GLEN FULLMER is the director of the Office of Communications at the Bahá'í National Center. He has served Bahá'í institutions in the communication arena for nearly ten years, including two years as an information officer at the Bahá'í World Centre. He holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland.

Ruby Gubatayao • Thoughts on the Development of an Arts-based Curriculum for FAS/E Children

Bahá'u'lláh, Divine Educator and Physician, assures us: “the soul of man is exalted above, and is independent of, all infirmities of body or mind”; ‘Abdu'l-Bahá asserts: “every child must

be taught crafts and art”; “all Art is a gift of the Holy Spirit”; if Aboriginal children are “educated and properly guided, there can be no doubt that through the Divine teachings they will become so enlightened that the whole earth will be illumined.” In this presentation, these quotations support a call for the development of arts-based curriculum designed to empower Indigenous children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect to reach their full potential.

RUBY GUBATAYAO is a Tsimshian Alaskan elder. After earning her BA and K-12 Certification, she taught in many Indigenous locales. Becoming a Bahá'í in Neah Bay (1976), she undertook teaching trips throughout Canada, Alaska, the U.S., Finland, Norway, and Sweden; served on the Alaskan NSA (1992–97); and spawned three generations of strong Bahá'ís.

Duncan Hanks, Todd Smith, and Gordon Naylor • Starting a Bahá'í-Inspired College in Stratford, Ontario

Presenters will share their learning to date concerning the development of a Bahá'í-inspired college in Stratford, Ontario, which seeks to provide effective integrative programs that enable the analysis and synthesis of knowledge from diverse branches of learning; facilitate integrative learning that embraces the complementarity of reason, scientific inquiry, artistic expression, and religious insight; cultivate the intellectual, moral, and spiritual capabilities to generate, communicate, and apply knowledge for the betterment of the world; employ responsive program delivery systems and pedagogies; and build a dynamic community of participants committed to the overarching principles of justice, unity, and excellence in all things.

DUNCAN HANKS, MA (dhanks@sympatico.ca), is the executive director of Canadian Bahá'í International Development Services. He worked for eleven years at a Bahá'í-inspired university in Bolivia as faculty, trainer, director of administration and finance, and director of international development. He has lived and worked internationally for fifteen years and currently resides in Canada.

John S. Hatcher and Amrollah Hemmat • Reunion with the Beloved: The Challenge of Translating the Affect of Culturally Based Poems about Martyrdom from Persian to English

Translation of culturally based poetry is a formidable task, particularly translation of poems about a subject so inherently subjective and emotionally charged as the experiences of religious martyrs. The translation process and the poems from the collection *Reunion with the Beloved: Poetry and Martyrdom* (Juxta Publishing, 2004) will be discussed by coauthors John S. Hatcher and Amrollah Hemmat. Among the works they will discuss and read in both Persian and English will be poems by recent martyrs such as Awjí and Shapur Markazí, as well as poems by martyrs from early Bahá'í history, Rúhulláh, Varqá, Na'ím, and Liqá'í.

John S. Hatcher • The 23rd Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture • Unveiling the Húrí of Love

As ordinary human beings, most of us are acquainted with the issues that science and religion must resolve to become reconciled in their mutually exclusive descriptions of reality. As Bahá'ís, we are privileged to have been made aware of the fundamental questions and answers relating to the interplay between these twin expressions of reality. As Bahá'í scholars, we are obliged to help discover and forge pathways from these essential questions to the foundational answers so that all may come to understand how physical and metaphysical aspects of reality are, when correctly understood, exact counterparts of each other.

John S. Hatcher and Amrollah Hemmat • Táhirih's Unknown Poems

In the course of our research for *The Poetry of Táhirih*, we discovered a handwritten collection of Táhirih's poems, most of which are unknown and unpublished, let alone translated or studied. We are finishing a volume entitled *Adam's Wish* that contains facsimiles of the original manuscript together with a line-for-line translation into English and extensive scholarly apparatus. This presentation will provide a glimpse into the as yet unsuspected depth and breadth of the theological and philosophical insights of this most learned of

women as revealed through a study of these works.

JOHN S. HATCHER (jhatcher@cas.usf.edu) is professor and graduate director of English literature at the University of South Florida. Professor Hatcher has published over one hundred poems, articles, and chapters in books, and he has published eleven books, the most recent of which is *Close Connections*.

William S. Hatcher • Elements of a Bahá'í-Inspired Natural Theology

Besides the moral and spiritual teachings they contain, the Bahá'í writings articulate a number of metaphysical and philosophical notions and propositions. While some of these have clear resonances with classical philosophy, others appear quite new. We show how to present these various notions as a logically coherent whole, based on explicit and formalizable axioms and principles. The method uses the modern logic of relations, already used in the author's *Minimalism*. However, in contrast to the method of Minimalism, we are here taking our metaphysical principles directly from the Bahá'í writings, and thus no longer require that they be empirically grounded.

WILLIAM S. HATCHER (william.hatcher@sympatico.ca) is a mathematician, philosopher, and educator and is the author of over fifty monographs, books, and articles in the mathematical sciences, logic, and philosophy. Professor Hatcher is one of eight Platonist philosophers listed for the second half of the twentieth century in the highly regarded *Encyclopédie Philosophique Universelle*, 1992.

Amrollah Hemmat • Reunion with the Beloved: The Challenge of Translating the Affect of Culturally Based Poems about Martyrdom from Persian to English (See this page)

Amrollah Hemmat • Táhirih's Unknown Poems (See this page)

Amrollah Hemmat • Islam in Spain

This slideshow about Islam in Spain demonstrates

how Jewish, Christian, and Moslem scholars collaborated for the translation of Greek texts and the development of new interpretations of the holy books with the objective of demonstrating the harmony between science and religion. Images from Andalusia demonstrate the highly advanced state of Islamic art, philosophy, and science. Pre-Islamic roots of Islamic civilization, Islam's role in the birth of a dynamic culture, teachings on independent investigation of truth and scientific inquiry, and contributions of Persians to the development of thought which led to the enlightenment of Europe will be reviewed.

AMROLLAH HEMMAT, PhD (ahemmat@jhu.edu), received a BS in physics at the University of Shiraz, an MBA from Harvard-affiliated ICMS, an MS in applied behavioral science at Johns Hopkins, and a PhD in communication from the University of South Florida. He has coauthored three books and is finishing a fourth.

Carol Anne Hilton • The Aboriginal Person as Peacemaker

Carol Anne Hilton • The Unity of Science and Religion in First Nations Beliefs

This presentation examines the existing unity between science and religion in First Nations beliefs and cultures as developed over time. First Nations people have gained vast amounts of knowledge and wisdom through the study of the physical world and taken this knowledge and transformed it into a highly spiritual set of social and cultural teachings. This presentation will outline some of the observations from the natural world, and examine these as spiritual teachings and look at their harmony and agreement with the Bahá'í writings.

CAROL ANNE HILTON is a Hesquiatic Bahá'í from a small village called Hotsprings Cove on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Carol Anne has extensive experience teaching and facilitating workshops and works in the field of economics, community, and social development. Her academic background is in business management and First Nations studies.

Mary Ho • China in the New Millennium

China's modern generation exemplifies the surging culmination of an evolutionary process from Imperial China to China today. Global developments beckon China to ready itself yet again to manage the challenges of the twenty-first century and harness the wisdom and attributes of its ever-evolving Chinese culture and dynamic diaspora in the contemporary world. Pedagogic diversity is a critical consideration in promoting the unity and efficacy of its multitude of peoples, cultivating continual innovation and interaction of three great challenges of the modern world: life after the genome, wisdom in the age of digital information, and sustainability in the age of economic development.

Richard Hollinger and Sandra Hutchison • Envisioning Monsalvat University

Sarah Farmer founded educational conferences that attracted leading thinkers, educators, artists, and spiritual seekers and served as the basis of her dream for a future university. 'Abdu'l-Bahá confirmed her vision and, according to numerous accounts, gave specifics about the university, pointing out where specific buildings would be built on Monsalvat. He said these were ordained matters, not conjecture, and that "the buildings hung low over that place" and would be a material reality when mankind was purified. Recently a group of people created the "Friends of Monsalvat University" to help hasten this dream.

RICHARD HOLLINGER is finishing his PhD dissertation at the University of California, Los Angeles, in Middle Eastern studies and is also currently completing a PhD in archives. He has published and edited a great deal on Bahá'í topics, including *The Diary of Agnes Parsons*, on which he collaborated with his wife, Sandra Hutchinson.

Donald H. House • Meditations on the Letter Váv

This presentation will demonstrate how the letter váv of the Persian alphabet can serve to generate a metaphor with the potential to unify scientific models of matter, energy, and time, with religious models of creation, divine revelation, and eternity. The presentation will show how the recursive

structure of the letter vāv, which in Persian is spelled vāv-alif-vāv, can progressively unfold a hierarchy that at once represents the progression of the revelation of divine will through the Manifestations of God and the enfolding of universes within universes across a vast range of scales.

DONALD H. HOUSE, PhD (house@viz.tamu.edu), is a professor at Texas A&M University doing research in computer graphics, with emphases on physically based simulation for animation, and perceptual issues. He has served on Spiritual Assemblies in five cities and earned his PhD in computer science in 1984 from the University of Massachusetts.

Matthew W. Hughey • Sociology, Faith, and Social Transformation: Bahá'í Theology as Resolution of the Postmodern-Positivist Divide

Common conceptions of the Bahá'í unification hypothesis that science and religion are one often assume that both science and religion are positivistic absolutes. This work explores the social context of scientific knowledge, noting that (a) the glorification of science lacks a social construction component; (b) scholars are turning away from relativistic methods and epistemologies; (c) attention is directed away from historically marginalized perspectives; and (d) academic endeavors are less concerned with Divine transformation. It proposes that the Bahá'í unification hypothesis be revisited to reconsider "science" as socially relative to divinely revealed social justice, and scientific essentialism is thus incompatible with Bahá'í theology.

MATTHEW W. HUGHEY (matthewhughey@hotmail.com) is a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Virginia and a research assistant for the Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies. His research interests include critical race theory, inequality, cultural studies, the sociology of culture and knowledge, radical social movements, and religion.

Sandra Hutchison • Envisioning Monsalvat University (See page 28)

SANDRA HUTCHISON, PHD, teaches literature at the University of Maine and is a published writer of

nonfiction and fiction, with a forthcoming novel. She has served as a researcher for the Universal House of Justice. She and husband Richard Hollinger collaborated on "Women and the Bahá'í Faith" for the *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion*.

Jalíl-Amín Jacallen • Using Spiritual Insights in Developing a Model for Systemic Evolution of Global Politics

JALÍL-AMÍN JACALLEN is from Alaska and recently received his Master of Social Sciences in European Studies from the University of Turku, Finland. His thesis was entitled "Institutionalisation of the Lesser Peace: Supranationalism and the EU in the World's Systemic Transition." He has traveled extensively in recent years in Europe and Russia.

Don Johnson and Welkin E. Johnson • Exploring the Tablet of Ahmad as Revealed Word

Original interpretations of the Tablet of Ahmad are offered and the "special potency and significance" with which the Tablet has been invested, according to Shoghi Effendi, are explicitly characterized. The symbol of the Tree of Eternity is explored as offering common ground between scientific and spiritual understanding. The conundrum of "absolute sincerity" for mortals is addressed.

DON JOHNSON (djohnson@bookette.com) has taught literature at Western Michigan University and Michigan Tech. He resides with wife Carol in California and works in the field of academic testing. His article "On the Transverse Emission and Propagation of Light from Moving Sources" appeared in the Jan 2005 issue of *Galilean Electrodynamics*.

Welkin E. Johnson • Exploring the Tablet of Ahmad as Revealed Word (See this page)

WELKIN E. JOHNSON (welkin_johnson@HMS.harvard.edu) received his PhD from Tufts University School of Medicine upon completion of his dissertation "Primate Phylogenetics and the Evolution of Human Endogenous Retroviruses."

He is currently an assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at Harvard Medical School and lives in Massachusetts with his wife and daughter.

LeRoy Jones • The True Seeker and the Mystic Herald

Bahá'u'lláh's portrayal of the true seeker's path in the *Kitáb-i-Iqán* shows how acquiring "the attributes of the exalted" leads to an awakening incited by the "mystic Herald." What are these attributes and does their acquisition lead directly to the "knowledge of the Ancient of Days?" Who is the mystic Herald? What is this "trumpet-blast?" How discernible is the City of God which displays both intricate subtlety and open magnificence? Deeper understanding not only enhances the spiritual beauty, but the internal dialogue inspired by rigorous attention encourages an introspective journey where the reality of religious attainment lies in the discipline of changing personal behavior.

LEROY JONES (leroyajones@yahoo.com) is a businessman and independent scholar residing in Pocatello, Idaho. His primary focus of study is the mystical teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. He has published several papers and presented various aspects of this subject at numerous venues in North America.

Greg Kagira-Watson • Developmental Stages of Conflict Resolution Culminating in Transformative Learning

Argyris's *action science* ("Model II communication") could help mediators work with individuals and groups in a way that allows these individuals to authentically transform the kinds of internal (often unconscious) dialogues they use to interpret their circumstances, so they can express negative thoughts publicly and sincerely (in conflict resolution), but with a greater chance of productive external dialogue (consultation). Through this transformative communication (learning) process individuals uncover within themselves "distorted, inauthentic, or otherwise invalid assumptions" resulting in new ways of constructing meaning and building unity. The interest of the whole is considered. These represent higher levels of consciousness in conflict resolution.

Greg Kagira-Watson • In Response to BIC Document No. 93-0614, What Kind of "Standard Education" of World Citizenship for All Children Could Be Capable of Helping Transform Society?

In character education, civics and democracy education, human rights education, multicultural/diversity education, and transformative learning could be considered components of an ensemble—"each critical to the others'success" (Senge 1990). We will explore the power of adding two more components: (1) exploiting the sciences to promote oneness and impart moral value; (2) using the systems model for "schools that learn" as a means to think about moving the ethos of the culture of the school and community towards unity in diversity.

Greg Kagira-Watson • Ransom, Redemption, Atonement, and Salvation

How do you feel, as a Bahá'í, when you hear these words? Do you own them as God's Revelation language for this Day, or do you think of them as only relevant to a past dispensation? What do they mean? They are related to *Ruhi Book 2* (see pp. 27 and 34). Question: "How did Bahá'u'lláh's sufferings make humanity free and happy? What is the dynamic between His sufferings and humanity's prosperity?" Shoghi Effendi asked the Bahá'ís to teach the sufferings of Bahá'u'lláh to Christians because they fell in love with Christ for His sacrifice. How can these terms help us?

GREG KAGIRA-WATSON (<http://GW.homestead.com>) has been a middle-school science teacher, an advisor to the Council for Global Education in Washington, D.C., and a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education. He taught psychology in the graduate program for teachers at the University of Massachusetts and is currently completing his education doctorate at Harvard University.

Michael Karlberg (panelist) • Teaching University Courses with Bahá'í Content

Michael Karlberg • Criticism, Critical Thinking, and Critical Theory: Tools for Social Change?

This presentation explores the function of scholarly criticism, critical thinking, and critical theory as tools for social change. First, it contrasts Bahá'í teachings on criticism and critical thinking to prevailing secular approaches. Second, it examines the emergence of contemporary "critical theory" as an interdisciplinary framework committed to social change, deriving from secular approaches to criticism and critical thinking. Third, it evaluates, from a Bahá'í perspective, the positive and negative contributions of critical theory to processes of social transformation. Finally, the presentation concludes with suggestions regarding how to reconcile criticism, critical thinking, and critical theory with principles of Bahá'í scholarship.

MICHAEL KARLBERG (karlberg@cc.wvu.edu) is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Western Washington University. His scholarship focuses on the relationship between communication, culture, and conflict. He recently published a book entitled *Beyond the Culture of Contest: From Adversarialism to Mutualism in an Age of Interdependence* (George Ronald, 2004).

Hooman Katirai • Computer Modeling of the Universe for Insight into Creation

Using techniques in computer science one can create universes within a computer. These universes can have similarities to our world, including creatures that can learn and Darwinian evolution. We examine some computer universes to gain insight into what might be possible for us to know about God, paying particular attention to the computer simulation "The Game of Life" created by the mathematician Conway. We show the necessity of an intermediary, why human messengers seem to be ideal intermediaries, and why God is inherently unknowable. Throughout the presentation we show parallels between insights from the model and writings from the world's major religions.

HOOMAN KATIRAI (hmk@mit.edu) is a master's student in MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; a master's candidate in MIT's Technology and Policy Program; and a research fellow at Harvard Medical School. He has held a number of engi-

neering and management positions at technology companies; most recently at Microsoft.

Babak Rod Khadem • What Ever Happened to A Priori Truth? The Modern Oblivion of the Metahistorical and the New Myopia of the Religion-Science Dichotomy

This presentation critiques the standard modern account of the bifurcation between the domains of science and religion by bringing to light the alternative accounts of the ancient Greek, classical Islamic, and Bahá'í traditions. By contrasting the modern Western account with these several alternatives, this presentation attempts on the one hand to undermine the standard presumption of the universality of the modern science-religion distinction and, on the other hand, to highlight its historicity and anomalous character. An underlying theme and thesis of this presentation is that there is no possibility of scientific thinking absent certain a priori religious presumptions.

BABAK ROD KHADEM (rko@berkeley.edu) has an MA in Islamic studies and a JD from UC Berkeley. He is a PhD student at UC Berkeley in Islamic studies (Islamic reinterpretation of Greek philosophy, Islamic law, and Arabic texts), and is on a one-year leave at a law firm specializing in Islamic law.

Mozhan Khadem • Art, Science, and Religion: Three Complementary Ways of "Knowing"

Over the course of the preceding centuries, nature has become systematically desacralized, and our knowledge of it has been fragmented into different spheres of social activities affecting the separation of art, science, and religion into three separate ways of "knowing." The social and environmental crisis of our time will not be resolved unless and until we bring the sense of the sacred back to life and nature and understand that art science and religion are, according to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's definitions, three ways of knowing the same ineffable reality.

MOZHAN KHADEM's (mozhan@bdcintl.com) professional experience includes numerous award-winning projects and publications in the U.S.,

Europe, and the Middle East. His projects include New American University, Cairo; Koch University, Istanbul; Farahzad City, Tehran; Jondi Shapour University, Ahwaz; and Silvestre Cancer Clinic, Jackson Laboratories, and Learner Tower for University Hospitals of Cleveland, in the U.S.

Ian Kluge • Solid Smoke: Poetry of the Spirit
(See page 37)

Ian Kluge • Buddhism, Hegel, and Bahá'í Ontology

In this paper we shall continue the exploration of Bahá'í ontology that we began in “Bahá'í Ontology: An Initial Reconnaissance.” We shall examine issues related to becoming and change—with reference to the Buddhist doctrine of dependent origination and Hegel’s dialectic. We shall show how the Bahá'í writings take a middle path between substantialism and nonsubstantialism. The paper also examines what the Writings say about the nature of “things” as well as the order of knowledge and the order of being.

Ian Kluge • Reason and Faith in the Bahá'í Writings

This paper summarizes the contents of a three-day course given at Bosch Bahá'í School (June, 2005) on the relationship of faith and reason in the Bahá'í writings. To deepen our understanding, comparisons will be drawn with other theories on this subject such as those of Aquinas, Pascal, Kierkegaard, Barth, and Tillich. We shall see that the Writings—despite affinities to Aquinas’s views—strike a unique chord on this issue. The paper will also examine how reason is used in the Writings.

IAN KLUGE is a poet, playwright, and independent scholar who lives in Prince George, British Columbia. His latest book of plays, *The Gender Wars Trilogy*, is available from Amazon. His philosophical studies of the Bahá'í writings and the poet Conrad Aiken have also been published. He is a frequent presenter at Irfan Colloquia.

MICHELLE LANGAN is an active third generation Bahá'í youth from Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada. She graduated from Scott Collegiate and is currently working as a paralegal

at Young Law Office. Michelle is also a talented graphic artist, traditional dancer, and has trained for two-and-a-half years as a boxer.

Joanne M. Langley • Inching Towards Mutual Helpfulness and Reciprocity: Cooperation in Biomedical Scientific Research

Bahá'u'lláh’s vision of collaborative human endeavor is characterized by cooperation, mutual aid, and reciprocity. In the Western paradigm of biomedical scientific research, independence of individual investigators is highly valued and is commonly a prerequisite for academic promotion. Independence and individual achievement is seen as proof that the researcher can function without ongoing direction or guidance from mentors, and that he or she will be able to create new knowledge in current and future work. However, biomedical research is increasingly collaborative. The possible explanations for the forces behind this collaboration will be discussed in light of the Bahá'í writings.

JOANNE M. LANGLEY, MD (jmlangle@dal.ca), is associate professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She practices as a pediatric infectious disease specialist and conducts clinical research. She has three children and has been a Bahá'í since 1989.

Lyse Langlois, Claire Lapointe, and Carolyn Shields • Spiritually Inspired Educational Leadership in Public School Systems: An Example of the Integration of Science and Religion

The notion of spiritually inspired leadership in public education is relatively new in scholarly literature. We describe spiritual leadership as the process by which educational leaders are inspired by universally recognized values and spiritual attitudes in their daily actions. Our paper will present an overview of theories in educational administration with a focus on spiritual leadership, and will examine connections between the concept of spiritual leadership and the teachings of Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith. We will conclude with a proposal for a reinforced dialogue between communities of faith to take into account

the beliefs and traditions of each member of the school community, treating each one with absolute regard.

LYSE LANGLOIS is associate professor at the Department of Industrial Relations at Laval University, Canada. She works with an international multidisciplinary team on ethics and values in management. Currently, her main research deals with the ethical dimensions and representations of leadership as well as the resolution of complex problems.

Claire Lapointe • Spiritually Inspired Educational Leadership in Public School Systems: An Example of the Integration of Science and Religion (See page 32)

Claire Lapointe • The Bahá'í Principle of Universal Education and the Role of Technology: Towards Closing the Gap (See page 42)

CLAIRE LAPOINTE (claire.lapointe@fse.ulaval.ca) is associate professor at Laval University, Canada. Her research pertains to the influence of school principals on student achievement, multicultural and multilingual school settings, and gender and education. She has worked in Germany, French Polynesia, New Zealand, and Gabon, as well as in Quebec, New Brunswick, and British Columbia.

Todd Lawson (panelist) • Teaching University Courses with Bahá'í Content

TODD LAWSON (todd.lawson@utoronto.ca) was the first research director for ABS (1987–89) and is associate professor of Islamic thought at the University of Toronto. He teaches courses on Islamic mysticism, philosophy, and mysticism. This summer he taught a course on the Bahá'í Faith at McGill University. He has published several studies of the Báb's Writings and is currently engaged in further research in this area.

Learning English at a Distance (LEAD) Team • Developing an Online Course: A Bahá'í Experience

This presentation explains the experiences of multidisciplinary, multilingual, volunteer Bahá'í

experts, the Learning English at a Distance (LEAD) team, who developed an online English language course. E-learning makes it possible to reach students in remote locations who do not have access to experienced teachers. However, it entails the development of certain pedagogical practices that are different from face-to-face classroom learning. Presenters will discuss spiritual dimensions, group dynamics, the process of collaboration, state of the art technology, pedagogical principles, and copyright issues as related to distance-learning course development.

LEAD comprises BARBARA LOEDING, an associate professor, special education, who has developed and taught on-line courses; FARAH KHORSANDIAN-SANCHEZ, a doctoral student in ESL instructional technology; AMROLLAH HEMMAT, with graduate degrees in applied behavioral science and communication; and SAFINEH TAHMASEBI, CHAD BADIYAN, IRSHAT MADYAROV, LOIS NADERI, and SANDY MILLER.

John LeBlanc • Definitions of Health and Well-being: Perspectives from Science and Religion

Contemporary Western scientific definitions of health are rooted in a materialist philosophy with scant attention paid to spiritual dimensions. While useful, these definitions ignore a reality embraced by most of the world's peoples. This presentation will focus on the concept and measurement of health from a Western scientific tradition and present Bahá'í writings that can be used to complement materialist-based definitions. Barriers and pathways to increasing consensus will be discussed.

JOHN LEBLANC, MD (JohnLeBlancMD@gmail.com), is a pediatrician and epidemiologist at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He has worked in Canada, East Africa, and Fiji. His area of research is aggression and disruptive behavior in children. Over the last thirty-five years, he has served on local, regional, and national bodies of the Bahá'í Faith.

Dale Lehman • Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo and the Making of the Animal Kingdom by Sean B. Carroll

Comprehending how life has evolved its incredible diversity has proven a difficult challenge. Biologists have long known that the keys to understanding this problem lie in understanding how individual organisms develop from a single cell into billions or trillions of specialized cells. The new science of evolutionary developmental biology, or “Evo Devo,” has provided those keys. Researcher Sean B. Carroll offers a detailed look at the surprising insights provided by Evo Devo. Among the most astounding: all animal forms utilize the same small set of “toolkit genes” to control development, genes that predate the Cambrian explosion six hundred million years ago.

Dale E. Lehman • Cosmology and the Bahá’í Writings

Bahá’ís sometimes see a conflict between statements in their Holy Writings about the size and age of the universe and Big Bang cosmology, which indicates that the universe is of finite age and possibly of finite size. Yet the principle of harmony of science and religion suggests that there should be no conflict. Is there a “middle road” that allows the best available science to inform Bahá’í belief without undermining our commitment to scriptural authority? In this presentation I will demonstrate that there is, as Bahá’u’lláh set forth a cosmology that fully harmonizes with our evolving scientific understanding of our universe.

DALE E. LEHMAN is a software developer with twenty-five years’ experience in the financial, government, and health care industries. He publishes Planet Bahá’í (<http://www.planetbahai.org>), a broad-based Web resource on the Bahá’í Faith, and serves on the ABS Science and Religion SIG’s steering board and Web site committee.

Claire Levesque • Limitations of the Scientific Method in Assessing the Power of Prayer

All religions emphasize the power of prayer to heal. Scientific research on this topic yields highly variable and conflicting results, likely because prayer is a complex factor not quantifiable by the scientific method. But we know science and religion agree so there must be alternate approaches to investigations of this subtle, but potent, phenomenon. Better understanding through informed

research will lead to a more comprehensive and deepened response to health, illness, and the healing process. This will also provide the means for patients and the healing community to further incorporate the power of prayer and spiritual practices into their actions.

CLAIRE LEVESQUE, MD (ClaireLevesque@rcn.com), is a behavioral neurologist practicing at the interface between neurology and psychiatry. She sees patients with autism, intellectual disabilities, and Alzheimer’s Disease. Her care focuses on treatment of behaviors resulting from these brain processes. Dr. Levesque loves her work but is dismayed by society’s reactions to her patients.

Danielle Locke • Wakpala: Youth Empowering Youth—Youth Empowering Community

Knowing that the process of social transformation and building global unity must occur at the micro level, and that Wakpala, Standing Rock Nation, was moving steadily towards socioeconomic decline, hopelessness, and despair, in June 2002 we developed a youth-propelled project designed to enhance and develop the spiritual and intellectual capacities of participants. In turn, youth studying, serving, and socializing together have impacted the community, families, and local tribal government. This presentation provides an overview of the conditions of Wakpala, the methodology used in the project, the effects it has had on the community, and the implications for Wakpala’s future.

DANIELLE LOCKE is a Cree Bahá’í from Kawacatoose First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada. She currently lives in Wakpala District on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. Danielle holds a degree in Indian Studies from the First Nations University of Canada. She has over twenty years’ experience in community development in Indian communities in Canada and the United States.

Barbara L. Loeding • Using Computers to Help People Communicate with Deaf Signers

To improve communication among all people in the world, we need to learn about progress made

in assistive communication devices. If we desire a universal language that all will use to communicate, how will signers be included? Are we assuming a spoken universal language? This presentation will answer the question “Is there a universal form of sign language?” and review efforts underway in a number of countries to develop automated sign language computer translators. Software programs including research at University of South Florida that translate from sign language to text to help people understand a deaf person will be emphasized.

BARBARA L. LOEDING, associate professor of special education at the University of South Florida–Lakeland, Florida, enjoys communicating in sign language. She is an expert in augmentative communication and studies how technology can assist people with disabilities.

Daniel B. Lord • Consciously Influencing the Course of Love

Ideas about love and marriage tend to reflect the trends in scientific thought. Thus, notions that love could be controlled and objectively examined gave way to its characterization as an animal impulse and irrational emotion. In the present day, the popularity of professional marriage counseling and retreats seems to signal a longing for a more conscious influencing of the course of love. This presentation explores how the Bahá’í teachings provide a new, stable framework for appreciating marriage and facilitating the practical means for its preservation and enrichment.

DANIEL B. LORD, PhD (afdbl@uaa.alaska.edu), practices as an attorney and is an adjunct psychology instructor in Alaska. He completed graduate degrees in psychology and education at the University of Michigan, and holds law degrees from the University of Iowa.

Baharieh Ma’ani and Sovaida Ma’ani Ewing • The Revealed Law, the Lawgiver, and the Book of Laws

Humanity’s continued need for a divinely revealed code of behavior will be discussed under “the Revealed Law.” The discussion will cover both spiritual and material laws, the difference between them and the necessity for material law

to meet the requirements of time and the maturity of those addressed for the duration of the Revealer’s dispensation. The law’s transforming power, its role in civilizing of human nature, the way it helps humanity recognize its essential oneness and work towards an ever-advancing civilization, and its effects on the organization of human affairs at all levels will be explored and examples provided.

BAHARIEH ROUHANI MA’ANI (baharieh@bwc.org) is a researcher, translator, and special project aide at the Bahá’í World Centre. She is author of *Ásíyih Khánúm, The Most Exalted Leaf, Entitled Navváb*; articles in Persian and English; and is coauthor of *Laws of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas* and translator of *Years of Silence* and pilgrimage memoirs of Muhammad-Shaffí Rouhani.

Lawrence McCullough • The Wisdom of the Dance

Dance, one of the oldest art forms, finds a widely diverse range of expression throughout human culture. It is also one of the least-understood art forms in terms of emotional /spiritual development. Recent insights into Eastern and Western understanding of the body as an energy system, insights from neurophysiology into the fundamental link between physical/emotional experience and higher-order thinking processes and the neuropsychology of the dynamic impact of kinesthetic transfer suggest that dance has a powerful role in affecting mental/spiritual health and supporting healthy development of a vibrant community.

Lawrence McCullough • Pinetree Institute: Translating Sarah Farmer’s Vision into Reality

Pinetree Institute is a newly formed nonprofit organization bordering the Monsalvat property dedicated by Sarah Farmer to the development of a University. Pinetree programs are devoted to exploring Sarah Farmer’s vision that healthy human development integrates physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual capacities for the purpose of supporting a life of productive service. Programs draw on a wide variety of integrative approaches and methods with an emphasis on the arts as an integrative methodology and on group process as a means to facilitate both individual and group development to bring forth emotional

and spiritual capacities essential for healthy learning and personal growth.

LAWRENCE MCCULLOUGH, EdD, human development, University of Massachusetts (lmccullough@mindspring.com), is the executive director of Pinetree Institute, a workshop center in Eliot, Maine, devoted to integrative approaches to individual, organization, and community development. He began his career in dance and theater and has worked for more than twenty-five years in corporate settings as a consultant.

Patricia Romano McGraw • Creating Your Own Reality Through Attunement to God, Self, and Others

Assumptions about life based on the Bahá'í writings and recent research on the brain show that the goal of life is learning. Brain patterns called nervous system templates are created through life experiences. Patterns change when new information is brought into the system. When we attune to God and others with love, nervous system templates are created that literally change our experience of reality. By beginning to understand how spiritual practice changes material reality, participants will discover new ways to unlock their own spiritual potential. This workshop is based on a book slated for publication by Bahá'í Publishing next year.

PATRICIA ROMANO MCGRAW, PhD (PatriciaMcGraw@Comcast.net), of Forensic Psychology Services, Baltimore, specializes in psychology and the law and in the clinical treatment of victims of violence and abuse. Her first book, *It's Not Your Fault: How Healing Relationships Change Your Brain and Can Help You Overcome a Painful Past*, was released by Bahá'í Publishing in 2004.

Saba Mahanian and Farjam Majd • The Need for an All-Unifying Mind Force to Direct and Coordinate the Universe

'Abdu'l-Bahá states: "All created things are connected one to another by a linkage complete and perfect . . . a universal power inevitably existeth, which encompasseth all, directing and regulating all the parts of this infinite creation." This statement is explored in the context of system engi-

neering principles that guide the development of complex systems through the essential stages of conceptualization, design, implementation, and deployment; necessitating resource and requirements coordination within each stage. Two objections are addressed: (1) the universe is self-managing through natural laws without a unifying Mind Force; (2) complex systems through decentralized networks can self-organize without central management or control.

SABA MAHANIAN, PhD (saba.mahanian@pss.Boeing.com), is an aerospace engineer from Stanford University specializing in control systems and biomechanics. Has taught engineering and enjoys the study of history and philosophy.

Farjam Majd • The Need for an All-Unifying Mind Force to Direct and Coordinate the Universe (See this page)

FARJAM MAJD, JD (farjam_majd@yahoo.com), is an IP attorney. Previously, an engineer in the fields of software, electrical, and mechanical engineering, he enjoys the study of philosophy and science.

Neysun Mahboubi • The Role (and Limits) of Law in Generating Civic Trust

NEYSUN MAHBOUBI is a Fellow of the China Law Center at Yale Law School. He has worked as a civil litigator for the U.S. Department of Justice and as a law clerk for a U.S. District Court. His primary research interest is in the role of public law in structuring change in developing or transitional societies. He holds an AB from Princeton (Politics and East Asian Studies) and a JD from Columbia Law School.

Susan Stiles Maneck • A Historical Perspective on Relations between Science and Religion

This historical overview examines the relationship between religion and science as they address the question of how we know what we know. The origin of Greek philosophy and its impact on the Abrahamic religions, various syntheses of reason and revelation in the Islamic and Christian Middle Ages, the nominalist separation of reason and rev-

elation into exclusive spheres, and the Enlightenment attempt to deduce all knowledge through the study of natural law, are all examined. It is within this historical context that we should examine 'Abdu'l-Bahá's own statements regarding science and religion, paying close attention to the significance of the original terminology.

SUSAN STILES MANECK (smaneck@jam.rr.com) is associate professor of history at Jackson State University and teaches world history, history of the Middle East and South Asia, and comparative religion. She has written extensively on the history of both the Bahá'í Faith and Zoroastrianism. She recently coauthored the textbook, *About Philosophy: A Multi-Cultural Approach*.

Douglas Martin • The Bahá'í Community and the Life of the Mind

DOUGLAS MARTIN served on the Universal House of Justice from 1993 to 2005 and the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly from 1960 to 1985. From 1985 to 1993 he was director-general of the Bahá'í International Community's Office of Public Information at the Bahá'í World Centre, and was editor-in-chief of *One Country* and *The Bahá'í World*. He coauthored *The Bahá'í Faith: The Emerging Global Religion* with William S. Hatcher. Mr. Martin was a founding member of the Association for Bahá'í Studies and served on its Executive Committee from 1974 to 1985.

Grant Martin (panelist) • Teaching University Courses with Bahá'í Content

GRANT MARTIN is a part-time instructor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University, and in the final stages of completing a PhD in the philosophy of religion at Concordia University. He has taught an introductory course on the Bahá'í Faith at McGill University three times.

Nahal Mavaddat • An Unfolding Universe

I will present an overview of the creative and evolutionary forces—physical, biological, social, intellectual, and spiritual—which have shaped our planet from the conception of our physical Universe with the Big Bang, to the creation of

life on the planet and its evolution, to the intellectual and collective life of humanity as it progresses towards a global civilization. The presentation aims to address our understanding of the global forces that have ultimately come to shape our society through a scientific perspective (rather than the usual sociological one), and in doing so to assist us to respond to those who may be struggling to understand the challenges currently facing our planet.

NAHAL MAVADDAT's interests include cognitive neuroscience, psychiatry, and behavioral science. He obtained his PhD in this area from the University of Cambridge in 2002. He is a medical doctor and in academic medicine and is involved in research and teaching medical students, as well as clinical work.

Linda Meccouri • Transformative Teaching/Learning Environments for Diverse Adult Learners

This presentation is designed to explore transformative education that is accessible for a diversity of adult learners using the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Approaches to teaching and learning that support resilience and educational persistence for people from underserved populations in terms of social class, race, ability and culture will be demonstrated. The presentation will include an exploration of the theory and practice of UDL as it applies to educational environments, practical tools to create positive environments for learning, and a multimedia presentation of learners who persisted in education against the odds.

LINDA MECCOURI, professor and department chair of computer information technologies at Springfield Technical Community College, has been a community college educator for over twenty-four years. Dr. Meccouri has experienced first-hand the powerful effect of education in the transformation of her own and her students' lives.

Robert Michell and Ian Kluge • Solid Smoke: Poetry of the Spirit

Spirit is not what you think: it's not all rose petals and teaspoons. It's not a ticket to heaven. It's rather a humble panache—a cold trickle of true. If you can catch smoke, you're there. And if you can

mine truth from the ore of opinion, voila! But spirit is not all gravity—it is sometimes packaged in levity. Just, don't ask for too much brevity! (This session will be a reading of poems by Ian Kluge and Robert Michell.)

Robert Michell • The Spotless Source of the Ten-thousand Things

One of the greatest issues in philosophical and religious dialogue is the relationship between the absolute and the relative. On every level it seems to us that relative things exist and do not need proof, but entertaining the possibility of an Absolute Being is far more problematic. We can test relative aspects of things, but not an absolute aspect. Then how does science deal with this? Our minds contain relative aspects but cannot in any way contain an absolute, only ideas about such a (potential) reality. Then how do we relate to an Absolute if we cannot even conceive of it, if confession of ignorance is the highest knowledge?

ROBERT MICHELL (microbe@osullivan.edu) is a teacher and poet-philosopher, residing in Montreal with his wife and four boys. He has given many talks on spirituality and science and has a deep passion to spread the wonderful gems of Bahá'u'lláh. He has recently published a book of poems, *Smuggling Buddha*.

Kelly Monjazez • The Year of Patience: A Tool for Transformation, An Exploration of the Year of Patience in Light of Current Findings in Social Psychology

Nowhere is social transformation needed more than in family life today. Not only are we collectively in need of ideologies and beliefs that support the unity and health of family life, but also tools and strategies to turn the tide of family breakdown when a couple is in danger of divorcing. The law of a year of patience requires we create a culture of healing and growth within our community and of working towards spiritualizing our unions in marriage, offering hope to even the most discouraged. IMAGO Therapy will be offered as an example of current marital therapy for healing damaged relationships.

KELLY MONJAZEB (kelly@betterfamilylife.ca) holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the

University of Victoria, British Columbia, and has worked with individuals and families for fifteen years. Kelly's areas of special interest and training include moral education, healthy sexuality, and couples therapy. She has been married for eleven years and has two boys.

Shahrokh Monjazez • A Look at the Source Tablets used by Shoghi Effendi in preparing the *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*

The presentation will examine the sources Shoghi Effendi used in creating the *Gleanings*. Since Shoghi Effendi did not leave behind a source index for the “gleaned” passages, the task of identifying the original Tablets from which the passages were translated has been like finding a needle in a haystack. Who were the original recipients of these revelations? During what period of Bahá'u'lláh's ministry were they revealed? The answer to these and other such questions will be explored.

SHAHROKH MONJAZEB has been a presenter at the ABS Conference for over a decade. His writings and presentations focus primarily on Bahá'í Sacred Text and their literary and historical significance in the context.

Redwan Moqbel • That “Eureka” Moment; the Role of Reflection and Inspiration in Scientific Discovery

This presentation addresses the role of inspiration in the convergence of intellect and spirit leading to scientific discovery. It examines inspiration as a means for a gradual and ever-expanding revelation of truth from the Source of sciences and arts for those committed to scientific endeavor and discovery. A better appreciation and acceptance of inspiration and viewing ourselves, as scientists, as conduits of revealed truth may contribute to engendering humility and gratitude in pursuit of excellence in research and discovery. This connection is traced to outstanding and world-renowned scientists including Albert Einstein and his view that a true scientist could not be irreligious.

REDWAN (RIDVAN) MOQBEL, PhD, FRCPATH (rmoqbel@shaw.ca), is professor of medicine and immunology, and director of the pulmonary research group at the University of Alberta. He is

a world expert on lung inflammation, with over 160 publications, and has been a member of the U.K. National Spiritual Assembly and both Auxiliary Boards.

Peter Murphy • Poetry as Transformation

While many beginning poets write to “express” themselves, more experienced poets will write to “reveal” or “discover” through poetry. This session will use sample works by Bahá’í and non-Bahá’í poets to explore the transformative nature of truly creative language.

PETER MURPHY’S poems and essays have appeared in *The American Book Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Commonweal*, *The Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Witness*, and *World Order*. His recent book of poems, *Stubborn Child*, has been called “both transforming and transformative” by Stephen Dunn, winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize in poetry.

Bahman Nadimi • The Creation of Complex Life Forms—Scriptural Analysis and a Unified Thought System

This presentation will explore the creation of complex life forms including ideas behind the materialist and Intelligent Design (ID) thought systems. As one surveys the Bahá’í teachings on unity of science and religion, one becomes aware that Bahá’í scripture not only calls for unity of science and religion, but it also provides a framework where this unity can be fostered and eventually established. The question arises, what general principles, specific arguments or spiritual insights does Bahá’í scripture provide that can form a basis for a unified thought system on the processes leading to the creation of complex life-forms?

BAHMAN NADIMI, MSEE (bahmannadimi@yahoo.com), is a senior software engineer at Cisco Systems. He holds a bachelor’s degree from University of London, and a master’s degree from Louisiana State University. Mr. Nadimi has also taught science and engineering at various universities. He currently lives in North Carolina with his wife and children.

Gordon Naylor • Starting a Bahá’í-Inspired College in Stratford, Ontario (See page 26)

GORDON NAYLOR (MEd) (gnaylor@bellnet.ca) manages a social services agency for residential treatment. He is president of Breakwell Education Association, a nonprofit corporation overseeing several Bahá’í -inspired educational projects including the Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute and the Stratford College of Liberal Arts. He serves as chairperson of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada.

Tahirih Naylor and Sahba Sabet • Student-Taught Courses: Experiments with FUNDAEC Material on Critical Thinking, Leadership, and Social Action

We will explore the experience of students at the University of Ottawa, Canada, in using material from the FUNDAEC Institute in Columbia entitled “Intellectual Preparation for Social Action.” This material addresses contemporary theory, correlates it to spiritual principle, and forges links to social action. This pilot project was launched by the Canadian National Coordinating Committee of the Campus Associations for Bahá’í Studies and consisted of a small but diverse group of Bahá’í students and their friends. The implications of this experience for systematic training in scholarship and social action, and for student initiated learning with their peers, will be discussed.

TAHIRIH NAYLOR (tahirihnaylor@hotmail.com) completed her studies in law in 2003 and currently works for the the Office of Governmental Relations of the Bahá’í Community of Canada. She also serves on the National Coordinating Committee of the Campus Associations for Bahá’í Studies.

Joseph Nga • African Spiritual Renewal: Cultural and Environmental Dimensions

This presentation explores the impact of Bahá’í teachings on African spiritual renewal and growth. It examines how Bahá’í teachings influence tradition and social transformation, and revives the African impulse to care for Mother Earth. Bahá’í natural metaphors speak directly to the African cultural imagination. For centuries, most African cultures were dismissed as primitive and barbaric.

Yet, the Central Figures of the Bahá'í Faith saw depth and beauty in African humanity. They ennobled the richness of African cultural identity and spiritual reality. "Africa is truly awakening and has a great . . . contribution to make to the advancement of world civilization."

JOSEPH NGA (jnga@loc.gov) is a first-generation college student and Bahá'í from the West African nation of Cameroon. Joseph earned graduate degrees in biology and international development studies. He currently works at the Library of Congress and lives in Washington, D.C.

Dana Paxson • Topology and the Cosmos: A Pruning-Back

Human progress can be seen as advancing from more anthropocentric models to those that are more universal in perspective and application. Deepening the mathematical comprehension of our relationships to cosmic singularities may grant us better understanding of those relationships and what they represent in terms of the structure of our everyday existence. Pruning back our mathematical assumptions concerning measurement and metrics, we may find means for engaging the fringes of creation and their relationships to the broader spiritual universe. The questions in such a change of view deserve deeper study: what mathematical, cognitive, and spiritual equipment is needed for the effort?

DANA PAXSON writes patent applications for a law firm, online mini-lectures, magazine articles, poetry, and fiction that has appeared nationally in print and electronic media. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in painting and sculpture, and is now concluding a bachelor's program in mathematics.

Anne Pearson (chair) • Teaching University Courses with Bahá'í Content

ANNE M. PEARSON (apearson@worldchat.com) holds a doctorate in religious studies, specializing in Hinduism, from McMaster University, where she is currently teaching. She taught a credit course on the Bahá'í Faith at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada, in the second semester, 2005.

Michael L. Penn • Moral Authenticity and Ethical Decision Making

The Authenticity Project proposes that an authentic life is one in which we experience the full development of our inherent capacities and foster that same development in others. It argues that inauthentic, manipulative, and power-seeking relationships are fostered by a materialistic orientation to life and contribute significantly to the destruction of social ties. In this presentation we will explore the nature and dynamics of authenticity and examine the implications of the theory of authenticity for conflict resolution.

Michael L. Penn • The Role of Justice in Moral Development: An Empirical Study of the Impact of Trauma and Injustice on the Moral Development of Kenyan, Indian, and American Young People

Contemporary theories of moral development tend to identify maturational stages or cognitive processes that are intrinsic to the individual and give little consideration to social or volitional processes. Inspired by the emphasis in the Bahá'í writings, on the importance of justice in moral and spiritual development, this study examines the impact of injustice on psychosocial health and moral development. A range of data, from a variety of research and theoretical traditions, as well as data recently collected from adolescents living in Kenya, India, and the United States suggest that in the absence of justice, human psychosocial development, and especially moral development, may be significantly arrested.

Michael L. Penn • Visualizing Bahá'í Universities of the Future: Spiritualizing the Academy

In 1996, the Canadian psychiatrist and educator Dr. Hossain Danesh sought to establish a university founded on the philosophy of applied spirituality. Applied spirituality is an approach to scholarship that seeks to integrate the empirical, analytical, ethical, and spiritual dimensions of knowledge. This approach, noted its founder, "is based on the conviction that true human development and civilization are only possible when scientific research and technological advancement are harmonized with universal spiritual and ethical principles." In this presentation we outline the distinguishing characteristics of applied spirituality and

explore a potential role for it in Bahá'í-inspired universities of the future.

MICHAEL L. PENN, PhD (Michael.Penn@fandm.edu), is associate professor of psychology at Franklin and Marshall College. His publications include works in adolescent psychopathology, the relationship between culture and psychopathology, and the epidemiology of gender-based violence. He is the author of *Overcoming Violence against Women and Girls* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).

Anne Gordon Perry • Dramatizing History: Creating the Sarah Farmer Monologue

The process of biographical research combined with creating a character monologue is fraught with challenges as well as fascinating discoveries and creative epiphanies. This brief description of the process of one project will address some questions central to Bahá'í research, drama, and fiction.

Anne Gordon Perry • Sarah Farmer as a Catalyst for Social Transformation and as the Only Woman to Witness the Signing of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty

From a progressive family of transcendentalists, Sarah Jane Farmer (1847–1916) grew up knowing such influential people as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, Julia Ward Howe, John Greenleaf Whittier, Charles Steinmetz, and Charles Coffin. From helping slaves escape on the Underground Railroad to dedicating her life to universal peace and interfaith dialogue, Farmer was a visionary social reformer who founded the Green Acre conferences, raised the first known peace flag in the world, and was the only woman to witness the signing of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty. Her life is now becoming of greater interest to the public.

Anne Gordon Perry (chair) • Visualizing Bahá'í Universities of the Future

ANNE GORDON PERRY, PhD (unity9@sbcglobal.net), is the primary author of *Green Acre on the Piscataqua* and currently works on projects concerning the hundredth anniversary of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty. With actors portraying Theodore Roosevelt, Ida B. Wells, Thomas

Edison, Fred Harvey, and William Jennings Bryan, she recently portrayed Sarah Farmer at the New Hampshire Chautauqua Festival.

Nossrat Peseschkian • Harmony between Religion as Giving Meaning and Science as Finding Meaning from Viewpoint of Positive Psychotherapy

Religion gives us norms which govern the way people live together and define the position of man within a view of life. Thus, religion has to do with giving meaning. Science seeks explanations, establishes logical and lawful regularities, and makes new discoveries. Science concerns itself with finding meaning. Religion does not replace psychotherapy, and psychotherapy is no substitute for religion. In contrast, Positive Psychotherapy asks about the scientifically comprehensible conditions of these norms, about the conflicts which take place as a result of the differences in norms, and about the individual's possibilities for coping with them.

NOSSRAT PESECHKIAN, MD, PhD (nossrat@peseschkian.com), specializes in psychiatry, neurology, psychotherapeutic medicine, and psychotherapy in Germany and is the founder of Positive Psychotherapy. His work investigates the relationship between culture and disease. As an international lecturer, he has traveled to over sixty-five countries. His twenty-two books have been published in twenty-one languages.

Don Plunkett • Competing Against Organized Crime with ... Consultation

By looking at an extreme and real-life case study of corruption in New York City's construction industry, this presentation will identify best practices of Bahá'í-inspired consultative methods that can be easily adapted to almost any business or nonprofit organization. Wisdom from various exemplars of consultation in the workplace will be highlighted to help identify some less obvious truths about this remarkable tool for merging science with religion, or reason with spirit.

DON PLUNKETT, PhD (donplunkett@gmail.com), is a retired police officer, owns a lighting company, and is an adjunct professor at CUNY. His award winning book, *The Thief Next Door: How*

to Compete Against People who Justify Illegal Business Practices, highlights best practices of Bahá'í consultation vis-à-vis corruption in the New York construction trade.

Dimity Podger • Education for Sustainable Development and the Faith Connection

This interactive, collaborative, and reflective session provides a space for participants to explore and share, given their knowledge of the Bahá'í Faith and their experience: their vision for social transformation; the role of education in advancing towards that vision; what education approaches might look like; and the challenges in educating for social transformation. The session will also engage participants in an exploration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), an educational approach to positive social transformation, and a facilitated reflection of how participants view ESD, considering implications of the Bahá'í Faith. I will share an overview of my research, welcoming feedback.

DIMITY PODGER, a PhD candidate with Macquarie University, Australia, is exploring with faith-based organizations their contribution to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the implications of ESD for their vision and practice. The research emerged from parallel involvement with community development activities in the Bahá'í community and studies in ESD.

Gabriel Power • Measuring Intensity and Evolution of Growth within/across Bahá'í Communities: A Herfindahl Index Approach

This paper aims to contribute to Bahá'í scholarship in the area of measure and analysis of community numbers and growth. A measure of concentration of the numbers of believers is proposed. It is hoped this measure will be readily usable by relevant committees in conjunction with other methods to assess progress. Using available empirical data on the evolution of Bahá'í communities in numbers over time and across geographical regions, this new measure is used to analyze trends in concentration vs. dispersion. Further analysis is provided as possible on trends for Clusters. Preliminary conclusions are drawn from answering some general questions.

GABRIEL POWER (gabriel.power@gmail.com) is a second-year PhD student at Cornell University. He studies economics, in which he previously obtained BA and MA degrees. He also had the chance to serve for eighteen months at the Bahá'í World Centre's Centre for the Study of the Texts.

Michael Power and Claire Lapointe • The Bahá'í Principle of Universal Education and the Role of Technology: Towards Closing the Gap

This paper demonstrates the potential contribution of research-based ICT to the accomplishment of the Bahá'í principle of universal education, thus affecting social transformation. It begins by defining the principle of universal education and positions the unfolding Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh in light of the rise of modern science and technology. The increasing role of technology and its influence on universal and equal access to education will be discussed. Finally, an example of using technology will be presented in view of closing the gap between, on the one hand, educational haves and have-nots, as well as a spiritual approach to education and the material means to accomplish it, on the other.

MICHAEL POWER (mpower@sfu.ca) is director of communication and associate researcher with Simon Fraser University's Simulations and Advanced Gaming Environments for Learning Project (SAGE). He has been assistant professor at Omar Bongo University (Gabon), director for a Canada-Gabon Education Project and professor at the University of Moncton. His research is in technology to improve learning.

Jalaliyyih Quinn • An Artist Paints In Xinjiang (Uyghur Autonomous Region)

Moving into global culture, the artist living abroad faces questions regarding assimilating visual elements into her own work from the peoples with whom she is now living, how much of her culture she might offer, and how to offer a different method of painting without imposing it. Jalaliyyih Quinn, artist and Bahá'í pioneer, lived and worked in Xinjiang, Uyghur Autonomous Region of western China from 2000 to 2004. She will present work of her own, painted to honor the Uyghur People, and examples of her students'

work, both Uyghur and Han Chinese who studied Cubism.

Jalaliyyih Quinn • First Vahíd: An Artist's View of the Standard Model of Creation and the Bahá'í Writings

Striking parallels exist between the Standard Model of the Hot Big Bang and the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh. Jalaliyyih Quinn visually explores these similarities in her trilogy of paintings, First Vahíd. Quinn's work, while not abstract and not representational, makes use of both art traditions, creating her own style, which she calls symbolic. Other paintings in the presentation include looking at energy fields, concepts of regeneration, the smashing of atoms, and string theory. The human figures frequently seen in Quinn's work express the idea that the discoveries of the natural world are an integral part of our humanness.

JALALIYYIH QUINN (www.jalaliyyihquinn.com), MFA University of Colorado, has held solo exhibitions and taught extensively in the U.S, China, and Liberia. Her paintings, which contemplate the Bahá'í writings, invite meditation on seen and unseen realities. In China, Quinn received several awards. After nineteen years abroad, Quinn returned to the U.S. and lives in Colorado.

Jesse Richards • Navigating the Borders of Science, Religion, and Superstition

New beliefs are multiplying with the growing population and increasing freedom of thought. How do we explain our adherence to both science and religion, a position many see as a paradox? How do we refrain from lapsing into relativism, and discard nonrational viewpoints? What tools can we harness to sever science from false science, rend religion from false religion, and then unite the remaining views into a coherent creed? Bahá'í "marketing" has found ways to reach the devout, mimicking the appeal of Christian churches. But we also have the opportunity to be the only religion that might appeal to the staunchly nonreligious.

JESSE RICHARDS has investigated pseudosciences and the nexus of science and religion for over five years, as part of a wider study of critical thinking and the Bahá'í Faith. He presented a keynote talk at the 2004 Conference of the Mid-

Atlantic Area Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies, in Philadelphia.

Ashley Roberts • The Application of Bahá'í Writings to Racial Disparities in Medical Research (see page 23)

Ashley Roberts and Payam Dehghani • An Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention using the Principles Outlined in the *Advent of Divine Justice* as Its Theoretical Construct

The effects of HIV on individuals, families, communities, economies, and international politics are extensive. It has become clear that any successful approach to the prevention of HIV must involve a transformation of human belief and behavior. In *The Advent of Divine Justice*, Shoghi Effendi outlines three prerequisites which are vital to North America realizing its destiny as an active player in the establishment of the world commonwealth ordained by Bahá'u'lláh. These three principles—"moral rectitude of conduct," "absolute chastity," and "complete freedom from prejudice"—provide a sound theoretical framework with which to approach HIV prevention.

ASHLEY ROBERTS completed her Doctor of Medicine at McMaster University and her residency in pediatrics at the University of British Columbia. She holds a Master of Education from Harvard University. She is currently pursuing a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada.

Harold Rosen (panelist) • Teaching University Courses with Bahá'í Content

HAROLD ROSEN (interfaith@telus.net) served as a Unitarian minister for twenty-five years and is now a Bahá'í serving as a community interfaith educator in the Vancouver, BC, area. He teaches religion and philosophy courses through Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia continuing studies program, as well as other venues.

Naghmeah Rowhani • How Are We Connected? Using Social Network Theory to Understand Young Adults in the Bahá'í Community (See page 24)

NAGHMEH ROWHANI (naghmeh9@hotmail.com) is a pediatrician-in-training, currently completing her residency at the University of California, San Diego. She received her MD at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. She has a strong interest in international health and hopes to work with underserved populations.

Jacqueline Russell • Dramatic Performance

A performer-created solo show, “The Chalice of Choice” explores the life and poetry of nineteenth-century Persian poetess Táhirih. Táhirih’s bold and ultimately fatal act of courage, through which she heralded a new age of emancipation for women, is a story that still resonates over 150 years later. Audiences have responded to both the spiritual and secular aspects of her historic actions and the mystical vibrations of her poetry. Following the performance of this piece there will be a short talkback session on creating simple, transportable theatre.

JACQUELINE RUSSELL is a Canadian actor and playwright in the University of Alberta’s BFA Conservatory Acting Program. She is one of the cofounders and organizers of the Cause and Effect Film Festival. Her first solo show, “The Chalice of Choice,” has been performed widely across Alberta. Jacqueline has facilitated many dance and drama workshops, assisting children and youth to use the power of theatre to create change within their communities.

Sahba Sabet • Student-Taught Courses: Experiments with FUNDAEC Material on Critical Thinking, Leadership, and Social Action (See page 39)

SAHBA SABET completed her biology studies in 2000 and currently works as a research associate for the Research Institute of the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Canada. She serves as an area coordinator (with Tahirih Naylor) for Ottawa, Ontario, for the main sequence of courses offered by the Ruhi Institute.

Melinda Salazar • A Case Study of Sustaining Rural Community and Women’s Equality in Puka Puka, Bolivia

Academic doctoral research and service to the Bahá’í community need not be mutually exclusive activities. A participatory action research evaluation of the 1989 UNIFEM/BIC *Traditional Media as Change Agent* (TMCA), conducted in rural Bolivia ten years later, collected *testimonios* of village participants’ experiences with gender and development. The evaluation found an unintended consequence of the TMCA success: the exodus of young Bahá’í Quechua women from the village to urban centers for education beyond that which the rural center provides. The action research component of the evaluation animated a community development process that helped empower one exemplary rural village to bring back its women and prevail, as Indians, and as Bahá’ís.

MELINDA SALAZAR conducted her PhD research in Bolivia with the Quechua and currently teaches in Women’s studies at the University of New Hampshire. She is also a diversity/antiracism trainer and is currently working on sustainability education and building community partners for the UN Decade for Educating for Sustainable Development.

Mahdad Saniee • Children’s Spiritual Education: An Inclusive and Outward-Looking Approach

Since the year 2001 the Bahá’í world has embarked on opening its activities to the community at large. This presentation is a report on a three-year-old and ongoing grassroots project aimed at adopting an outward-looking approach towards the spiritual education of children. The result is a set of teaching materials that has grown in popularity at a very fast pace in places as diverse as Australia, Taiwan, United States, Iran, Canada, India, New Zealand, Germany, and Hong Kong. It is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Education in South Africa for inclusion in their standard curriculum.

MAHDDAD SANIEE (Saniee@aol.com) is an architect practicing in Connecticut. He is a coauthor of the educational material <www.spiritual-education.org> and has collaborated with the Children’s Theatre Company in New York City. He has served in various Bahá’í administrative capacities including Regional Training Institutes, and as an Auxiliary Board member in the United States.

Leigh Schmidt • Seeking and Finding at Sarah Farmer's Green Acre

The early Green Acre conferences attracted an extraordinary array of thinkers, artists, philosophers, spiritual seekers, and educators. Drawn there by the charismatic personality of Sarah Jane Farmer, they enjoyed a remarkable connection with and influence upon each other, which created a deep influence upon American spirituality at the time.

LEIGH SCHMIDT, PhD (leschmid@princeton.edu), teaches at Princeton. His interests include American religious history, Protestantism, ritual, consumer culture, spiritual practices, and the cultural history of the study of religion. He is the author of numerous books, including *Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality*, which includes a chapter on Green Acre and Sarah Farmer.

William H. Sharp • Science, Religion, and the Holy Grail

Bahá'u'lláh said the twin pillars for building a new civilization are science and religion. The unity of science and religion is analogous to the legend of the Holy Grail. The Grail symbolizes an emotional longing to unlock the secret of God's plan for humanity. No less compelling is our pursuit of the union of science and religion. My premise is that the answer to this mystery is found in attitudes and perceptions, not factual bases. I will propose a bridge constructed with Bahá'í principles and the works of three renowned humanistic scientists.

WILLIAM H. SHARP (wsharp407@adelphia.net) is vice-president for corporate development, Advanced Interfaces, Inc. He has spent a lifetime investigating the impact of technology on society and organizations, and developing adaptive responses to social change and complexity. A Bahá'í for sixteen years, he is a champion of the unity of science and religion.

Dara Shaw • Combining Bahá'í Travel Teaching with Professional Endeavors in Brazil, Cuba, Mozambique, and Venezuela

DARA GAY SHAW, EdD (daragay9@yahoo.com),

teaches master's courses in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) at the Escuela Politecnica del Litoral, in Guayaquil, Ecuador. She is also a full-time ESOL teacher with Jefferson County Public Schools, West Virginia. Dr. Shaw is a BLE-SIG coordinating committee member.

Carolyn M. Shields • Spiritually Inspired Educational Leadership in Public School Systems: An Example of the Integration of Science and Religion (See page 32)

CAROLYN M. SHIELDS, head, Department of Educational Organization and Leadership, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, has published extensively and speaks nationally and internationally on issues such as transformative leadership, cross-cultural education and ethnocultural studies, anti-racist education, and spirituality in educational leadership. She is coeditor of *Inspiring Practice: Spirituality and Educational Leadership*.

Ron Shigeta • Fifty Facts That Should Change the World by Jessica Williams

Bahá'ís are often saying that the world is changing, but exactly how is the world changing and what are its needs? In this great conversation starter, a news analyst and editor for the BBC has assembled a compendium of stories and ideas that we should be aware of, trends that will change our lives and which should expand our consciousness about what might be done to meet the needs of those changes of our world.

Ron Shigeta • How Are We Connected? Using Social Network Theory to Understand Young Adults in the Bahá'í Community (See page 24)

Ron Shigeta • The Science of Religion and Marriage

Laboratory investigation into the institution of marriage has been a small but productive field. Researchers have devised analysis that can predict the long-term viability of a marriage with 95-percent accuracy. Examination of these results forms a model of the qualities of an enduring marriage, a model which has been used to create programs that can halve the rate of divorce

among participants. Using marriage research as a case study, and *The Secret of Divine Civilization* as a guide, I argue that Bahá'ís seem to be in a particularly strong position to use marriage research, in comparison to other communities.

RON SHIGETA (rtshigeta@yahoo.com) received his PhD in chemistry and structural biology from Princeton University and currently works as a genomic analyst for Affymetrix, a biotechnology firm in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Dinesh Singh • Computer Analysis of the Global Growth of the Bahá'í Community: A Research Proposal

This presentation proposes a multidisciplinary approach towards an in-depth study of the growth patterns of the worldwide Bahá'í community, in the form of a computer simulation. The underlying motivation is to accurately plot the distribution of the Bahá'í community from the earliest known records through to today, as directed by the Central Figures, the Guardian, and the Universal House of Justice, in accordance with known data from the various Plans and special directives given. The hope is to observe in visual form the global Bahá'í community's growth patterns as a function of time, and correlate the distribution with historical insight.

Dinesh Singh • A Comparison of Different Formulations and Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics with the Bahá'í Faith

The theory of quantum mechanics is incredibly successful in advancing society with its framework for high technology. However, it is possible to have radically different paradigms to describe the correspondence between mathematical structure and human interpretations of physical reality at the quantum level. Besides the standard Copenhagen formulation currently taught in university, there are alternative formulations, such as the de Broglie-Bohm approach and the *multiverse* or “many-worlds” interpretation, each with distinct consequences. This presentation examines the different formulations of quantum mechanics, given the Bahá'í writings as the “unerring balance” to compare the theories.

DINESH SINGH (singhd@uregina.ca) is a theoretical physicist studying gravitation and cosmology

at the University of Regina. He received his PhD from the University of Alberta, holds BSc and MSc degrees from Queen's University and the University of Regina, respectively, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom.

C. Murray Skeaff, S. Booth, B. Guthrie, and A-L. Heath • A Study of Some Physical Effects of the Bahá'í Fast

“Keeping the Fast is enjoined upon all Bahá'ís, regardless of nationality; it has a very salutary effect both physically and spiritually, and the friends should realize Bahá'u'lláh never would have instituted it if it were detrimental to the health.”—Shoghi Effendi. We report the results of a community-based (Dunedin, New Zealand) observational study of Bahá'ís (n=23) and their non-fasting friends (n=14) four weeks before, in the last week of, and four weeks after the Fast. Energy and nutrient intake, body weight, blood cholesterol, glucose, and insulin were measured. Well-being, health status, and general activity were assessed by self-administered questionnaires.

C. MURRAY SKEAFF (murray.skeaff@stonebow.otago.ac.nz) holds an academic post as associate professor in human nutrition at the University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand), where he is engaged in efforts to generate knowledge about the role of nutrition in health. He combines his research with an interest in promoting quality learning in higher education.

Todd Smith • Starting a Bahá'í-Inspired College in Stratford, Ontario (See page 26)

TODD SMITH, PhD (tosmith@gate-enterprises.com), is director of post-secondary education for Breakwell Education Association and coordinates the development of the Stratford College of Liberal Arts. He is president of Global Awareness through English Enterprises Inc. (GATE), and vice-principal of Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute. He serves on the Bahá'í Council of Ontario.

John Thelen Steere • Greening our Faith and Communities: How Do We Make Sustainable Development and Outlooks Real in our Lives? A Dialogue/Symposium

John Thelen Steere • Cultivating Divine Nature: The Garden as a Universal and Transformative Symbol

Reference to the garden in Bahá'í scripture is frequent and revealing—as a metaphor of a renewed society and earth and of God's love for humanity. In the Bahá'í Faith the garden is rife with significance of a transcendent reality and of a yoking of celestial and terrestrial. The presenter will examine the garden as a transformational and universal symbol of mediation between the spiritual and material planes, and will identify the qualities that have made gardens the context for revelation across many faiths and a boundary of wild, human, and divine natures as well as an embodiment of refining nature within and without.

JOHN STEERE is an environmental planner and serves on several nonprofit boards. He is an avid gardener and creek restorationist and coauthor of the award-winning *Restoring the Estuary* along with numerous articles on habitat partnerships. He holds a BA from Harvard College and a Masters in Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley.

Puran Stevens • Spiritual Tools of Progress: Bahá'í Refugees as Case Studies of Overcoming Oppression

Iranian Bahá'ís comprise 13 percent of the U.S. Bahá'í community but contribute 44 percent of its time, energy, and finances. In *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, 'Abdu'l-Bahá connected social and scientific advancement, identified their driving force as the mind, and explained that the mind's development is shaped by spiritual forces. In its 2003 letter to the Iranian believers, the Universal House of Justice observed that Bahá'í refugees were successful due to the spirit of resourcefulness and practicality arising from their love of God. This workshop examines the practical tools refugees and their communities cultivated, which led to intellectual, social, and material progress.

PURAN STEVENS, MS, library sciences, was director of the U.S. Bahá'í Refugee Office and responsible for its program since 1983, serves on the National Spiritual Assembly's Domestic Violence Task Force, is a permanent board member of the Tahirih Justice Center, and was a for-

mer member of the city of Chicago's Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Committee.

Robert H. Stockman • The Wilmette Institute and the Development of Bahá'í Education

The Wilmette Institute's purpose is to “raise up a new generation of Bahá'í teachers and administrators.” The decision to make its courses potentially accreditable through universities means that its courses require more reading and writing than has been typical of Bahá'í classes in the past. The courses focus on reading and understanding texts so that it is easier for students to remember three- to six-word passages, rather than on students memorizing longer passages. The Institute is creating stronger local study groups, improving its web delivery of content, and training faculty in order to improve course quality and raise student completion rates.

Robert H. Stockman (panelist) • Teaching Credit and Noncredit Courses on the Bahá'í Faith

ROBERT H. STOCKMAN, MA, PhD, religious studies, Harvard University (RStockman@usbnc.org), is author of three books on Bahá'í history and various articles on Bahá'í history and theology. He is coordinator of the Research Office, U.S. Bahá'í National Center; director of the Wilmette Institute; and instructor of religious studies at DePaul University in Chicago.

Kimberly Syphrett • Theory and the Religious

A new reading of the contribution to religion and peace, using Ferré's four theoretical conditions and a Bahá'í-inspired worldview. The author researches religious works for evidence of whole and cohesive conflict resolution theory. The writings of Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and the Bahá'í Faith are explored in order to discern unifying proofs. The result is a challenge to conventional conflict theory as well as an emerging model of peacemaking practice constructed on the basis of a worldview framework.

Kimberly Syphrett • Hermeneutics and Exegesis: Before New Sciences, Arts, and Crafts

This is a new study of the Bahá'í writings conducted while using a method that integrates Ferré's four theoretical conditions and a Bahá'í-inspired theoretical standard (i.e., oneness). The result is an emerging method for the hermeneutic and exegetical study of the authorized English translation of authentic Bahá'í text, a method useful in arts, sciences, and crafts. Illustrations, indicating method, include treatments of Judaic, Christian, and Bahá'í text. Future developments will occur with contributions from scholars of diverse heritage.

KIMBERLY SYPHRETT (kimberly_sypthrett@yahoo.com) is an international peace and conflict analyst, lecturer, and consultant. Her BSc was received from Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and her MA was received at Landegg International University, Switzerland.

Peter Terry • A Bahá'í Epistemology

This presentation will describe the unique epistemology depicted by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a number of Tablets and Talks, supplemented with corroborative material from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Sources will include the Tablet of the Inmost Heart, chapters from *Some Answered Questions*, and talks found in *The Promulgation of Universal Peace* and in pilgrim notes.

Peter Terry • Divine Philosophy: A Bahá'í Discipline

This presentation will explore the references to Bahá'í Philosophy (*hikmat ilahi* in Persian and *al-hikmat al-ilahiyyat* in Arabic) in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and the Writings and Talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. It will attempt to discover the characteristics of this unique field of knowledge, as well as the historical antecedents to this field.

Peter Terry • I've Heard the Master Say...: Pilgrims' Notes in the Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Though devoid of any scriptural authority, the recollections of oral statements recorded by those privileged to be with Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and Shoghi Effendi often contain important details of interactions with them, and constitute an invaluable resource for our understanding of their life stories. This paper is an attempt at cataloguing

and analyzing the English oral traditions related to the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Peter Terry and Stephen Friberg • What Can Bahá'ís offer to the Dialogue between Science and Religion?

This presentation, by a Bahá'í scientist and a Bahá'í theologian, will seek to answer three seminal questions, as they apply to three theories of human origins (creationism, intelligent design, and natural selection): (1) Is there a uniquely Bahá'í approach to the issue of science and religion? (2) What do Bahá'ís have to offer to mainstream science and religion discussions? (3) How are Bahá'ís to go about making this offer?

PETER TERRY (peterry@megalink.net) lives in Boston, where he enjoys entertaining his friends, working in a nonprofit tutoring center, teaching online courses for the Wilmette Institute, singing old music from time to time, as well as researching and writing articles and books relating to religious studies.

David Trautmann • The Spiritual Basis of PsychoSocial Health and Healing as Elucidated by the Bahá'í Revelation

Study of the Bahá'í Revelation yields a creative understanding of the complementary functions of science and religion, providing the basis for a spiritual psychology upon which sound clinical practice can be based, an extensive and brilliantly lucid vision of psychosocial health, and a comprehensive and extraordinarily practical prescription for the healing of individuals and of society—some salient features of which will be described and discussed in their implications for the practice of psychotherapy. The presenter will illustrate and discuss the application of selected concepts and principles which have particular relevance to problems encountered in a contemporary social work practice.

DAVID TRAUTMANN (dtsocwkserv@sunny-net.net) is a Bahá'í and a clinical social worker. He has worked in various human service fields, as a child protective services caseworker, and as a psychotherapist—working since 1995 with military families in a U.S. Air Force domestic vio-

lence program, first in Tokyo and now in Okinawa.

Jose Nicolas Uribe (panelist) • Walking the Academic Path with Bahá'í Feet

JOSE NICOLAS URIBE (josenicouribe@yahoo.com) holds a BA in economics from McGill University and an MPP from Georgetown University. Besides serving at the Office of Social and Economic Development at the Bahá'í World Centre, he has done research at the Organization of American States and Georgetown University. Jose recently tutored a graduate module on development offered by a Bahá'í-inspired organization in Colombia.

Stephanie Urie (panelist) • Walking the Academic Path with Bahá'í Feet

Stephanie Urie • Awesome Undertakings: The Concept of “Awe” in the Pursuit of Scientific and Religious Understanding

“As soon as man... beholds [existence] as something unfathomably mysterious, thought begins,” said Albert Schweitzer. This multimedia presentation explores the psychological concept of “awe” as a shared basis for scientific and religious inquiry. Although an overemphasized animosity in the institutional histories of the fields would obscure commonalities, I contend awe similarly generates and sustains these fields at the psychosocial level. I propose awe is generally a functional moral response to the recognition of finitude amid vast material and spiritual mystery, and I outline how awe serves to advance human understanding by engendering focus and contemplation on that “dread essence beyond logic.”

STEPHANIE M. URIE (stephanie.urie@aya.yale.edu) is a graduate of the Yale Divinity School and Oxford University Summer Program in Theology. Her studies in ethics led to her to Yale bioethics teaching fellowships and recently into a career with the United States government. She also serves as an interfaith chaplain with Hospice patients. This is her second presentation at the ABS Annual Conference.

Stephen Vaccaro • Bahá'í Growth Strategies within the Religious Economy of the United States

According to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, “Religion and Science are inter-twined with each other and cannot be separated. These are the two wings with which humanity must fly.” This presentation investigates the Bahá'í writings (religion) and the sociology of religion (science) to understand how religious communities grow. The presentation explores why people commit to a faith, why “strict” religions such as the Bahá'í and Mormon faiths tend to grow more rapidly, and why the growth of large local religious communities (greater than 150 active members) often stalls.

STEPHEN VACCARO (svaccaro@usbnc.org) serves on the U.S. National Teaching Committee and works as a management consultant for the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in New York City. He holds a master’s degree in business administration from Yale University, where he wrote “Bahá'í Growth Strategies,” and a BA in psychology from Vanderbilt University.

Dan Vaillancourt • The Soul of Education

This presentation will demonstrate how educators can teach spirituality by arranging environments and guiding interactions within those environments, both inside and outside the classroom, that help the student to recognize that we are spiritual beings. While religious studies is an obvious way to introduce spirituality into the curriculum, there are many other methods of raising this awareness and nurturing the soul. Concrete examples drawn from personal experiences working in a First Nations school in Northern Alberta, in a Bahá'í international bilingual school in Brazil and at Maxwell International Bahá'í School on Vancouver Island will illustrate how teachers of all disciplines can create opportunities for spiritual growth.

DAN VAILLANCOURT (danv@maxwell.bc.ca) began his career in education thirty years ago as an ESL teacher in Greece. He has been principal of a First Nations school in Alberta, Canada; the first vice-principal of Maxwell International Bahá'í School, director of School of the Nations in Brasilia; regional coordinator of the UNESCO

Associated School Program; and is currently principal of Maxwell.

MARYAM VALAPOUR, MD, is a Bahá'í residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She received her doctorate in medicine from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed her residency in internal medicine followed by subspecialty training in pulmonary and critical care medicine as well as bioethics and health policy at Johns Hopkins University. She is currently assistant professor of medicine and bioethics at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Valapour's clinical expertise is in the area of lung transplantation. Her research focuses on the ethics of organ transplantation.

Faraneh Vargha-Khadem • Mind and Spirit: Convergence of Neuroscience and Revealed Knowledge

Recent advances in neuroscience and brain imaging techniques have enabled studies of unique human attributes such as consciousness, thought, language, and memory. There is growing awareness among neuroscientists that the products of the human mind transcend the functions of the brain. This in turn has led to questions about how modern humans evolved and became distinct from other species; what attributes make us human; and what are the neural substrates of our moral, ethical, and belief systems. This presentation will address the convergence between the modern neuroscience view of the mind, and the Bahá'í view of humans as spiritual beings.

FARANEH VARGHA-KHADEM (F.Khadem@ich.ucl.ac.uk) is professor of developmental cognitive neuroscience and department head at the Institute of Child Health, University College London, and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Her research on the genetics of speech and language, developmental amnesia, and reorganization of cognition after hemispherectomy is internationally recognized and she has over one hundred publications in scientific journals.

Anne Waite • School Programming for Transformation: Curricula at Rabbani and Maxwell Bahá'í Schools

Efforts in Iran to establish schools and other com-

munity-based projects based on principles in the Bahá'í writings initiated a process of rapid transformation of communities and individuals which has been documented elsewhere. This paper presents current examples of a similar process associated with programmatic and curriculum efforts of two Bahá'í schools and their effects on the development of both individuals and communities. One is The Rabbani Bahá'í School in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India; and the other is the Maxwell International Bahá'í School in Shawnigan Lake, B.C., Canada, with which the presenter has been associated from 1973 to 1987 and 1991 to 1996, respectively.

ANNE WAITE went to India in 1976 with her husband Stephen to help develop the Rabbani School, developing a model where school and community were interlinked. She later served at the Maxwell International Bahá'í School at Shawnigan Lake, B.C., and is presently working on building the Bahá'í high school in Swaziland.

Shanbo Wang • The Link between Scientific Rationality and Religious Belief

In this presentation I will analyze how scientific rationality is linked to religious belief. This analysis will provide an alternative perspective or interpretation of the relationship between science and religion. I will examine the following questions: What role does the conception of order and order-network play in the development from Greek natural philosophy and medieval Bible-culture to modern science? What is the consensus between the rational structure of scientific foundation and the rational structure of theological knowledge/belief? I will discuss these questions from the viewpoint of history and philosophy of science.

SHANBO WANG is a professor of philosophy at Shandong University in China. His interests include philosophy of science and religion, environmental ethics, and relationships between Chinese science and Confucianism, Taoism, and Mohism. His recent books include *A Comparative Inquiry into the Contexts of Science in the West and China* and *The Rationality of Science*.

Matthew Weinberg • A New Way: Public Policy and the Bahá'í International Community

MATTHEW WEINBERG served as Executive Director of the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity, a research and external affairs agency of the Bahá'í International Community, and was Director of Research of the BIC's Office of Public Information, Haifa, 1995–2002. Previously, he was a senior policy analyst for the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment in Washington, D.C.

Hal Williamson • The Power of the Image
(See page 22)

HAL WILLIAMSON is founder and CEO of HOPE UNLIMITED. He is a nationally known speaker, a mechanical engineer, intellectual property attorney, and MBA. Hal's fascination with the brain and how it works to invent led to extensive research, the Pathway to Greatness Program, and Hal's certification to use and interpret the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument.

Kimberly Willows • An Overview of Family Mediation

To families faced with seemingly unbearable tests of communication and understanding, it often seems like there is no way forward. "An Overview of Family Mediation" helps clarify what the often misunderstood mediation process can offer to communities. This workshop outlines the basis of family mediation, addresses specific concerns, and offers suggestions for introducing this tool into your community.

KIMBERLY WILLOWS has mediated family, victim offender, business and multicultural issues. She has worked with the U.S. Department of Defense and Diplomatic Corps, and government officials in the Middle East. She currently serves as the aide to the principal representative of the Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office in New York.

John Woodall • The Language of Virtue in Group Transformation: A Case Study of

Building an Interreligious Coalition of Bosnian Women

Finding methods to build common ground in cases of extreme conflict is quite difficult. This case study illustrates a model of building a context for healing and united action between previously warring factions. Implications for families and small groups will be discussed.

JOHN WOODALL is a research fellow at the Judge Baker Children's Center at the Harvard Medical School. He has consulted extensively with U.S. government agencies, the United Nations, universities, and international organizations on issues of human rights, conflict resolution, community building, and interethnic reconciliation.

Terri York • Harbingers of Hope: Ann Lee, William Miller, Joseph Smith, and the Advent of the Bahá'í Faith in America

The purpose of this presentation is to examine how three individuals in America—William Miller, Joseph Smith, and Ann Lee—may have been instruments of God in heralding the coming of the Twin Manifestations and might have actually begun the groundwork for the coming and acceptance of the Bahá'í Faith in America.

TERRI YORK is a history and geography instructor at Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas. She has a BBA in business, an MA in history and discovered the Bahá'í Faith while researching globalization theories during her work toward the completion of a graduate certificate in international affairs.

Artists Performing

DIGBY DANCE (http://www.digbydance.org/about_us/organization.html) was founded in July 2000 by KATE DIGBY and incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 2001. The company quickly evolved from a group of young graduates of the Boston Conservatory into "one of Boston's most

innovative new dance companies” (The Boston Metro). In its first four years Digby Dance has given almost seventy performances, from self-produced concerts to juried showcases, from guest appearances at area colleges to educational workshops in elementary schools.

FARBOD HAGIGI lives in Boston and is studying for his PhD in health care policy and management.

MARDI (MARDI JAYDE, GAD FOLTYS, REZA MOSTMAND, LAURA FRIEDMANN-MOSTMAND), (<http://www.mardijayde.com/>). When asked what kind of music they play, singer/songwriter Mardi Jayde and guitarist/writer Gad Foltys, simply say “liquid.” It’s the best way they’ve found to describe Mardi’s translucent vocals (read not a belter), the smooth hand of Foltys’s acoustic playing, the ethereal chord progressions hovering over steady hypnotic grooves, the subtle fusing of jazz, r&b and Middle Eastern influences, and the stream of consciousness lyrics that unite the temporal with the spiritual, inner with outer worlds, and pathos with humor.

ONE HUMAN FAMILY WORKSHOP CHOIR (ERIC DOZIER, guest conductor and soloist) (<http://www.dissonanceresolved.com/artists/OHF.htm>), acknowledges music in general as a powerful vehicle that inspires and energizes people to give birth to new expressions of themselves and their communities. Music has the special gift of reaching deep into the hearts and minds of all people. Accordingly, the choir creates an atmosphere that strives to unite people through the process of learning and singing this sacred music.

ANNE GORDON PERRY (*See page 41*)

ANIS SADEGHPOUR graduated from UC Berkeley and runs an online publishing company.

SAFA SADEGHPOUR (safa@mit.edu) is finishing a joint double degree in medicine and neuroscience.

BERNICE LIUSON SIM (www.reddragonfly.net) is an actress in Boston.

SMITH AND DRAGOMAN (<http://www.smithanddragoman.com/>). The singer-songwriter duo BRETT SMITH and MICHAEL DRAGOMAN began performing music together seven years ago in Guelph, Ontario. Their music, largely folk-based

at the time, has gradually evolved into the genre of world music incorporating sounds and rhythms from Africa, the Middle East, and traditional sounds from the West.

VOICES OF GLORY (from the Boston Praise Collective) is a Boston Bahá’í gospel choir, founded in 1995. A community focused on the oneness of humanity, Voices of Glory strives to be an instrument of praise to God. Voices of Glory honors the rich tradition of African-American gospel and spirituals and asserts its exalted place in American history.

Conference Organization

Conference Task Force Charles Carnegie, Michael Karlberg, Mehran Kiai, Kim Naqvi, Parvin Rowhani, Matthew Weinberg

Conference Coordinator Parvin Rowhani

Arts Program Peter Terry

Children’s and Junior Youth Program Alane Levy, Romala Ravi, Dilip Soman, Leslie Goodrich

Devotions Katharine Day

Hospitality Shamim Sharifi

Logistics Hajir Moghaddam

Photography Luis Dechtiar

Program Kim Naqvi

Public Relations/Publicity Nima Majzoubi, Katherine Morrison

Registration Nilufar Gordon, Nana Khaze

Security Jim Harris

Spiritual Assembly Contact: Larry Fabian, Zarrin Foster

Stage Manager Katharine Day

Technical Director Geoff Cohen

Treasurer Mehran Kiai

Ushers Ellen Mastenbrook

Volunteers Lily Hodaie Durandish

The ABS Executive Committee extends its deep appreciation to all those who have assisted in the preparation and running of this conference. Our heartfelt thanks are also due to the many volunteers who contributed their service and have worked so hard to make this conference a success.

With special thanks to
The Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá’ís of
Cambridge and Boston