

THE OLIVE BRANCH

THE CENTER FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Spotlight Article Bertha Von Suttner

By: Emily Watercutter

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Austrian pacifist and novelist, Bertha Von Suttner, was born on June 9th, 1843 in Prague, Bohemia. She was a product of an aristocratic society whose militaristic traditions she accepted without question being the daughter of an Austrian Lieutenant General. As a child Suttner learned several languages, was interested in music, and travelled a lot.



<http://www.bvs-rs.s.schule-bw>

At the age of thirty, she took a position in Vienna as a governess to the wealthy Suttner family where she became engaged to Arthur Suttner. The Suttner family had a strong disapproval of the engagement and dismissed Bertha she soon came into contact with Alfred Nobel. She became Nobel's secretary and housekeeper. Her time working for Nobel only lasted two weeks, as she went back to Vienna to marry Arthur Suttner. The family still disapproved of the marriage and took away Arthur's inheritance, so the couple moved to Georgia, Russia. During the nine years they lived in Russia they both earned a living by giving lessons in languages, music, and writing. During this period in Russia she developed her first serious book, *Inventarium einer Seele* (Inventory of a Soul). This book embodied the concept of a society that would achieve progress while achieving peace. In 1885, the Suttner's family welcomed the couple back to Austria. In Austria, Bertha continued her journalistic activity by writing most of her books and concentrating on peace and conflict studies. The couple's lives were initially focused on writing, but later they learned about the International Arbitration and Peace Association in London and about similar groups around the continent. These organizations had an actual working objective that they both accepted as an ideal: arbitration and peace in place of armed force. After developing this ideal, she wrote her second serious book entitled, *Das Maschinenzeitaler* (The Machine Age). This book critiqued many of the aspects during this time and was among the first to showcase the results of nationalism and armaments. In 1889, Suttner became the leading figure in the peace movement with the help of her pacifist novel, *Die Waffen nieder* (Lay Down Your Arms!). Her book was believed to be so real and revealed the accusations of militarism that the impact on the reading public was tremendous. The book has 37 editions and is translated into 12 different languages. After the publishing of her book, she became an active leader in the peace movement by attending peace meetings and international congresses, helped establish peace groups, recruited members, lectured and kept in contact with people all over the world to promote peace projects. Also during this time she became the founder and President of the Austrian Peace Society. (Continue on Page 2)



Bertha Von Suttner Cont.

In 1902, she faced the tragic loss of her husband and at times found it difficult to continue her work and ended up moving to Vienna. As time went by, she furthered her advocacy of peace by addressing the International Congress of Women in Berlin and travelled for seven months around the United States attending a Universal Peace Congress in Boston. During her time in the United States she met President Theodore Roosevelt.

Even though Suttner’s personal contact with Alfred Nobel was brief she kept in contact with him through exchanging letters until his death in 1896. It is believed that Suttner had a major impact on Alfred Nobel’s decision of incorporating a peace prize among the prizes provided in his will. On December 10th, 1905 she became the fifth recipient and the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

She continued her mission by attending the Hague Peace Conference that negotiated the aspects of law of war. On the eve of WWI, she advised against international armament. In 1913 she was diagnosed with cancer but still strived for peace by attending and speaking at multiple conferences until her death on June 21st, 1914.

Suttner’s life was devoted to developing and advocating peace in place of armed forces and military armament. Even through difficult times she always strived for the peace movement. Suttner’s pacifism was influenced by the writings of Immanuel Kant, Henry Thomas Buckle, Herbert Spencer, Charles Darwin, and Leo Tolstoy. Admired by many, one historian stated her work revealed her as “a most perceptive and adept political commentator.”

Strawberry Mansion High Sees Hope for the Future

By: Sara Huntington



Newswork.org

The US Census compiled a list of the top 25 most dangerous high schools in America. At the top of that list ranked Strawberry Mansion High located in Philadelphia, PA. In 2012, Diane Sawyer, a reporter from ABC News, took a look inside the most dangerous school in America.

Sawyer visited periodically from 2012 to 2013. She witnessed fights on a daily basis and some students even began to protect Sawyer from the dangers. Principal Linda Cliatt-Wayman stated that Strawberry Mansion High has 20 security guards and 40 surveillance cameras throughout the school. Students are patted down before entering the school and backpacks are searched through.

Strawberry Mansion High lost their fourth principal in four years in 2012. When Superintendent Linda Cliatt-Wayman was faced with the decision to shut the school down due to the lack of a principal, Cliatt-Wayman took matters into her own hands by volunteering to be the new principal. Principal Wayman established a dress code in her first year. Students are no longer allowed to wear hoodies or boots therefore weapons cannot be easily hidden.

In May of 2014 ABC aired Sawyer’s year-long investigation on their broadcast series, “Hidden America.” Since the show aired, the school has made significant improvements for the first time ever in the school’s troubled history. The students at Strawberry Mansion High School have made some significant achievements this year from sports to academics. (Continue on page 3)

Strawberry Mansion High Sees Hope for the Future

For the first time ever in the school's history, the school now has a football team. Donations from people around the country provided the team with the money for uniforms and equipment. The team has enough participants to have a full roster, and even compete against other schools. The football team went on to become undefeated in their first season. This opportunity has helped many students stay away from violence providing them with an activity to stay focused. In an interview with [ABC News](#) Jyquan, the quarterback for the football team, said, "Football keeps me out of trouble. ... I ain't thinking about the streets or nobody else. I'm just thinking about football. But now since football season [is] over, I'm just going to the gym every day, lift weights, get bigger for my 12th grade year next year, because like I'm trying to go to a good college."

In addition to the football team, Strawberry Mansion High has also developed a choral group called Strawberry Mansion Glee. The school could not afford a choir teacher, so the students founded the group on their own and practiced after school. With only one instrument in the band room, the choir depended on one girl to play the piano while the rest of them sang. When Drake, a Grammy-winning rapper, saw the broadcast he was touched. According to [ABC News](#) Drake said, "I caught this piece that Diane did and I was like by the end of it I was so heavily affected that at the end I started questioning major aspects of my life."

Without hesitation Drake set out to do something positive for the school. He decided to build a recording studio at the school for the students to utilize. Many of the students are interested in singing and rapping but didn't have access to any resources. Drake built the recording studio to provide the opportunity for students' dreams to come true.

This year, 55 of the 92 graduating seniors were accepted into college which is twice as many as the previous year's graduating class. Many students don't know if they will be able to actually attend due to high tuition cost. Last year's senior, Christine Holland, wanted to attend Philadelphia University but knew she couldn't afford it. After she was aired on the ABC News special, Philadelphia University waived her tuition for all four years. This year 11 scholarships were offered to students at Strawberry Mansion High.

For the first time in the schools 52-year history, Strawberry Mansion High is seeing hope. Having active sports teams, an energetic choral group, and a new recording studio will encourage students to attend and take pride in their school. Students will be motivated to work hard in each of their classes, because without adequate attendance and grades, they will not be able to attend sporting events or extracurricular school activities. This hope is all made possible by the kindness and generosity of other people. Strawberry Mansion High has much to be thankful for this year. With the help of their new principal, the students of Strawberry Mansion High may finally overcome their label of being the most dangerous school in America.

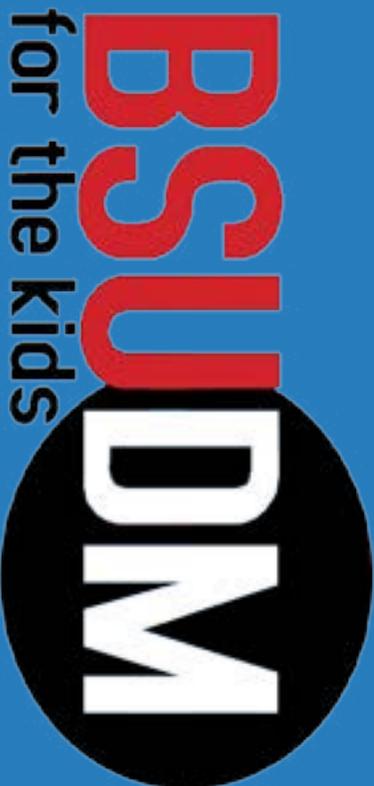
"Football keeps me out of trouble. ... I ain't thinking about the streets or nobody else. I'm just thinkin about football."



[Feeds.abcnews.com](#)



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY



On Campus Events

Unity Week Events:

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Concert
Thursday, January 15th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Sursa Hall

MLK Community Breakfast
Monday, January 19th, 2015 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Student Center Cardinal Hall
Keynote speaker is President Paul Ferguson

MLK Unity March
Monday, January 19th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.
Participants will leave the Ball State Multicultural Center at the intersection of North Street and McKinley Avenue, travel north on McKinley Avenue to Shafer Tower and return to the Multicultural Center south on McKinley Avenue.

Marc Lamont Hill to speak in honor of MLK Jr. Day "The War on Youth"
Tuesday, January 20th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Pruis Hall
At this event, national journalist and political commentator Marc Lamont Hill, will speak on "The War on Youth." He is known as one of the country's most influential black leaders according to Ebony magazine. He is a host for HuffPost Live and BET News, along with being a political contributor for CNN. His reports cover topics on culture, politics, and education. He is a professor of African American Studies at Morehouse College, trained as an anthropologist of education, and has a doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Tunnel of Oppression
Wednesday, January 21st, 2015 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Student Center Ballroom
An event of interactive simulation exploring oppression of social groups.

"Check Yourself"
Thursday, January 22nd, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Student Center Tally
An event for students to answer questions about diversity and campus climate.

Unity Connections Conference
Saturday, January 24th, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Student Center
For more information and registration: <https://apps.bsu.edu/CommunicationsCenter/Story.aspx?MessageGuid=b60e54a0-eee0-4623-8522-a235ed092771>

Unity Scholarship Pageant
Sunday, January 25th, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in Pruis Hall
All events are free and open to students, staff, faculty and the Muncie community.

A Raisin in the Sun
February 6th-7th, 2015 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the University Theatre at Ball State University
This production is a pivotal story in the history of African-American theatre, A Raisin in the Sun chronicles three generations of an African-American family on the south side of Chicago during the 1950's. A financial windfall is the catalyst for their divergent dreams and each member of the family envisions a different path to a better life. Matriarch Lena wants to buy a home in an all-white neighborhood, her son Walter Lee wants to buy a liquor store, and daughter Beneatha dreams of attending medical school. Familial conflict, tensions and prejudice forcefully collide to create this groundbreaking American classic.
Tickets: General Public \$15, Faculty/Staff \$14, Senior Citizens \$12, Students \$10

Ball State University Dance Marathon
Saturday, February 21st- 22nd, 2015 from 2:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m.
In the Field and Sport Building
Stand for 12 hours for those who can't! Ball State University Dance Marathon is the largest student-run philanthropic event on BSU's campus. Their mission is to provide support both emotional-ly and monetarily to the children and families that need the assistance of Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.



Off Campus Events

MLK Jr. Dream Team's Kick-Off to Black History Month Celebration

Saturday, February 7th, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Minnetrista
Activities include the fourth annual Create for the Dream art contest and silent auction, a continental breakfast, prize raffle, and guest speakers.

Organizations On Campus

International Justice Mission

Mondays @ 6pm in Student Center Rm. 306

IJM is a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world. Ball State's chapter is a group of students who are passionate about ending slavery & human trafficking around the world. They believe that through Jesus Christ, they can create tangible change in the lives of slaves through prayer, educating people, changing our behavior, & volunteering. IJM fights by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, & strengthening justice systems.

Feminists for Action

•Tuesdays @ 6pm in Burkhardt Building Rm. 220

•A group dedicated to the empowerment of women, men, & children through advocacy & education. They strive to educate others about issues in the global, national, & community level. They encourage thought-provoking discussions & work to organize events to benefit feminist causes.

•Current Focuses/Projects:

Writing letters to Indiana Senators in regards to specific bills being introduced.

Planning an event around Valentine's Day.

Planning and organizing various committees for the spring semester.

Ethnic Theatre Alliance

Mondays @ 5:30pm in Arts & Communications Building Rm. 308

ETA uses theatre to explore cultures, diversity, & racial-discrimination to develop worldviews in BSU students, & create well-rounded artists.

Spring Events:

January 31 – Spoken word & poetry workshop/slam

March – Homeless Awareness event; Theatre piece for Women's History Month

April – Community diversity picnic; LGBTQ event

Global Brigades

Global Brigades is an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to meet their health & economic goals through university volunteers & local teams. GB offers skill-based 1-3 week brigades to Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, & Ghana. Each of these programs meets an aspect of GB's holistic model to strengthen the health & economic development of communities. Ball State's chapter is planning to send three groups of students on three different brigades in 2015.

Social Media

Twitter: @BSUBrigaders

Instagram: @BSUBrigaders

Facebook: "Global Brigades at Ball State University"

Follow Us:



https://www.facebook.com/ballstatepeacecenter?ref=aymt_homepage_panel



<https://twitter.com/bsu4peace>

Organizations On Campus Cont.

Social Justice League

Mondays @ 5pm at the Center for Peace & Conflict Studies

SJL seeks to promote awareness, equality, & justice on the BSU campus, in the state, in the country, & in the global community. SJL desires to educate & discuss modern injustices & social justice topics, promote the distribution of advantages to be fair & equitable to all, & actively work to change current injustices.

ALIVE Campaign

Wednesdays @ 9pm in the Student Center Pineshelf Room

The Alive Campaign is a student-ran group at Ball State that is dedicated to raising awareness towards Suicide Prevention by representing as a "Life Appreciation Organization".

Peace Conferences

Notre Dame Student Peace Conference

100 Hesburgh Center, Notre Dame, IN

March 27-28 2015

Register: <http://10times.com/notre-dame-student-peace-conference>

Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference

Butler University

April 10 2015

Register by February 11th

<http://www.butler.edu/undergrad-research-conference/>

FATE Conference

Hosted by Heron School of Art and IUPUI

Indianapolis IN

March 25-28 2015

Register by March 9th : https://fate.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=formlogin&form=173896&return=L2luZGV4LnBocD9vcHRpb249Y29tX21jJnZpZXc9bW-MmbWNpZD1mb3JtXzE3Mzg5Nj9zZXJ2SWQ9NDQ5NyZvcHRpb249Y29tX21jJnZpZXc9bW-MmbWNpZD1mb3JtXzE3Mzg5Ng==

Fees include breakfast and Lunch

Must be a member of FATE to attend: member cost is \$50 for 2 years

The Business and Economics of Peace

American University in Washington, D.C.

April 10th-11th, 2015

This conference focuses on the interrelationships between business, peace, and economics and will emphasize on the keys themes that include: Economics, Business, and Peace, Measuring Peace, Analysis and Management of Risk, and Resilient Businesses, Resilient Societies: Promoting Positive Peace. At the conference there will be student presentations, established academics and industry leaders will share the latest ideas in research and practice, and there will be discussions and networking opportunities with practitioners will be emphasized in the program.

International Conference on Conflict Resolution Education

Hosted by The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution,

George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia

June 17-22, 2015

Registration opens in late January 2015

The 2015 conference builds upon prior conferences, which brought together government representatives from all around the globe and nongovernmental organization partners who have legislation or policies in conflict resolution education and related fields. The audience includes college educators and students, k-12 educators, prevention specialists, and state, local, national and international policy makers.

<http://creducation.org/cre/goto/creconf>

Annual International Conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peace Building

Theme: The Intersection of Diplomacy, Development and Defense: Faith and Ethnicity at the Crossroads

The Riverfront Library Auditorium, Yonkers Public Library 1 Larkin Center Yonkers, New York 10701

October 9,10, and 11, 2015

This conference will host speakers from a variety of disciplines, well-informed panels, and lively debate. The conference selected the theme it has to explore the recent developments and supporting modern approaches to diffuse current conflicts.

http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topics/2015-annual-international-conference-on-ethnic-and-religious#.VLQgJ2TF_RI

Registration ends: October 9th, 2015

<http://icermediation.org/Mediation/Daf/AnnualInternational-Conference2015.html>

Because Kids Count Conference

November 30-December 2, 2015

Indianapolis, IN

<http://www.iyi.org/conferences/kids-count.aspx>

On Campus Support Groups

KISS: KNOWING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' STORIES

WEDNESDAYS from 3:30-5:00 pm – MULTICULTURAL CENTER This gathering, starting on September 3rd 2014, is designed to provide support for international students by coming together and sharing cross-cultural stories. Through sharing our stories, participants will find similarities and differences as well as gain support from each other. The leaders will also share their personal journeys with members and use various approaches to encourage members' sharing.

COUNSELING CENTER THERAPY GROUPS:

(Therapy groups require appointment at counseling center before joining. Call 285-1736 or let your intake counselor know you are interested in a group.)

UNDERSTANDING SELF & OTHERS

Group members explore patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Discussions vary greatly from depression, anxiety, relationships, family concerns, eating issues, alcohol abuse and/or personal growth. The groups thrive on diversity as members discover the common bond through emotional experiences. Mondays 3:00-4:30; Tues-days 3:00-4:30; Wednesday 2:00-3:30; Thursday 2:00-3:30 (women's group)

JOURNEY TO WHOLENESS

Safe, supportive place for survivors of sexual trauma to explore the meaning of their experiences and to explore effective ways of coping. Thursdays 3:00-4:30

WEIGHT NOT, WANT NOT

Supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping. Time to be determined.

CHOICES

A group for students who are exploring making changes in their relationship with alcohol and other substances. Mondays 3:00-4:30

SAFE HAVEN: GLBQ SUPPORT GROUP

This therapy group provides a safe place for GLBQ students to explore and discuss patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Topics of discussion vary greatly from coming out, finding support, relationships, family concerns, depression, anxiety, and/or personal growth. Fridays 10:00-11:30

C.A.L.M.:

Care for myself, manage my Anxiety, Live in the moment, practice Mindfulness - This group offers a secure space for students struggling with anxiety to not only explore their fears and worries, but also receive feedback and support from others with similar concerns. The group also focuses on teaching students about a variety of techniques, including mindfulness meditation, which can be particularly helpful in managing anxiety. Another benefit of being in a group is having a place to experiment applying new skills and ways of relating to others, in a safe and supportive environment. Thursdays 3:00-4:30

KALEIDOSCOPE: ETHNIC/RACIAL MINORITY SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAYS from 4:00-5:30 pm – MULTICULTURAL CENTER 2nd FLOOR

A safe, supportive place for ethnic/racial minority students to explore and discuss navigating two or more cultures. Topics may include discrimination, identity, family concerns, relationships, adjustment, academic concerns, and body image. All ethnic/racial minority students are welcome to join any time!

The Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Fellowship Fund

The Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Fellowship Fund to support faculty members and graduate students that are presenting scholarly papers or serving on a symposium at professional conferences on topics directly connected to the mission of the Cohen Fund which "is to provide a lasting memorial to Benjamin Cohen by fostering new approaches to the problems of peacemaking.

Two awards of up to \$500 are available for this academic year. Funds may only be used to offset travel expenses (e.g., airfare, lodging, local transportation, meals). You can find the application linked with this opportunity at: <http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/peace/academicopps/cohenpeacefund>

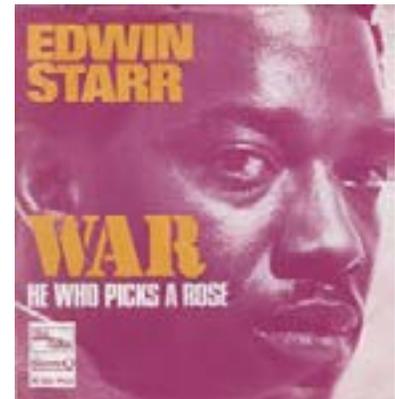
Information about the Cohen Fellowship Program can be found at: <http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/peace/academicopps/cohenpeacefellowship>

Please note that is ESSENTIAL that a submitted proposal clearly articulate how the presentation fits with the mission of the Cohen Fund. Proposals that are not consistent with this mission will not be reviewed. Please also note that the deadline to apply for these funds is December 1, 2014 and March 1, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact the Peace Center at peacecenter@bsu.edu

Peace Song of the Week

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpWmlRNfLck>



About Us

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary center whose mission is to pursue research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; to implement nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; to offer mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and to train people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportsperson-ship skills. The center also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect.

If you'd like us to include your events in the newsletter, please contact:

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Our Programs Include:

Mediation training and services
Meditation classes
The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
The Social Justice League organization

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