



Ball State University
Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

Weekly Newsletter
April 25 – May 1, 2013

THE OLIVE BRANCH

SPOTLIGHT: Earth Day

Earlier this week we celebrated Earth Day. Typically when one thinks of Earth Day, it generates images of people planting trees, picking up trash, or simply taking a moment to appreciate nature. Refreshing to have a day where our earth is the focus, isn't it? While there is nothing wrong with a day dedicated to celebrating our beautiful planet, it should be on our mind daily. The environment is all around us, constantly influencing our activities. Who doesn't appreciate a warm, sunny day outdoors breathing in the fresh air? Often times we take this beauty for granted.

As a graduate student in Environmental Management, I am constantly hearing about the degrading state of our environment. Depressing at times, but necessary. It's a wake up call that more people need to have. We need to be conscious of the decisions we make that affect our world, and I'm not just talking 'minor' issues like "Stop littering" or "Plant more trees." Those should be no-brainers. I'm saying think more about your daily decisions and the impact they have on the world. What products do you consume? What is their ecological footprint? How are you disposing of your trash? How can you produce less waste? Are you walking those two blocks to school/work, or are you driving because you were too lazy to wake up 10 minutes earlier? Are you leaving lights on when you haven't been in the room in 5 hours? Sometimes the solution to a healthier environment doesn't need to be rocket science. And you're right, no, one person refusing to recycle isn't going to destroy the world, but when half the population refuses, it makes an impact. The culmination of everyone committing an action can make a difference. Let's make sure it's a positive difference. We are meant to be stewards of our great Earth. I'm asking... nay, challenging you to rethink your daily actions. What if everyone did what you did, how would the world look? Hopefully it would be as pristine as you want it to be.

-Ennea Fairchild



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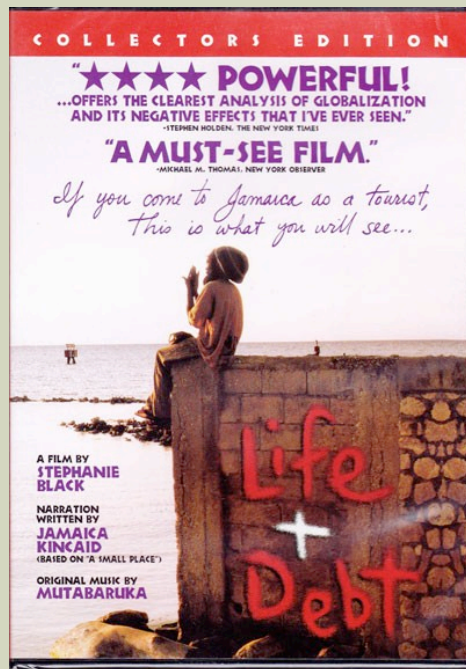
Want to be Featured in the Olive Branch?

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 e-mail us at peace-center@bsu.edu. We would absolutely love to share your message with our readers!

Blog of the Week:

By: Wesley Patrick

This week's readings concerned the future of peacemaking, transformations and the future. I was pleased to see a portion of these readings discussing the importance of feminist concepts in peacemaking. Historically, the progression of a society is always marked by the status of women. Although feminism is the valuing of equality in general, the various women's movements have been integral in creating the values of feminism and have more or less started the feminist movement as a whole. If we are to create a peaceful society, the social status of women must not only should women be on equal footing in status, equal footing economical-equality of status should construction of gender. Majority of the populace that often times put underneath "masculine" less desirable than. Thus, in order to work toward peace, the social should be abolished completely or all types of equal footing. This is ideal and the status quo, be abolished or adjusted central to the ideal of feminism. Any social construction, policy, or norm that stands in the way of equality should be questioned. This is essential for the transformation of society. As Betty Reardon writes about a society in the future when women and men contribute to upholding principles of equality and peace "the maturity of such a peace system would be indicated by continuous reflection on and challenge to its rules and structures and by its capacity to change in response to new conditions leading to new stages of human maturation. Maturity is, in the last analysis, the capacity to transform and to bring forth new life. Transformation is the continuous process by which human beings exercise choice, change reality, and find meaning. Transformation is life. Feminism chooses life." (Barash, pg. 266)



Blog of the Week, cont...

This week in class we watched a film called *Life and Debt*. This film chronicled some of the issues that are occurring in Jamaica concerning the country's economic conditions. These economic conditions, much like the economic conditions of much of the developing world, were created by the imperialist white colonialism that was rampant during from 1600 to the early 1900's. Using much of the countries colonized by European powers as periphery economies (essentially enslaving the people and taking their resources to be used in European markets) the European (and more recently American) empires and economies were able to obtain goods that they normally would not have had access to. Although today the slavery is not as severe in scope, the countries that the European powers left essentially had to fend for themselves on a global scale in a global economy that in many cases was much more advanced than the economies that they had. Thus, these countries had to conform to standards set by their former colonial overlords even though the colonial countries had obtained independence. Thus we have the current condition of neo-colonial slavery where these third-world countries have become significantly indebted to organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Not only are these countries indebted to these organizations, in order to progress as a country they must also join organizations (like the World Trade Organization) with developed countries so as to find a market for their goods. In the case of Jamaica, the country is in a lot of debt to the IMF and the World Bank. However, these organizations have forced Jamaica to adopt policies that require them to allow multinational organizations into their country that pay the workers close to nothing to do mass production type jobs. Yet all of the revenue that these companies make go back to the companies and their home country (usually located in the US or EU.) Thus, the Jamaican economy is not really helped and is in fact being taken advantage of just as they were before in colonial times.

So what can be done to change this? We discussed some of the things we can do as individuals such as changing consumption choices and petitioning our government and the like. However, I feel as though while these personal objectives and convictions can be lived out and could make us feel better about ourselves, we are not really able to do anything to effect or mitigate neo-colonial slavery. Even if public solidarity were able to be achieved, our boycotting of the multination corporations (MNCs) that are taking advantage of the people in these developing countries would do nothing but drive the MNCs to other areas and further add to the poor economic conditions. Likewise, the public's voice does not hold the same amount of clout than the lobbyists for major corporations and economic sectors do. We can talk about changing the world if we all do our part but this simply is not the case. This structural functionalist view of peacemaking seems to lack all validity for me due to the way the international system is set up. What power does the individual have in a society where economic opportunity is constricted by backward norms and values that protect the androcentric hierarchy? What power does a an individual in a third world country have to change his country's debt to western industrialized nations that hold not only economic power but also have the largest concentrations of military power? I don't want to undermine the idea that the individual can do good in the world. I just think that individual's actions are confined to their own microcosms and that in order to make a real impact in the world one (or whatever group) must obtain the power to do so. Unfortunately, In other words, transformation is a function of power. This power can come from peaceful revolution but in many cases transformation does not come without casualties. I would hope that we as humans could find solidarity, equality (social and economic) and lasting peace without violence but whether that is possible or not is up to those that have the power to make that choice.

-Wesley Patrick

Activity

The Olive Branch Word Search!

N A J X W Q A U V Y C P D O Q F B Y G H
 L O K B U L C Y R A T O R H O P E P J W
 B Z I D W M S J F D J K Q R R Y W Q Z L
 I Q B T L X J Q N H L Q N B N Z A B I C
 G U A Z A I W Y P T E K Q A W T L F K W
 B T I Y Q T D Y W R T A N P J D Z F S Q
 S L F A N M I S R A E A W F U M Z Y U L
 R G V P O T H D R E C E V O Y C D D H E
 Y T O J P I L X E B K T C U O C N G H U
 G W Z G M O Y J A M C A F A C I N S N X
 S S D O I F V N A K Y A K N X I G F K L
 O N E N H N G R C O V L Y A B F E U M T
 L P M X O L A E A R O D Q R D V L Q L S
 P D K T A P W W X L Q U S K X W Y U W S
 I V S D J X G B V A N P N M U A U G Z C
 U O E X E G J B K U E T F V B O X W S I
 B S M P P W O P A F R W Q R W Y W U G V
 H C R H X N Q W B T A V G I E V B S X H
 U H A R Q W C B B J Q S O O H K Q F Q J
 Z T U B W N O U X Y U T B N A I T I D P

BANGLADESH
 BOSTON
 EARTH DAY
 HOPE
 MEDITATION
 ROTARY CLUB

On-Campus Events

April, Earth Month Green Dining Challenge with BSU Dining

This April, participate in the Green Dining Challenge with Ball State Dining. Each week, BSU Dining reminds us of a simple way to be more sustainable in Dining. Challenge #2: Dining goes through thousands of napkins every day. Help us reduce that # by trying to take only the napkins you know you'll need at each meal.

Thursday, April 25th

At 3 pm in Student Center 301, The Center for International Development will present about Ball State's commitment in Bangladesh, which began in 1969. Speakers will discuss how Ball State has been involved with Bangladesh including a recent successful trip in January where faculty explored grant opportunities with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, and U.S. Embassy in Dhaka.

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

Friday, April 26th

Meditation at the David Owsley Museum of Art. Meditation is a great way to start off your weekend. All are welcome. The activity is drop-in and self-guided.

Saturday, April 27th

If you're looking for a way to belatedly celebrate Earth Day, or just want to help beautify our community, join Freshman Connections in The Great Media Clean-up on Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm at the McCulloch Park lodge (home of the Frisbee/Disk Golf course). Free lunch and a t-shirt will be provided to all participants!

Monday, April 29th

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

Tuesday, April 30th

International Justice Mission meets at 6 pm in the Whiting Business building Room #213. For more info, email cekozak@bsu.edu

Feminists for Action meets at 6 pm in the Burkhardt building Room #220. For more info, email feministsforaction@gmail.com or tncannon@bsu.edu

Free the Slaves meets at 8 pm in Bracken Library Room #201. For more info, email freetheslavesbsu@gmail.com

On-Campus Events

Monday, May 6th-Friday, May 10th

Jewish Studies Summer Workshop. Participants will “engage in a discussion-based week, intended to enhance knowledge and understanding of Judaism and Jewish Culture.” The series of workshops, called “The Sounds of Jewish Music: The Art of the Liturgy, and Musical Creation During the Holocaust” will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hargreaves Music Building, Room 123, and Choral Room, Music Instruction Building all week. Larry France, former cantorial soloist and pararabbinic fellow for the Temple Beth El in Muncie, will be leading the workshop. Cynthia Smith, a BSU doctoral student, and Dr. Galit Gertsenzon Fromm, a pianist, who have both studied Jewish composers incarcerated at Theresienstadt will also be contributing during the week. The workshop is a part of the Jewish Studies Project at Ball State University which is funded by the Benjamin and Bessie Zeigler Fund and “was established to provide the university and community with an understanding and an appreciation for Jewish history, Jewish culture, and the Jewish faith.”

The workshop will be limited to ten participants, and applications are due by Monday, April 15th. For more information about how to apply, visit <https://apps.bsu.edu/CommunicationsCenter/Story.aspx?CategoryID=90&MessageGuid=C91B738D-C7A0-4754-B26F-96C92A109553&OptIn=Y>

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 GLBTQ 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.

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 or click here: <http://cms.bsu.edu/admissions/international/internationalservices/friendshipfamily>

Off-Campus Events

Friday, April 26th

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 677-5967 or email Ron Haldeman at ronjane@igc.org

Saturday, April 27th

There will be a Focus 2020 Youth Chautauqua hosted by Peace Learning Center, 9-1, at Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School in downtown Indianapolis. For more info or to register your group, email Eva Collins at ecollins@peacelearningcenter.org

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.

Consolee Nishimwe, Author of "Tested to the Limit: A Genocide Survivor's Story of Pain, Resilience and Hope" and Mfuti Saleh Habimana from the Rwanda Delegation will speak, 12-3 pm, at Decatur Discovery Academy, 5122 S. High School Road, next to Decatur Middle School, between Thompson and Powell.

[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

Grants and Fellowships

United States Institute of Peace Annual Grant Competition

This Grant Program supports peacebuilding projects such as educational or research institutions and civil society organizations that are managed by nonprofit organizations. Every year, the USIP awards 20-25 grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$120,000. The 2013 competition will be announced in early spring 2013. Visit <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition> to learn more.

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.

The Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship Program (USIP)

These are awarded to scholars, practitioners, policy analysts, policy makers, and others to spend 9-10 months in residence at the USIP during which time they will reflect and write on international peace and security challenges. Citizens of any country are able to apply. The program beginning in October 2014 is now open. Visit <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/jennings-randolph-senior-fellowship-program> to learn more.

Rotary Peace Fellowships

The Rotary Foundation provides these fellowships to fund master's degree or professional development certificate study at one of the six Rotary Peace Centers. Recipients of this fellowship promote peace, cooperation, and successful conflict resolution on both the national and international levels. Visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/grants/grants-basics/explore-grants/rotary-peace-fellowships> to learn more.

Conferences

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 peace building throughout the world.

Theology & Peace: Lynching, Scapegoating, and Actual Innocence

Chapel Hill, North Carolina, June 4-6, 2013

“A gathering for all Christians, theologians, pastors, activists, and others to develop the insights of mimetic anthropology toward the formation of a theology, community and practice of peace.”

Visit <http://www.theologyandpeace.org/conference.html> for more information.

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

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**"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