

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Benefits of Community Involvement

The Peace Center is bringing Muncie Mayor Dennis Tyler to the Arts and Journalism room 175 from 2-3 today to discuss the importance of community involvement. Keeping with this theme, community service obviously benefits people and organizations locally, but research shows that community involvement is highly beneficial to the volunteers themselves as well. An article from the University of Michigan, *Benefits of Student Participation in Community Service* describes the benefits of volunteerism as they fall into three major categories: psychological, social, and cognitive.



Photo retrieved from: <http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20130314/NEWS01/303140032/Mayor-Dennis-Tyler-Muncie-deluged-meth-problems->

A common reason people tend to volunteer is because it makes them feel good about themselves; in fact 89% of young volunteers listed this as their main reason for volunteering, according to an article from *Current Health* magazine. Studies have also shown that involvement in volunteer activities can lead to other psychological benefits including higher satisfaction with one's life, lower risk of depression, and generally improved mental health.

For young people especially, there can be major social benefits to community involvement. Volunteering and involvement in similar activities fosters feelings of social connectedness with one's community. According to the

University of Michigan article, "Many students have reported an increased sense of social responsibility, and a subsequent desire to "give back" to the communities from which they have come." Additionally, many improvements can be seen in the behaviors of at-risk teens who become involved in community service because they are able to redirect their energies into more positive social and community activities.

"One of the best supported findings of research about community service is that students learn most...when they are in programs that have regular opportunities to process and talk about their direct experiences," according to community service researcher Diane Hedin. A study by Steven Smith in 1999 states that volunteering appears to decrease antisocial behaviors, create social networks of trust, and promote the volunteer's involvement in public affairs. Community involvement also exposes volunteers to a more diverse world of people with different points of view and teaches critical thinking and problem solving skills through first-hand experience.

Not only does community involvement and volunteerism promote the bettering of our local communities, but provides psychological, social, and cognitive benefits to the volunteers who are involved themselves. To learn more about the importance of community involvement here in Muncie, from our own Mayor Dennis Taylor, make sure to come out to the Peace Center's event today (Thursday) from 2-3 pm in the Arts and Journalism Building room 175.

-Erin Silcox

Inside this issue:

Article	1
Blog of the Week	2-3
Newsflash	4
Activity	5
On-campus events	6-8
Off-campus	9
Grants	10
Conferences	10

Want to be Featured in the Olive Branch?

If you are interested in being interviewed for an upcoming issue of the Olive Branch, or if you would like to write a short article, please contact e-mail us at peacecenter@bsu.edu. We would absolutely love to share your message with our readers!

Blog of the Week:

Genocide

Wesley Patrick

This week's readings from "A Problem From Hell" focused on the genocides in Cambodia and then in Rwanda. Again, the United States and its western industrialized affiliates did little to nothing to stop these mass killings. Just as seen before, the reactions to the horrific tales of the survivors and refugees of such mass killings were those of unbelief. This strikes me as odd. Granted, it is always good to have reliable sources (and under most circumstances 3rd and 4th accounts do not constitute as reliable sources) but I feel as though when it comes to the eradication of our human brothers and sisters it is better to be safe than sorry. I had heard about the Cambodian genocide before these readings, however, I learned a great deal about the intricacies of the genocide and the socio-political atmosphere of the country during the genocide. The readings really gave light to the context surrounding these killings and almost seemed to have given the citizens of the US a pass on their obvious apathy. It is sad to think that the strong anti-war/pacifist movement turned a blind-eye more or less to the tragedy that was Cambodia. Likewise, the silence on behalf of the United Nations and the acceptance of the KR to the United Nations was disheartening to say the least. It is frustrating to watch world superpowers do nothing when senseless murder is taking place because these powers are too busy fighting proxy-wars over ideals through the States involved. I doubt that political expediency will ever be set aside in order to uphold the rights and livelihoods of our human brothers and sisters as long as nationalism exists.

Another time in which political expediency was given higher precedence than human life was the genocide in Rwanda. The story of Rwanda is a story of white imperialism, class/race distinctions and mass genocide based on these socially constructed distinctions. Naturally, the Western world, and namely the US, would not want to intervene in the mass killings of which they so frequently have been the cause. Again, the UN, the US and its affiliates did not act despite the evidence and reports that suggested, as decent human beings, they should. Sometimes when writings these posts I feel as though I am a broken record. Social constructions and the dangers of inherit violence they insinuate are seen time and time again. In Cambodia, people were targeted due to their "ethnicity" and their religion initially. In Rwanda, again this idea of "ethnicity" led to the genocide. If social constructions could ever be viewed critically we may be one step closer to peace for our species.

Continued on following page...

Blog of the Week, cont...

I think it is sad that a traumatic human event must be dramatized in America, in many cases, in order to raise more awareness of that event. While I can admire some of the good intentions that I am sure the filmmakers had in attempting to recreate a story within the Rwandan genocide, it is frustrating to me that the extent to what most people will see about the Rwandan genocide will be movies like "Sometimes in April" and "Hotel Rwanda" that hardly do the actual event any justice. This goes back to the media discussion and how the media in America rarely displays the brutality of war, and during this genocide the media was largely silent. Yet, years later filmmakers can make inspirational movies about these horrific events that trigger some ever transient emotional reaction from the viewers that usually respond with "this is horrible" and then the viewers go back to their casual lives of convenience. All the while, the viewers react to the characterization of the victims of genocide rather than the stories of the actual victims themselves. I think this is why "never again" continues to be said after every human tragedy. The policy-makers in the western industrialized nations that hold the majority of the world's power simply do not care, in particular for those in developing countries. They, like the viewer of the Americanized and watered-down story of the film, react to genocides with "this is horrible" but then go back to what is politically expedient only further showing their apathy. This can be seen in one of the ending scenes of "Sometimes in April" when one of characters asks "is it because they are African?" when talking about the US's decision not to act.



In "Sometimes in April" a few interesting questions were raised. One was how does one, or people, move on after genocide? This question was raised when the character Martine was talking about the tribunals being held with Augustin. Augustin describes the trials as "just a way that everyone can wash their hands so that they can pretend that there was justice." He then states "where is our dignity?" In the movie, the tribunals were done by the world court, seemingly composed of people from countries who did not intervene in the Rwandan genocide. This alludes to the reality of collective guilt and the fact that those who do not act against oppression and genocide are no less innocent than those perpetrating such acts against humanity. Also in the movie, when discussing the possible jamming of the Rwandan hate radio, that it was said that it was against international law to jam the radio. Again, I think this speaks to nationalism and putting national sovereignty over the rights human beings. Likewise, this scene produces several questions about hate speech and beliefs that could be considered as hate. Should hate speech be allowed? Should people be allowed to hold certain views that could very easily turn violent? Is being intolerant of intolerance and bigotry the same as being intolerant?

These questions I think can all lead to slippery slopes involving condemnation and the like for certain non-majoritarian beliefs. However, if intolerance was no longer tolerated by those with the will and determination to see it removed then I think we would see many different decisions in terms of policy and behaviors of the individual in general. Likewise, if we put aside rules, regulations and political expediency in order to maintain the precedence of human rights, livelihood and dignity I think the world would be a much better place. However, as long as "never again" remains the endless empty mantra of the human community I'm not so sure this better place I can only hope for will ever become a reality.

-Wesley Patrick

Want to know how you can get involved
in the community?

Mayor



Tyler

Community Involvement Discussion

- ◆ Who: Mayor Dennis Tyler
- ◆ What: Community Involvement Talk
- ◆ When: March 21st from 2-3 p.m.
- ◆ Where: Arts & Journalism 175



*Join us in discussing with
Mayor Tyler the importance
of community involvement
and how you can make a
difference in your
community!*

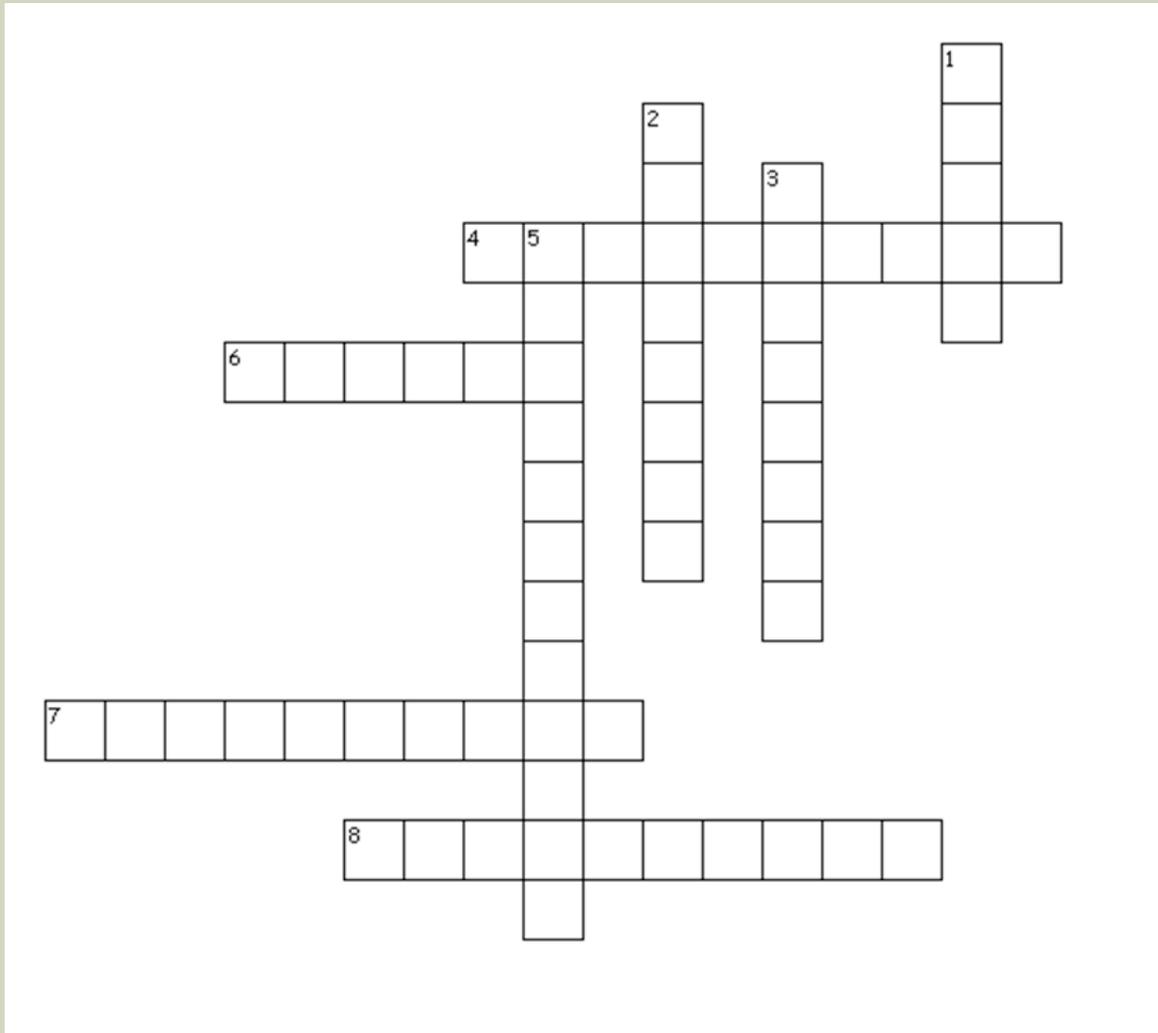
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Activity

The Olive Branch Crossword!



Across

- 4. volunteering decreases these behaviors in at-risk teens
- 6. Mayor of Muncie, IN
- 7. March is ____ Awareness Month
- 8. community service may lower the risk of this

Down

- 1. National Suicide Prevention Advocate coming to speak in April
- 2. ____ Tomorrow meets on Mondays at 6:30
- 3. The Conviction of Lady ____.
- 5. online community that strives to 'decrease worldsuck' and 'increase awesome'

On-Campus Events

March, Disability Awareness Month: "Community Connections"

Thursday, March 21st, 1pm SC 310 Career Center Workshop: Resumes

7pm Rec Center Adaptive Recreation Nights

Monday, March 25th, 2pm SC 301 Women with Disabilities (panel)

Thursday, March 28th, 8pm Field Sports Building Wheelchair Tennis

Click here for more information: <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/dsd/programs/awareness/events>

Thursday, March 21st

The Social Justice League meets at 5 pm in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, 310 N. McKinley Ave. For more info, email sjl@bsu.edu

Mayor Tyler Community Involvement Talk: Join us in discussing with Mayor Tyler the importance of community involvement and how you can make a difference in your community! Arts and Journalism 175 from 2-3pm. Contact peacecenter@bsu.edu with questions.

How the CIA Used the Pope to Hasten the Fall of Communism: Pope John Paul II quietly met many times with the late CIA Director, William Casey, and former Deputy Director of CIA, Vernon Walters, in total, 15 times, exchanging sensitive information in a joint effort to hasten the fall of communism in Poland and other Eastern European countries, all while avoiding Soviet military intervention. Join Indiana Law student, Lauren Box, as she presents current research concerning history's unlikely pairing of the CIA and the Pope. **FREE! 6:30-8:00pm**

Contact the Community Center for Vital Aging at 289-4541 or vitalaging@bsu.edu with questions or to register.

Friday, March 22nd, 3:30 David Owsley Museum of Art

In conjunction with Ball State University Working Well, the David Owsley Museum of Art dedicates the last hour of the weekday for quiet time, making for a great way to start off your weekend. Meditation is drop-in and self-guided and all are welcome.

Monday, March 25th

OXFAM meets at 6 pm in the basement of Bracken library. For more info, email ajhartman@bsu.edu.

Building Tomorrow meets at 6:30 pm in the Schwartz Digital Complex room in Bracken Library. For more info, email ksrowe@bsu.edu.

Call to Action meets at 7:30 pm in the Student Center Room #306. For more info, email lefortier@bsu.edu.

Become a Friendship family!

Get involved and become a friendship family!

"The Rinker Center for International Programs is looking for community members that would like to become a "family" for an international student. The Friendship Family Program matches international students with local families and residents. The goal of the program is to provide international students additional support while in the United States and an opportunity to learn more about American culture outside of the university environment. Families and students are asked to commit to doing one activity a month together. Students do not live with the families, nor are families responsible for any financial assistance.

Ball State University recently welcomed approximately 70 new international students to our campus, and many of these students would like a local friendship family. Help enrich the experiences of international students at Ball State, provide insight into American culture, and connect your family to a global experience without leaving the United States, all through the Friendship Family Program!"

For more information and to apply, contact the Rinker Center for International Programs at (765) 285-5422 or friendship@bsu.edu

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference

On-Campus Events

Tuesday, March 26th

Annual Ball State University **Student Symposium**, Student Center Ballroom, 2nd floor

This is a chance for students, faculty, and the Muncie community to discuss research efforts and view the connection between special projects and education. The most outstanding posters, creative or multimedia displays, and other exhibits will be awarded cash prizes at the end of the day. Every Ball State student who has participated in organized work inside or outside the classroom and was advised by a Ball State faculty member is eligible to register for the symposium.

Click here to register or view the symposium's guidelines: <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/spo/spotlights/studentsymposium>

TCOM major Hannah Lindgren's creative honors thesis, *A Film to Decrease Worldsuck* will be premiering at 7:30pm in Letterman Building, room 125. The 42-minute film tells the story of an online community called Nerdfighters, through which "thousands of young people strive to 'decrease worldsuck' 'increase awesome,' and do their part to help raise money for charities and raise awareness of important social issues."

Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank as admission to the screening. Refreshments will be provided and Q&A/Trivia sessions will be held at the end of the film. "This screening is the first of ten that will happen over the summer in cities all over the world - from New York to Dublin. Each screening will collect donation items for a local charity."

To find out more about the film and this event, click here: <http://www.nerdfightersdocumentary.com/>

International Conversation Hour meets every Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 pm in Student Center room 310. ICH is "a group of U.S. and international students who meet weekly to discuss different topics such as academic success, friendship, dating, and recreation... to provide a place for both U.S. and international students to meet and learn from one another, as well as to help international students improve their English and adjust to life at Ball State University." Contact plin@bsu.edu with questions.

Wednesday, March 27th

Culture Exchange- This week Jung - eun (Jennifer) Yoo will be presenting on Korea.

Weekly Culture Exchange presentations are held every Wednesday at the Rinker Center for International Programs, SC 102 from 12pm-1pm. Each week a different country is highlighted, typically presented by a native of that country and culture. Bring a lunch or stop by the Tally for a dish inspired by the week's country and learn about the world beyond Muncie!

Thursday, March 28th

The Conviction of Lady Lorraine

"A poignant story based on one woman's search for insight found in another woman's fight for justice... *The Conviction of Lady Lorraine* is a one-woman show written and performed by Dwandra Nickole Lampkin. Dwandra Nickole Lampkin is an actress, singer, playwright and Associate Professor of Theatre Performance and Director of Multicultural Theatre at Western Michigan University. Dwandra has received grants from the Indiana Arts Commission and Ball State University to conduct research on the topics of stereotypes and diversity at the Schomburg Center for Black Research in Harlem, New York and she received the ASPIRE Creative Grant to aid in the research and writing of this show."

This event is sponsored by the Multicultural Center. Dinner will be served at 6:00 and the show begins at 7:00. Please RSVP to this event by contacting mc2@bsu.edu or 765-285-1344 no later than March 22nd.

On-Campus Events

Friday, April 5th, 8 a.m., David Owsley Art Museum

Yoga in the Museum Sculpture Court.

Wake up your morning with tension-releasing yoga lead by instructor Sarah Lyttle. Yoga mats provided or bring your own. \$10 BSU affiliates, \$13 BSU non-affiliates. *Please register early, minimum 8 participants is required.*

To register and pay, visit: <http://bsu.edu/recreation/instructional-classes.html>

Friday April 5th-Saturday April 6th

Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: "Promoting Nonviolence at Home and Beyond". Jointly organized by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and the [City of Muncie](#) with the financial support, in part, from the [Benjamin V. Cohen Memorial Endowment Fund](#), [United States Institute of Peace](#) and the [Institute of International Education](#), community activists and scholars from all disciplines will present their strategies, research, and recommendations related to peacemaking and peace-building, particularly with respect to local, national, and international contexts.

Thursday, April 11th, 7:30 pm Pruis Hall

National Suicide Prevention Advocate, Heidi Bryan, will deliver a suicide prevention presentation entitled *Sentenced to Life*, followed by a Q&A session after. "Drawing upon her personal experiences with depression, alcohol abuse, attempting suicide and losing several people, including her brother, to suicide, [Heidi] weaves a compelling story filled with both humor and hope."

Donate to the SVS 25th Annual Lend-A-Hand Day!

Student Voluntary Services is collecting donations of gently used clothing, home goods, new toiletries and non-perishable foods which will be given to Muncie residents in need at the YWCA on April 6th. Donations may be delivered to the Office of Student Life (SC 136) until March 30th or in any residence hall until March 1st. The residence hall with the most donations will win a personalized plaque to recognize their hard work!

Questions? Contact the SVS Grad Assistant, Michelle Kailey at mrkailey@bsu.edu or 765-285-3535.

Spring 2013 (time varies), Lucina Hall

Counseling Center Group Therapy

The Counseling Center offers a large variety of therapy sessions that are completely free to Ball State students.

Just a few of these groups include:

Understanding Self & Others- a discussion and discovery of understanding and acceptance of themselves and others

Journey to Wholeness- a supportive group for survivors of sexual trauma

Safe Haven- supportive group for LGBTQ students to discuss topics including family concerns, support, relationships, depression, personal growth and more

Kaleidoscope- a supportive group for ethnic/racial minorities to discuss topics including discrimination, identity of self, family concerns, body image, and more

You can find more information about these and more groups here: <https://apps.bsu.edu/CommunicationsCenter/Story.aspx?MessageGuid=a83cc747-5339-43e1-8e42-a9726d5e097f>

Call 285-1736 to sign up for one of these free groups.

April 10 & 12 : Building Tomorrow's Bike to Uganda

This event will take place in the Atrium of the CAP building. It will be a stationary bike-a-thon with each rider raising funds for each shift they ride.

Off-Campus Events

Thursday, March 21st

Fast for Gaza will meet at 12 noon at Christian Theological Seminary, 1100 W. 42. For more info, contact Lew Weiss at ljweiss@clarian.org or 962-8580.

There will be an Anti-death Penalty Witness, 12:30-1:30 pm, at the east steps of the State House, Capitol Ave. and Market, sponsored by The Indiana Information Center on the Abolition of Capital Punishment (IICACP). Bring a sign or use one of ours; come for any part of the hour. For more info, phone 466-7128.

Christians for Peace & Justice in the Middle East will meet at 6 pm at the home of Dottie Gerner. Bring a sandwich. For more info or directions, phone Dottie Gerner at 283-7175.

Friday, March 22nd

The weekly vigil protesting warfare will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, Michigan and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 403-2835 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org

Saturday, March 23rd

C.U.R.E. (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) will hold a monthly meeting, 10-12 am, at North United Methodist Church, W. 38 & Meridian. For more info, phone Marilyn Reed at 352-0358 or Lela Ewers at 831-0765.

[Nashville] There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!" at 6 pm at Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or annntom@hotmail.com

Sunday, March 24th

There will be a demonstration on the theme "USA for Six Day! Don't Dismantle the Postal Service," 1-3 pm, near the main Post Office, 125 W. South, sponsored by Jobs with Justice. For more info, email Amy Shackelford at amy.shackelford@gmail.com

JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

Thursday, March 21st

There will be a speaker from Breaking Chains speaking at First Presbyterian Church from 9:15-11 p.m.

Saturday, March 23rd

Frisbee for Freedom will be taking place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at RC turf. The cost is \$50 per 5 player team.

Grants and Fellowships

Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science-deadline June 1, 2013

The Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science is given every two years. The award honors outstanding contributions to the scientific knowledge of peace and conflict. The winner is selected on the basis of the importance and scientific significance of the dissertation with respect to the field of peace science and its contribution to the understanding of international behavior more generally.

Morton Deutsch Conflict Resolution Award-deadline June 15, 2013

The award recognizes achievement in integrating theory and practice in conflict resolution.

Conferences

Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Promoting nonviolence at home and beyond

Muncie, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013

www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference

Deadline for pre-registration: March 22, 2013

Notre Dame Student Peace Conference 2013

Notre Dame, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2013

Registration materials will be available soon.

Rotary Club of Londonderry Global Peace Forum

Derry-Londonderry, Ireland, May 4-26, 2013

The aim of the Derry~Londonderry Forum is to contribute to Reconciliation, Learning and Full Self Expression for those involved in peacemaking and peacebuilding throughout the world.

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

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@bsu4peace to get our
latest updates.**

**"LIKE" us on Facebook!
Ball State University Peace**

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

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

If you would like YOUR events to be included in the newsletter, please contact:

Ennea Fairchild (efairchild@bsu.edu) or

Erin Silcox (esilcox@bsu.edu)

Disclaimer: the events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference