



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2014

## ARTICLE: THE GMO DEBATE

There are many crops that are derived from genetically engineered seeds, including corn and soy, which make up over 90% of crop acreage planted in the United States. These genetically engineered crops, also known as genetically modified organisms or GMOs, are incorporated into the diets many farm animals as well as the diets of most humans. There are many reasons behind genetic modification, including repelling insects and pathogens from the crops, increasing the shelf life of products in the grocery store, and saving money for some companies. Many debate over whether or not these crops are safe for us to consume; in fact, there are doctors prescribing diets that are free of GMOs because the effects of genetically engineered foods are commonly perceived to be unclear. The genetic modification of foods for human consumption is a relatively new phenomenon. Some individuals believe that by consuming foods that have been genetically modified, they are taking a leap of faith. On the contrary, multiple independent studies have been reviewed by scientific organizations all over the world, coming to the agreement that all genetically modified crops approved by the FDA are safe for human consumption. This debate aside, there are multiple issues regarding the transparency with which GMOs are marketed. Most people believe that everyone should have access to information regarding the foods they are consuming, but it is often difficult to tell whether or not a food product contains genetically modified ingredients or not.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Article	1
Spotlight	3
Blog of the Week	5
On-Campus Events	9
Grants	13
Conferences	13
Organizations	15
About	16

# THE GMO DEBATE

There have been many pieces of legislation introduced to the House and Senate at the State level that would require the labeling of genetically engineered foods so that consumers can make educated decisions regarding the foods they are buying. So far, only two of these bills have passed, one in Maine and one in Connecticut. The legislation will go into effect when a number of the surrounding states, whose population adds up to 20 million residents, pass similar legislation. Once the legislation would be implemented, foods containing genetically modified ingredients would be labeled, similar to nutritional labels. In addition to the potential labeling laws in Maine and Connecticut, there are currently 64 countries around the world that require labeling of genetically engineered foods, according to [justlabelit.org](http://justlabelit.org).

There have been some noted benefits of consuming certain genetically modified foods; while the United States debates over the labeling of GMOs, the International Rice Research Institute has genetically engineered “Golden Rice.” This rice, which is modified to have higher levels of Vitamin A, is being provided to people in the Philippines to combat vitamin deficiency. Eventually it will be marketed to other countries who heavily consume rice. According to Mayo Clinic, prolonged Vitamin A deficiency can lead to blindness and lung disorders; this is a substantial concern for the health of children in many underdeveloped countries. Today, the genetically engineered rice provides 60 percent of the daily requirement of Vitamin A for healthy children in one bowl, according to Amy Harmon, a national correspondent for The New York Times. The genetic engineering of golden rice could save lives.

There are many viewpoints in regards to the genetic modification and engineering of foods. It is important to be aware of all sides of the debates regarding genetically modified foods and to seek transparency regarding their presence in our daily lives. *By Kate Giglio*






# SPOTLIGHT: PETE SEEGER

*"I'm fightin' because I want a better America, and better laws, and better homes, and jobs, and schools, and no more Jim Crow, and no more rules like "You can't ride on this train 'cause you're a Negro," "You can't live here 'cause you're a Jew," "You can't work here 'cause you're a union man." - Pete Seeger, "Dear Mr. President"*

Pete Seeger, who died peacefully this past Monday at the age of 94, is warmly remembered as one of our nation's most loved and most influential musicians and activists. Seeger utilized his prowess as a performer throughout his life to raise awareness about social and environmental injustices, engaging his audiences and other musicians in his quest to create a just, peaceful world.

Seeger's work, including songs such as "If I Had a Hammer," "We Shall Overcome," and "Dear Mr. President," has reflected some of the most significant movements to promote peace and freedom in our nation's history; through his music and activism, he worked to improve labor conditions for lower-class workers in the United States, to rally the masses behind the movement to end the Vietnam War, to ban nuclear weapons and seek peaceful alternatives to American militarism, to garner Civil Rights for African Americans, and to preserve the environment, specifically the Hudson River in New York. His music has also served to unite people around the world; by knitting together groups of supporters on every inhabited continent, Seeger sought to create a global civilization of peace, tolerance, and understanding. In 2012, his song "Rainbow Race" was used to support and unite the Norwegian people following a mass shooting in Oslo.

A self-identified Communist, Seeger was personally targeted by the McCarthy administration in the 1950s. Following a subpoena from the House of Un-American Activities Committee at which he famously stated "I am not going to answer any questions as to my association, my philosophical or religious beliefs or my political beliefs, or how I voted in any election, or any of these private affairs," Seeger was blacklisted and prevented from performing or speaking at public venues.



# SPOTLIGHT: PETE SEEGER

Rather than give up in the face of this adversity or lash out against the government, he simply continued to play smaller shows and spread his message of peace and unity at private homes, union meetings, summer camps, schools, and universities.

A native of New York, Seeger was appalled at the state of the Hudson River. During his early life, it was not uncommon for industrial waste, garbage, and sewage to be freely disposed of in the River. At one point, General Electric had even used the Hudson as dumping grounds for several tons of chlorofluorocarbons, a persistent organic contaminant linked to ozone depletion and nervous system damage. To combat this pollution, Seeger developed the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, an organization designed to promote environmental awareness and community pride through local music festivals and scientific environmental education; Seeger even commissioned the building of a sailboat, also called the *Clearwater*, to serve as a travelling classroom to provide this education. Today, the effects of his work can be seen; the Hudson River is no longer the contaminated hazard that it once was. Many of its fish are again edible, and its waters are used for outdoor recreation.

Pete Seeger's life's work has had visible impact on the state of our nation; not only is he a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and a noted influence for musicians such as Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, but his activism has helped battle the oppression of Jim Crow laws, McCarthyism, and Environmental degradation. His music and his legacy are certain to live on and inspire generations of peace workers to come.

*By Emily Hart*







## BLOG OF THE WEEK: BY MICHAEL MAHONEY

I find myself disagreeing with many things that Richard Falk states in his writing “Defining a Just War.” The following line bothered me deeply, stating “The perpetrators of the September 11 attack cannot be reliably neutralized by nonviolent or diplomatic means; a response that includes military action is essential to diminish the threat of repetition, to inflict punishment, and to restore a sense of security at home and abroad.” He later mentions that pacifism would not help matters of security, as far as the safety of this country goes. My problem with his first statement is this: for better or worse, as far as the point of view of those in the Middle East have, any type of military action or insurgence into the Middle East will be seen as an attack on the country, not the terrorists. Many of the people American soldiers were fighting against in Afghanistan were not even aware of the 9/11 attacks – they were simply defending their country from invaders. Though this was written prior to our involvement in Afghanistan, the point is still valid. At the point after 9/11, there was really no good choice we could make. I understand why the terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center. I don’t necessarily agree with their position, but I understand it. I do not condemn them, as it was really the United States who caused them to feel they had no other choice.

After the 9/11 incident, Ani DiFranco wrote and delivered a nine-minute poem at one of her concerts, focused on her feelings of the event, titled “Self Evident”. The poem is extremely powerful, and I listen to it almost daily, and a line came to mind, which went “On the day that America fell to its knees, after strutting around for a century, without saying thank you, or please.” I’m not going to say that we, as a country, deserved 9/11, because I don’t think that’s entirely true. However, we should all be well-aware that, in a way, we were asking for something to happen. The terrorists are to be blamed, no doubt, but so are we.

Regardless of whose fault the attacks were, though, doesn’t matter. The way we retaliated and way we approached, the wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan were atrocious.






# BLOG OF THE WEEK

Former President George Bush, along with Vice President Dick Cheney, absolutely butchered any chance of us coming out of that looking like the “good guys” or the “victims.” Richard Falk seems to be an intelligent man – he mentions multiple times that we should not use an unnecessary force on the countries we attack. I agree with him to a point, but then again, I don’t think we ever should have went to the Middle East in the first place (at least retroactively – I was just in maybe second grade when the attacks happened, and I knew nothing about politics).

The idea of a “just war” makes sense – I know there are some conflicts which could be considered vital for a country’s survival. However, our reply to the World Trade Center attacks is not one that would make my list.

And just to make a few comments on the Criteria for a Just War (found on Blackboard), I see a few criteria that we already broke when entering the two wars in the Middle East. Just cause states “Force may be used only to correct a grave, public harm, such as defending against unjust aggression....” The aggression of the 9/11 attacks, I would argue, were not unjust – they were totally called for. If I lived in the Middle East, I would probably hate the United States more than I already do. Many countries dislike the United States, and it’s quite easy to see why. The problem is, so many people in this country are blind due to patriotism, and cannot comprehend why anyone would have a problem with “America, land of the free and home of the brave.” As if this is the only country around the world that have brave citizens in it...

The Right Intention criteria were broken – we went into those countries for revenge, no more, no less. Sure, other reasons cropped up afterwards, but to pretend that revenge was not a vital reason for going in is a dangerous viewpoint. We do not treat prisoners of war humanely (I am of the belief that sending so-called “dangerous people” Guantanamo Bay is akin to war crimes, as well as it water boarding/torturing them).






# BLOG OF THE WEEK

Also, the government has repressed its own citizens for “national security,” such as the formation of Homeland Security (which should be defunded as soon as possible), and the agency of Homeland Security known as the Transportation Security Administration (or TSA). Of course, all of this is up for debate. I’m a radical leftist – I fully admit this. Perhaps I am unable to make the best judgment calls as far as this is concerned. Even so, I see no reason to even consider the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan “just wars.”

The *Packing Inferno* pages I read were interesting. I will not lie – I did not read all 19 pages of the PDF, but what I did read basically reaffirmed what I already believed I knew about the military, though reading it from a soldier’s point of view makes the points far more potent. What struck me the most about the pages I read, though, was the section “The Invisible Wounded,” which talks about how soldiers, after war, often feel Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (or more commonly referred to as PTSD). My grandfather was in World War II – though I admit, I don’t know much about his history while in the military, I do know he saw conflict once or twice. He passed away a while back, when I was in sixth grade or so (before I ever had any interest in asking about his time in the war). Aside from it feeling like one of my biggest mistakes in early life, I also feel some shame: I never got to know how he dealt with the aftereffects of the war. My father joined the army in the 1970s, but he was discharged before being deployed due to a sickness that struck him during the first three weeks of training. The point I’m attempting to make is that I have had family members who joined the armed services, but I was either too young or too disinterested to ask about it. I intend to finish reading these sections of *Packing Inferno* as soon as I find enough time, as the content seems, while common knowledge, to contain interesting insider point of views.

As far as *Addicted to War* goes, I don’t know what more to say. It’s just depressing. At this point in time, it’s very hard for me to imagine how exactly this country can be fixed.





# BLOG OF THE WEEK

At times, I honestly feel I'd be best off moving to another country once I graduate college, be that Canada, or perhaps Finland or Norway. For the last three years, I've wanted to become a politician and try to get this country to shape up. More and more recently, however, I don't know if I'll be able to. First off, I'm so liberal that Vermont might even have a problem electing me. I applauded France President François Hollande when he signaled his intention of having high-income earners pay a 75% income tax rate. I am a socialist, and in relation, despise the system of capitalism. I believe in extremely limited gun rights, dislike individualism, and warn against patriotism. Heck, at the moment, I'm listening to a socialist song titled "Red, White and Green," about the dangers of prolonged poverty. I am beyond simply liberal, and there is no good reason to deny this. Though there is always hope, I honestly don't know if I could even be electable in this country, which is very disheartening. I just want to make this country be the best that it can be, and I feel that conservatives don't know how to do that, and if they feel they do, they're going the completely wrong way about it.

In conclusion, I do believe that there can be such a thing as a just war. However, I don't believe that this country even can see the difference. Can this be remedied? I don't know. I just don't know.

*Michael is a student in Gerald Waite's Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution course and has written this reflection as part of the class blog. Read other student's entries at [www.bsupeacestudies.wordpress.com](http://www.bsupeacestudies.wordpress.com)*







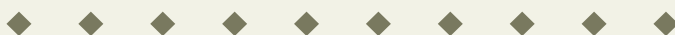
# ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

NEW ECOSYSTEMS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION: THE ROAD AHEAD

FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 7:30 PM

PRUIS HALL

Higher education observer Rich DeMillo discusses how 2012 brought a global conversation about the nature and value of universities that defined a new ecosystem for higher education and looks to the road that lies ahead.

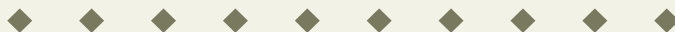


## A JOURNEY INTO LEADERSHIP: ORAL HISTORIES OF THE INDIANA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

FEBRUARY 5, 2014 FROM 10:00-11:00 AM

TEACHER'S COLLEGE SEMINAR ROOM 1008

Ball State University recognizes Indiana women who have made a significant contribution to social movements or change. The Indiana Women of Achievement Awards (IWAA) recognize Indiana women who enrich the lives of others through outstanding accomplishments in a variety of fields, such as education or research, community or university service, the business community, advocacy for women, and women's health issues. The Teachers College Dean's Sabbatical Presentation Series highlights current faculty research in an interactive and open venue. Light refreshments are served.



## CULTURE EXCHANGE- CHINA

FEBRUARY 5, 2014 FROM 12:00-1:00 PM

STUDENT CENTER ROOM 102

Want to learn about the world beyond Muncie? Join us at the Rinker Center for International Programs for a culture exchange! Culture Exchange presentations are held every Wednesday in SC 102 from 12pm-1pm. Each week a different country is highlighted; presenters are typically natives that can offer an insider's look into the country and its culture. Attendees are welcome to bring a lunch to the presentation and are reminded to show respect and prevent distraction to presenters by arriving on time.





# ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

MAJOR BARBARA

FEBRUARY 6-8 AND 12-15 AT 7:30 PM; FEBRUARY 9 AT 2:30 PM

UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Join us for George Bernard Shaw's masterpiece, a witty social commentary wrapped in the complex story of a father's love for his daughter.

Tickets: General Public-\$14, Faculty/Staff-\$13, Senior Citizens-\$10, Students-\$8

Box Office Hours: Monday-Friday 12pm-5pm and one hour before each performance.

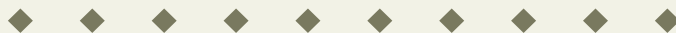
For more information, please contact the University Theatre Box Office at 765-285-8749.



## AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT BALL STATE EXHIBIT

BRACKEN LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, the University Libraries are proud to present *The Ball State University African-American Student Experience, 1970-2013: Activities, Organizations, and Programs*, on display on the second floor of Bracken Library until February 28, 2014. The display draws from several collections; featured are the Black Student Association Records, the Allen Williams Black Ball State Alumni Collection, the Robert Foster Papers, and the Marie Fraser Papers and Photographs.



## INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION HOUR

TUESDAYS FROM 6:00-7:30 PM

L.A. PITTENGER STUDENT CENTER ROOM 310

This program is designed to help international students practice English, learn studying skills and classroom culture, and make American friends. Through interactive discussion, they can normalize their experiences and decrease their isolation, worries, and stress as well as get support from American students. 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.





# ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

## COUNSELING CENTER GROUP THERAPY SESSIONS

SPRING 2014; TIMES VARY

(REQUIRE APPOINTMENT AT COUNSELING CENTER BEFORE JOINING)

**UNDERSTANDING SELF & OTHERS:** Group members explore patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. The groups thrive on diversity as members discover the common bond through emotional experiences.

**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.

**WEIGHT NOT, WANT NOT:** Supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping.

**CHOICES:** A group for students who are exploring making changes in their relationship with alcohol and other substances.

**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.

**MINDFULNESS GROUP:** Assists students in alleviating uncomfortable feelings, such as anxiety, stress, anger, and sadness. The group will practice and discuss relaxation and mindfulness techniques.





# ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

## OUTREACH GROUPS SPRING 2014; TIMES VARY MULTICULTURAL CENTER LIBRARY

**KALEIDOSCOPE: ETHNIC/RACIAL MINORITY SUPPORT GROUP:** Safe, supportive place for ethnic/racial minority students to explore and discuss navigating two or more cultures. Topics may include discrimination, identity of self, family concerns, relationships, adjustment, academic concerns, and body image.

**KISS: KNOWING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES:** This gathering is designed to provide support for international students by coming together and sharing cross-cultural stories. The topics include, but are not limited to, the first year experience of studying in the U.S., friendship, food, cultural holidays, driving experience, classroom culture, relationships with professors and classmates, survival skills (cooking, baking ...etc). Through sharing our stories, participants will find similarities and differences as well as gain support from each other. The leaders will also share their stories and encourage members' sharing

*Please visit the Ball State Counseling Center or call 285-1736 for more information about Group Therapy and Outreach Group meeting times.*





# GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

## ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

If you are looking to make an impact by promoting cooperation and tolerance than this may be for you! Rotary Foundation provides 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. There are two types of peace fellowships available. The deadline for submitting applications is July 1, 2014. Please visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships> to learn more information.

## TAPIR PROGRAM

The Transatlantic Post-Doc Fellowship for International Relations and Security (TAPIR) Program is open to candidates who have recently received their doctorate in social and political sciences or economics and whose research focuses on topics of international relations and/or international peace and security issues. Fellowships are granted for a duration of 24 months to prepare Fellows for a career in international policy-oriented research at renowned think tanks and political consulting research institutes. Fellows spend three eight-month stays at institutions participating in the program - at least one on the Eastern and one on the Western side of the Atlantic. The TAPIR fellowship is administered by the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik in Germany. Visit <http://www.swp-berlin.org/de/projekte/tapir/call-for-applications.html> for more information about placements and applying.

# CONFERENCES

## UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS 10TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The University of Massachusetts Boston will be holding their 10th Biennial Conference October 31 through November 1, 2014. The conference will be focused on Conflict Studies and the new generation of ideas. Please visit <http://www.umb.edu/academics/mgs/crhsgg/conferences> for more information.







# CONFERENCES

## NOTRE DAME STUDENT PEACE CONFERENCE

The Annual Notre Dame Student Peace Conference attracts both undergraduate and graduate students from all across the United States and abroad who are committed to a rigorous, multi-disciplinary academic work on peace building. Students present original research and showcase innovative peace building practices. The conference will be held March 29-30, 2014. More information regarding deadlines for research proposals will be posted online at [kroc.nd.edu/undergraduate/notre-dame-student-peace-conference](http://kroc.nd.edu/undergraduate/notre-dame-student-peace-conference) as more information becomes available.

## 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. The conference will be held in Indianapolis, IN starting on May 27, 2014 and ending on July 1, 2014. See <https://www.ncore.ou.edu/> for more information.

## THE 19TH ANNUAL BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

Through a series of panels, discussions, and speakers, this year's conference participants will gain a historical understanding of the evolution of black art and analyze what role different forms of art play in the expression of black culture. The conference is hosted annually in February at Yale University in New Haven, CT by a student organization.

## THE PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Peace and Justice Studies Association is holding their annual conference in October 2014 in San Diego, California. Proposal submission deadline is April 1, 2014. The conference will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of San Diego on a mesa overlooking the Pacific Ocean. This year's conference is titled "Courageous Presence: Shifting Stories and Practices of Peace."





# ORGANIZATIONS

*Join these campus organizations in their efforts to bring about positive change and promote social justice around the world!*

## BALL STATE TOMS CLUB

WEDNESDAYS AT 9:00 PM  
BRACKEN LIBRARY ROOM 201

TOMS Campus Club promotes the awareness, reality, and consequences of children living without shoes, and aids in charitable giving to this cause through programming and activities in accordance with the TOMS Shoes company.





310 North McKinley Avenue  
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Phone: (765)285-1622

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

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR EVENTS TO  
BE INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER,  
PLEASE CONTACT:*

*Emily Hart  
[eakathman@bsu.edu](mailto:eakathman@bsu.edu)*

*Tacianna Oliver  
[tpoliver@bsu.edu](mailto:tpoliver@bsu.edu)*

*Katie Giglio  
[kmgiglio@bsu.edu](mailto:kmgiglio@bsu.edu)*



"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK! **BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY PEACE CENTER**



WE'RE ON TWITTER! FOLLOW **@BSU4PEACE** TO  
GET OUR LATEST UPDATES.

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

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