

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2013

## ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES

In the wake of the war on drugs in the 1990s, followed with terrifying school shooting incidents like at Columbine High School, schools have been adopting a “zero-tolerance” policy on non violent crimes ranging from smoking marijuana to spraying graffiti on school walls. Students found engaging in this behavior, as a result of the zero-tolerance policy, were summarily apprehended, kicked out of school, and sometimes arrested for their misdeeds.



The New York Times recently covered the result of this policy on the Broward County school system of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The school system had the highest arrest rate of any other school system of any other state because of its observance toward the “zero tolerance” system. They have come to find out that this method of discouraging criminal activity actually serves to harm students and forces them into the sometimes inescapable destiny of jumping from prisons to prisons, never able to rehabilitate.

Another article by John W. Whitehead, attorney, author, and contributor to The Huffington Post, paints an appalling picture of what the zero tolerance policy has entailed with some students. Seven and eight year olds arrested for toting Legos carrying tiny guns, teenagers expelled for taking phone calls from their parents, violating a no cell phone rule. Time Magazine even points out that the schools have been installing a “national crack-down on Alka Seltzer” after children have been arrested and expelled for carrying the fizzy tablets, violating schools’ harsh anti-drug policies.

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At its most insidious, the school policy has lead to some staggering figures. Michael Thompson, head of Texas's Council of State Government's Justice Center, says that six out of ten Texas high school students have been suspended or expelled from class one or more times over the past six years.

Zero tolerance predictably has a much harsher effect on minorities and the disabled than it does other students. In the same study quoted above, 83% of Texas's African-American students had been expelled at least once by the time they had graduated. Thompson says that a vast majority of Afircan-Americans have had a "discretional violation" in school, while 79% of Latinos and 59% of whites have experienced the same thing. A discretionary violation is the use of expulsion, suspension, or law enforcement at the request of school administrators and not actual police.

After reading all of this depressing information, it is important to indicate that there is hope for schools who have instituted these harsh penalties. The administrators of Broward County schools, for example, have taken stock of the shocking figures indicated by their schools and are desperate to do something to change their sordid history. They have partnered up with juvenile law enforcement, as well as with rights groups such as the N.A.A.C.P. in order to come up with a way to discipline children that is fair and that will not haunt them for the rest of their lives. Schools are beginning to realize that's what important for students is success rates, not punishing them for what seems to outsiders as shockingly insignificant activities. Hopefully with actions taken in the years ahead, we will be able to end this epidemic, avoiding what writer Whitehead paints as an "Orwellian nightmare" if we do not reform our policies.



# SPOTLIGHT:

## NABILA REHMAN

On October 24, 2012, a CIA-operated drone came upon the village of North Waziristan in Pakistan, home to eight-year old Nabila Rehman, her family, and many others. In the midst of picking okra, Nabila and her family heard the familiar sounds of the drone before it struck, killing her grandmother and wounding seven children in front her of eyes. In the past month, Nabila, her schoolteacher father, and her brother travelled to Washington, D.C., to tell their story at a congressional hearing. However, their reception differed greatly from that of Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani education activist who was attacked by the Taliban and became an international spokesperson for the right of girls to receive an education.



While Malala received an audience with President Obama, Nabila's reception at the congressional hearing was less than ideal. Out of 430 American representatives, only five showed up to hear Nabila's testimony. Nabila asked a simple question of the few who showed up to hear her speak: "What did my grandmother do wrong?" Though Malala received an audience with Barack Obama, the President spent Nabila's hearing meeting with the CEO of weapons manufacturer. While the different receptions of the United States to Malala and Nabila do not reflect negatively on Malala, a truly inspirational human rights activist, they do reflect poorly on the United States and whose stories we choose to hear. Malala was a victim of the Taliban; therefore, she was a human face for the war effort and a legitimization of the U.S. war cause. Nabila and her family, on the other hand, were the victims of U.S. drones. If such drones represent a just cause – the liberation of Pakistani people – it is difficult to justify why Nabila's story was swept aside so easily. Ultimately, the girl whose suffering was recognized was the one who fell victim to the enemy, regardless of the fact that both were innocent children. While Malala has received international attention, awards, and support, Nabila received a mere five representatives for her testimony. However, if more had attended, they would have heard her asking the question that many other innocents have asked: "When I hear that they are going after people who have done wrong to America, then what have I done wrong to them? What did my grandmother do wrong to them? I didn't do anything wrong."

Reference: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/11/malala-nabila-worlds-apart-201311193857549913.html>

# Course Offering

**RELS 380**  
**Religion, Nonviolence and War**  
**Spring 2014, T/R 2-3:15**  
**Prof. Elizabeth Agnew**

**An investigation into traditions, theories, and practices of**



**nonviolence and war in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries|**



**Questions? Email [eagnew@bsu.edu](mailto:eagnew@bsu.edu)**

***Eligible for credit in Peace & Conflict Studies***



# ON CAMPUS EVENTS

## INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION HOUR

Time and Location: Every Tuesday, 6-7:30 pm,  
310 Student Center



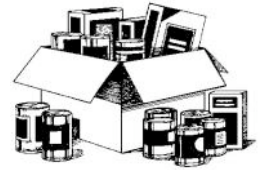
This program is designed to help international students practice English, learn studying skills and classroom culture, and make American friends. We recruit both domestic and international students from the BSU campus. Through interactive discussion, they can normalize their experiences and decrease their isolation, worries, and stress as well as get support from American students. They will also learn different kinds of study skills to help them succeed at Ball State University. We hope through students' participation, domestic students will learn about different cultures without studying abroad and international students will increase their sense of belonging to BSU and adjust to their transition from their countries to BSU better. Please join ICH facebook-BSU International Conversations.

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# OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS

## Friends Memorial Church Food Pantry

A food pantry that is open the third Saturday of each month for clients to receive both food and non-perishable items free of cost. This food pantry is sponsored by Friends Memorial Church. Volunteers help clients select food and assist to their vehicles.



Volunteers can participate at times scheduled with the agency throughout the month.

Or, volunteers can participate on the third Saturday of each month, must check in at 8:15 a.m. at the church. Pantry is open until 11:30 and volunteers will remain until approximately 12:00 noon to help service everyone in the building.

Please contact Linda Daniel, cell 765-212-4775, ldaniel1234@comcast.net, to arrange placement.

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## Breakfast with Gregory

Councilwoman Linda Gregory will review the agenda for Muncie City Council's Monday night meeting and discuss issues and concerns of constituents.

Saturday, Dec. 7 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Mac's Restaurant, 2323 S Madison St, Muncie, IN 47302

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## The 2013-2014 Indy Winter Farmers Market

The Indy Winter Farmers Market, an initiative of Growing Places Indy, runs Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from November through April at The Platform in the west end of the historic Indianapolis City Market!

The goal of the market is to provide a venue downtown to directly connect farmers and producers to the community and foster personal relationships in the exchange of fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, baked goods, herbs and natural cleaning products while promoting access to local, healthy food for all.

## The Platform at City Market

202 E Market St

Indianapolis, IN 46204

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# GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

## THE DAVIS PROJECTS FOR PEACE:

In its sixth year, the Davis Projects for Peace program is an invitation to undergraduates at the American colleges and universities in the Davis United World College Scholars Program to design grassroots projects that they will implement during the summer of 2013. The projects judged to be the most promising and feasible will be funded at \$10,000 each. The objective is to encourage and support today's motivated youth to create and try out their own ideas for building peace.

Deadline for submissions is January 2014. For more information, visit <http://www.davisprojectsforpeace.org/>

## 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/peace-fellowships> to learn more.

# CONFERENCES

## NOTRE DAME STUDENT PEACE CONFERENCE

The annual Notre Dame Student Peace Conference, which takes place during the spring semester, attracts undergraduate and graduate students from across the U.S. and abroad who want to change in the world and who are committed to a rigorous, multi-disciplinary academic work on peacebuilding. Students present original research and showcase innovative peacebuilding practices.

For more information, see <http://kroc.nd.edu/undergraduate/notre-dame-student-peace-conference>

The conference will be held March 29-30, 2014. More information regarding deadlines for research proposals will be posted online as the information becomes available.

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## 2014 GRINNELL PEACE STUDIES STUDENT CONFERENCE

Conference Date: February 28, 2014 – March 1, 2014

Call for Papers: September 25, 2013 – December 20, 2013

Location: Grinnell, IA

Contact: Anthony Wenndt [wenndtan@grinnell.edu](mailto:wenndtan@grinnell.edu).

Purpose: The conference will address issues of peace and conflict from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

<http://digital.grinnell.edu/ocs/index.php/peace/peace2014/index>

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## BUTLER UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Butler University Undergraduate Research Conference invites presentations of undergraduate research across a broad spectrum of disciplines, a full list of which can be found on the website.

The conference is currently in the planning process, but will be held 4/11/14.

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



# CONFERENCES CONTINUED...

## "ENGAGING THE OTHER" THE POWER OF COMPASSION

Conference Date: May 4-5, 2014

Location: Dearborn, MI

Contact Email: [SOlweean@aol.com](mailto:SOlweean@aol.com) Steve Olweean

Purpose: Focuses on unresolved communal trauma and transference of the trauma experience into future generations as potent fuel for future animosity and violence, including: the implications for fear-based systems, negative stereotypes, prejudice, alienation, polarization, scapegoating, and forming enemy images that promote adversarial perceptions of the "Other" and the power of compassion and humanitarian service to victims in healing communal trauma, re-empowerment, and promoting positive relations within and between societies.

[http://www.cbiworld.org/Pages/Conferences\\_ETO.htm](http://www.cbiworld.org/Pages/Conferences_ETO.htm)

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF QUALITATIVE INQUIRY

The Tenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry will take place May 21-24, 2014 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2014. The 10th Congress will be built around the changes that have occurred in the field of qualitative inquiry in the decade since the Congress was launched as an alternative site for collaboration and discourse. The 2014 Congress will offer delegates an opportunity to assess the major changes that have taken place over the last decade. What might the Congress, and indeed the broader landscape of qualitative inquiry, look like in another decade? What should our mandate be for the next decade? What have we learned? Where do we go next?

The proposal deadline is December 1, 2013.

# CONFERENCES CONTINUED...

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The mission of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is to promote undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity done in partnership with faculty or other mentors as a vital component of higher education.

The conference will be held on April 3-5, 2014. The deadline for applications and abstracts is Dec. 6, 2013.

[http://www.cur.org/ncur\\_2014/](http://www.cur.org/ncur_2014/)

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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION (NCORE) 2014

The NCORE® conference series constitutes the leading and most comprehensive national forum on issues of race and ethnicity in American higher education. The conference focuses on the complex task of creating and sustaining comprehensive institutional change designed to improve racial and ethnic relations on campus and to expand opportunities for educational access and success by culturally diverse, traditionally underrepresented populations.

Conference Date: May 27 2014 - Jun 1 2014

Location: Indianapolis, IN

Contact Email: [meganvinson@ou.edu](mailto:meganvinson@ou.edu)

The call for proposals is coming! See <https://www.ncore.ou.edu/>

# PEACE ORGANIZATIONS

## SOCIAL JUSTICE LEAGUE

I am Morgan Ulyat, the president for Social Justice League this year. Below is a short description of our organization:

The Social Justice league strives to better the world through awareness, local involvement, and fund-raising for worthy causes. We aim to bring greater awareness of social justice issues to Ball-State and the community. Join us to explore both domestic and international issues and to confront and combat injustices.

Our club meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. We can be reached at either [sjl@bsu.edu](mailto:sjl@bsu.edu) or [bsu.social.justice@gmail.com](mailto:bsu.social.justice@gmail.com).

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## TIMMY GLOBAL HEALTH

Timmy Global Health is a nonprofit organization based out of Indianapolis that seeks to eliminate healthcare disparities worldwide. At Ball State, our chapter works through the academic year to raise awareness, money, and medical supplies for our annual trip to Ecuador during spring break.

Contact Info: [bsutimmy@gmail.com](mailto:bsutimmy@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BSUTimmy>

Meetings: Tuesday @ 7pm. Education Resource Room 1 in the Bracken Library Basement

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## DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO KENYA

Delivering Educational Support to Kenya (DESK) is a student-led organization designed to assist students in Kenya. In Kenya, all students are required to have a school uniform to attend school. Unfortunately, some families are not in a position to buy school uniforms or school supplies for their children. To help these families, DESK organizes various fund raising activities to raise money to buy school uniforms and supplies. Some of these activities have been bake sales, calendar sales, and boxed lunch sales.

# PEACE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED...

Contact email: [desk@bsu.edu](mailto:desk@bsu.edu)

Fall 2013 Meeting Dates & Times:

September 23, 6-7pm in TC 542

October 28, 6-7pm in TC 542

November 25, 6-7pm in TC 54

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## BALL STATE TOMS

Our club is directly affiliated with the TOMS company. Our main goal and focus as a club is to raise awareness about the company and what they do. We do this through sponsoring and holding several events throughout the school year. We meet every Wednesday night at 9 PM in Bracken, room 401.

Contact info: [TOMSCLUB@bsu.edu](mailto:TOMSCLUB@bsu.edu)

Taylor Cardini, President

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## STUDENTS FOR RESPONSIBLE CONSUMERISM

Students for Responsible Consumerism aims to educate consumers about their relationship with products and the corporations that make them. Our mission is to make students aware of the socio-economic and environmental influence of their purchases. We foster consumer activity that promotes ethical products that avoid exploiting labor or the environment.

Our club meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the Student Center, Room 308. We can be reached at the following emails: [src@bsu.edu](mailto:src@bsu.edu) or [responsible.consumerism.bsu@gmail.com](mailto:responsible.consumerism.bsu@gmail.com). This is our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/responsibleconsumerism>, and we also have a tumblr page: <http://responsibleconsumerism.tumblr.com/>.

# PEACE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED...

## BALL STATE CIRCLE K

Circle K International (CKI) is the premier collegiate community service, leadership development, and friendship organization in the world. CKI blends community service and leadership training with the opportunity to make friends. Our motto is: "Live to Serve, Love to Serve!" Our club offers weekly service opportunities and larger service events for those who wish to become involved.

Our club meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 in WB 136.

Club email: [ballstatecki@gmail.com](mailto:ballstatecki@gmail.com)

Club Website: <http://ballstatecki.weebly.com/>

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## VEGAN ASSOCIATION

The Vegan Association is a judgment-free zone for Ball State students, employees, and alumni who are vegan and wish to positively promote a life free from animal products. We are a campus-affiliated network dedicated to the support, promotion, and education of people regarding veganism.

Meeting information can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354765237926317/members/>

Email: [jl Gilbert3@bsu.edu](mailto:jl Gilbert3@bsu.edu)





310 North McKinley Avenue  
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Phone: (765)285-1622

Email: [peacecenter@bsu.edu](mailto:peacecenter@bsu.edu)

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

To get all the latest updates on activities and news from the Peace Center, follow us on Twitter @bsu4peace or "Like" our Facebook page!



If you or your organization would like to submit content or information about an event to be included in our newsletter, please email Tacianna Oliver at [tpoliver@bsu.edu](mailto:tpoliver@bsu.edu) or Katie Munn at [ksmunn@bsu.edu](mailto:ksmunn@bsu.edu).