

News Editor:

Owen R. Smith

503-725-5690

news@dailyvanguard.com

Breaking down stereotypes

Islamic

Awareness Week

The Muslim Student Association of Portland State is participating in the nationally recognized Islamic Awareness Week with a series of events aimed at educating the Portland community on Islamic beliefs and traditions from around the world.

The events begin Wednesday, April 22 with the exclusive premier of the documentary film entitled *New Muslim Cool*. The film focuses on Hamza Perez, a Puerto Rican drug-dealer turned Muslim community builder whose mosque in Pittsburgh was raided by the FBI.

The MSA was given permission to screen the film as one of only three screenings on the West Coast, according to Erica Aisha Charves, MSA president.

Additionally, leaders from the Islamic community will lead lectures and discussion, question and answer sessions and finally the week comes to a close with the Islamic Women's Fashion Show.

The fashion show will feature both Muslim and non-Muslim models donning modest garb in fashionable ways, "hoping to break down some of the stereotypes associated with hijab [veil]," Charves said.

List of events:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Movie Premier: *New Muslim Cool*
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
SMSU 338

Panel: Muslim Women in the Workforce
1:00-2:00 p.m.
SMSU 338

Dessert and coffee with Muslim community programs
2:00-4:00 p.m.
SMSU 338

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Student-led lectures on Quran and environmental sustainability in Islam
12:00-1:00 p.m.
SMSU 338

Muslim Matinee: The Message
1:00-3:00 p.m.
SMSU 338

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Spotlight on the Small Communities

A child of war turned peacemaker

Dr. Harry Anastasiou invested his life to the cause of peace

Maggi White
Vanguard staff

Dr. Harry Anastasiou grew up when conflict between the Greeks and the Turks was a way of life on his home island of Cyprus. He wondered why any parent would want their children to inherit the life of war and mistrust in society.

Why can't there be peace instead of war, asks the teacher who has taught conflict resolution to Portland State graduate students in international studies since 2002.

He has some insightful ideas on how to achieve peace. Should President Obama meet this man?

As a peace scholar, he was one of the leaders in the early '90s who initiated support for an open dialogue between the different ethnic communities in Cyprus.

He "envision[ed] an environment that is peaceful," to emerge from the discussions through relationship building and addressing root problems with wisdom and action.

"People first have to understand how conflict impacts human behavior and think how conflict shapes a society. Violence alienates people. Lethal behavior is the most undemocratic form of relationship," Anastasiou said.

He cited the European example, which hasn't seen serious conflict since World War II.

"They have a different concept; which is security based on democratic principles and the rule of law. They have worked on relationship building, reconfiguring what is in the national interest. Peace is national security," he said.

He believes if a country asserts peace as a priority, it can shape the attitudes and actions that influence policy, leading a willingness to engage in peaceful dialogue.

Belligerence, Anastasiou said, is based on the false assumption that it is the only way to get what you want.



Why can't there be peace? Dr. Harry Anastasiou, a native of Cyprus, was a leading peace scholar in the 1990s and now asks his students to envision world in peace.

"History disproves this. An 'us vs. them' approach galvanizes and increases the determination of your adversary and lethal behavior empowers the hardliners. It's what happened after 9/11 and in the Middle East all the time," Anastasiou said.

"In Jerusalem, which is a place of rest and peace, if you fight, there is no Jerusalem. It cannot be a sacred city with killing and destruction," he said.

He explained the way conflict is further enhanced when there is a religious interpretation introduced. Each side cites God as being on their side. That, he claims, is the danger of linking religion to nationalism.

"It is the same pattern during the Bush administration when he cited 'the axis of Evil and the creators of Satan,'" Anastasiou said. "How can you negotiate and resolve conflict if it is cast in the illu-

sion of Armageddon?"

Anastasiou stressed the key question in conflict situations: "How can we mend this relationship?"

This, he maintains, is essential to compelling countries to envision peace.

Anastasiou, referencing the 2008 presidential election, advised that whoever was going to answer that 3 a.m. phone call had better be capable of judging whether to wage war or forge peace.

He favors policies that reinforce, reward and empower all actions that deescalate conflict.

"Big powers should reward and support actions toward conciliation, problem solving and mending relationships. It is the only approach a super power can undertake without being polarized and creating a world of friends and enemies," he said.

He observed how the people of

Cyprus became less trusting, and more hateful. Values were eroding and he posed the question: "Do we want hatred to be part of our culture, not to trust, to injure, to have a conflict-habituated people?"

Anastasiou, who is Greek, lives his beliefs.

At Portland State he has befriended Dr. Birol Yesilada, a Turk, who teaches at the Hatfield School of Government and is chair of Turkish Studies. They do research together.

Anastasiou spends two weeks in September teaching in Cyprus and takes students along for internships and involvement in peace-making activities.

He has authored two academic books; both titled *The Broken Olive Branch*, which focus on nationalism, ethnic conflict and peace building in Cyprus.

He and his wife have two sons, both in their 20s, who are graduate students at Portland State.

Debate team closes out dominant run

Portland State wins three of 15 tournaments this year

Mariah Frye-Keele
Vanguard staff

With the tournament season having recently ended, the Portland State debate team can now sit back and relax after competing in 15 tournaments.

The team traveled to far reaching places including the World Universities Debating Tournament in Ireland, the Oxford University Debate Tournament in England—where PSU teams made it to the quarter finals competing against colleges from all over Europe and the United States—and the U.S. Universities National Debate

"Debate is about matter and manner. It is not only about the content of the speech, but about how the speech is delivered. When you step up to the podium it feels like stepping into a spotlight on a dark stage," said Selina Poulson, a 19-year-old sophomore anthropology and classical studies major.

On the other hand, Will Parker, a junior business administration major, gave slightly different reasons.

"I love debate because it gives me the opportunity to argue with anyone about anything," said Parker, 27. "That, and piss people off."

The Portland State team has hosted two high school tournaments and one college tournament this year. Hosting helps to fund the many tournaments Portland State participates

in, the team meets weekly to practice and share ideas. They debate subjects that are generally more abstract than those they would formally debate, but claim they are no less important.

"We write briefs almost weekly, arguing both sides of any given topic and listing those arguments. Many socio-economic topics seem to pop up as do other current affairs. For example one question we reviewed was whether housing is a human right or not," said Kelly Welch, a recent Portland State graduate and political science major.

Welch is the co-coordinator of the debate team along with Dana Hawthorne, a 20-year-old economics major.

"I have learned more through debate than any other class or activity,"

speak and organize our thoughts in an essay format for debate. Also speaking confidence is much higher," Welch said.

Welch and Hawthorne comprise one of the many two-person teams within the Portland State debate team. Each team gets a chance to debate at any given tournament. Starting with preliminaries teams are scored one through four, four being the least desirable and possibly leading to elimination.

If a team succeeds to make it through all rounds, they must compete in finals against two teams and with one other team. Again they are scored on a one to four scale. Their score in finals is their rank for the tournament. Portland State teams won three of the 15 tournaments.