



The Mission of the Muslim Students' Association of Ann Arbor is to work for the betterment of the Muslim and Non-Muslim community on campus through community service, education and social activities. The MSA is dedicated to facilitating a forum of education on Islam, for Muslims and non-Muslims. We hold weekly gatherings educating the audience on contemporary issues, cultural issues, historical

recounts and much more. In addition, we facilitate a broad network of small study groups to enhance knowledge on Islam for all students.

These small, personalized groups promote both intensive pursuit of information and bonding between group members. Finally, our major events, such as Islam Awareness Week, Eid Dinner, Sacred Time Project, Fast-a-thon and more provide students with both exciting and illuminating experiences to broaden people's perspectives on Islam and promote the cultural, ethnic and ideological diversity that characterizes the religion.

Alhamdulillah this year we have had the opportunity to host performers such as Preacher Moss, Amir Saleman, and Azhar Usman, and bring in a variety of speakers from our own Da. Sherman Jackson to Zaytuna Institute's Sidi Usama Canon.

In addition, we were just recently named student organization of the year. Furthermore our MSA serves the community through its weekly community service projects. Our community service projects to serve both Ann Arbor and the community include cleaning the Arb, baking for the local homeless shelter, clothing/book/canned food drives, Hospice, AIDS Awareness Day, joining such groups as Habitat for Humanity, K-Grams and much more. If you have suggestions for new events or would like to get involved with our current one, please do not hesitate to contact us (msa-board@umich.edu).



You may wonder, what's the MSA at Wayne State University all about? Our MSA's mission, which is probably very similar to many other MSA's, is to establish Islam as a respected religion on the WSU campus, to eliminate misconceptions about Islam, to present Islam to Muslims and non-Muslims and promote friendly relations between them, and of course to cultivate brotherly and sisterly relations and promote unity among Muslims at WSU and neighboring MSAs.

With WSU being a commuter school this task is quite challenging at times. With the dedication of our 600+ members and our motivational leaders we have successfully carried our goals with a fruitful mix of events and activities. At the start of every school year we dedicate a whole week to incoming freshmen.

As a tool to create more awareness, understanding, and tolerance for Islam we carry out events such as Islam Awareness Week, lectures, and panel discussions with organizations of other faiths.

We strongly believe in giving back to our community, which is why we do various activities such as volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, or hosting a Children's Eid Party.

Who can forget our Annual Dinner? It's our largest event, in which we get to interact with our family and friends and at the same time gain knowledge, eat good food, and watch enjoyable performances. Last but not least, after all the hard work and da'wah, we also remember to have fun. With a mix of ice-skating, barbecues, paintballing, sister's socials, and brother's basketball tournaments we get a chance to strengthen and cultivate our bonds of friendship with the various people we have met through our college careers and involvement in the MSA.

REGIONAL UNITY

By Abdulrahman El-sayed

"And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, ye became brethren; and ye were on the brink of the pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus doth Allah make His Signs clear to you: That ye may be guided." - Qur'an 3: 103

Alhamdulillah, the state of Michigan is one of the US's most Muslim-dense locales. Metro Detroit alone is teeming with Masajid, Muslim schools, and activity centers. Muslims in this area are afforded opportunities their counterparts across the country are not; from halal restaurants to politically active Muslim organizations, southeast Michigan caters well to its Muslim citizens. To an untrained eye, it might seem that the Muslim community here is thriving. Upon minimal objective analysis, however, it is clear that all's not well in "Motown". Our malady stems from a larger, more virulent virus that plagues this Muslim Ummah as a whole; we are disjoint and continue to unabashedly differentiate between one another. Race, religious conservatism, and ethnic background continue to galvanize rifts that have existed since the arrival of our parents. Members of each individual sub-community are quick to explain why their counterparts are somehow inadequate and racial lines continue to differentiate the individual houses of Allah. Unfounded sectarianism is killing the Metro Detroit Muslim population's unprecedented potential.

Allah clearly communicates to us in

both the Qur'an and through the shining example of his Prophet (PBUH) that unity amongst ourselves is prerequisite to success. Should we not work to salve these gaping sores? We represent a new generation among Muslims; unlike our parents, we have no "back home", this is where we grew up, where we live, and where, for the most part, we intend to raise our families. While our parents answered the call for establishing these communities, may Allah bless them for their trials, they have passed the baton. In this leg of the race, we must seal the communities into a single, unified community.

Where do we start? It's rather simple actually, we start here; the college-aged Muslim community needs unification. The many Muslim Students' Associations in Michigan are thriving, masha' Allah. However, a strong association between them has the potential to be more than the sum of its parts. In uniting these students' organizations, college-aged Muslims in Michigan stand nothing but gain. Further cooperation would lead to harder-impact Da'wa, stronger political voices, more weight with the Muslim community at large, and stronger and more extensive intercommunication between Muslim students in general.

Finally, it remains our responsibility in the Eyes of Allah, given the work of our parents, and the plight of the global Muslim Ummah that we make the Muslim community in metro Detroit the point of nucleation for global unification. In uniting such a numerous, diverse, and talented Muslim community, we stand to gain; more importantly, unification is a crucial step in healing our ailing Ummah. And Allah knows best.