



The Olive Branch

Week of January 24, 2014

Spotlight:

Dorothy Stang, A Rainforest Martyr



On February 12, 2005, 73 year old Sister Dorothy Stang was murdered while walking to a community meeting in Brazil. Her brutal death brought her inspiring life to an early end.

Sister Dorothy Stang was born in Dayton, Ohio. She grew up in a large Catholic family with a passion for activism. She took her vows as a nun and served as a teacher for nearly 10 years, and in 1966 began a ministry in the Brazilian rainforest. In Brazil, Dorothy worked with the poor of the Amazon, helping farmers build independent futures for themselves and their families. Eventually loggers, ranchers, and land speculators became the dominant forces in the region, victimizing the impoverished farmers and exploiting the rainforest. Sister Dorothy's frustration grew as she observed one of the world's greatest natural resources being demolished.

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Spotlight: Dorothy Stang

The Amazon forest is home to nearly 10 percent of the world's known species. During the past 40 years, close to 20 percent of this rain forest has been cut down. Because of Sister Dorothy's passion for the rainforest and the community, she was put on a death list that was created by the power brokers of the area in the late 1990s, who viewed her as a threat because she was so empowering to the indigenous people. Sister Dorothy was very aware that she had been named to this list and continued her work, despite the danger she was in. In early 2005, on her way to a meeting, she was ambushed and shot 6 times, left in the rainforest to die. She was murdered because she had created programs that generated self-sufficient communities of people committed to their own independence as well as the protection of the rainforest.

Sister Dorothy is honored and remembered in many ways today. The Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati awards the Spirit of Sister of Dorothy Stang Award each year to someone who has kept her ministry alive. In 2008 Daniel Junge directed the documentary "They Killed Sister Dorothy." This documentary brings light to Sister Dorothy's passion for activism and her death. It also follows the trials of the individuals who have been convicted for her murder.

Sister Dorothy Stang was an amazing woman who died for what she believed in. She is an inspiration to people everywhere, motivating and encouraging them to embrace activism for the environment and the people who rely on it.

By Kate Giglio



Article:

Katherine Chon and the Polaris Project

In 2001 when Katherine Chon was a senior undergraduate student at Brown University, she took a class covering the historical abolition of slavery and the existence of slavery and human trafficking in the modern world. It is estimated that anywhere between 4 million and 27 million men, women, and children globally are currently held as forced laborers or sexual servants. Shortly after Chon learned this, the local newspaper in Providence, Rhode Island published an article



about six young South Korean women who had become victims of sex trafficking and were being forced to work in an area brothel. Shocked that this had occurred in her own backyard, Chon, who is also of South Korean descent, immediately felt compelled to do something to prevent other individuals from being enslaved.

Chon's first reaction was to look for human rights organizations at which she could volunteer, but found few that sufficiently addressed the issue of modern-day slavery. This motivated her to found her own. Joining with fellow student Derek Ellerman, Chon launched the Polaris Project, a nonprofit organization designed to provide resources for victims of human trafficking and raise awareness about this growing worldwide problem. Named after the North Star which guided slaves in the Civil War-era United States to freedom along the Underground Railroad, the organization was submitted shortly after its inception to the University's yearly entrepreneur competition where it was awarded funds that allowed Chon to move to Washington, D.C. and establish a permanent headquarters.

Chon's challenge was intimidating, but she and her partners were able to rise to the task; the Polaris Project is now one of the most far-reaching anti-trafficking organizations of its kind.



Katherine Chon and the Polaris Project

Operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, it serves as the principal crisis hotline for incidences of human trafficking in the United States and works to reach out to victims by offering social work services and transitional housing. Polaris additionally helps to assemble local-level and grassroots anti-trafficking organizations across the nation. The organization's wide reach has been essential to its mission; in operating its national call center and educating individuals in various locations about recognizing the signs of a potential trafficking situation, Polaris is able to have eyes and ears in the parts of the nation and the world where trafficking is at its worst. This allows them to identify and rescue more victims and generate more cases against their oppressors. Chon cites an example of a teacher in an inner-city area who received training from Polaris in identifying potential victims of human trafficking. After noticing that two young girls had suspiciously gone missing from an after-school program she was facilitating, the teacher reported their absence to the Polaris Project's hotline. The case was investigated, and the two girls were indeed discovered to have been kidnapped by traffickers, who were subsequently arrested and charged.

Chon is seeking a more holistic approach to the problem of trafficking, however; she acknowledges that victim services and community education are essential, but she also finds it necessary to translate the horrors experienced by trafficking victims into stronger legal policies. Because perpetrators of human trafficking often deem their trade to be a relatively low-risk, under-the-radar industry, the Polaris Project works to undermine their operations by generating legal obstacles and creating stronger repercussions through heightened anti-trafficking legislation on all levels of the government. Chon has particularly worked to draft state legislation, even testifying before Congress multiple times to promote anti-trafficking laws.

Chon is confident in her own ability and the abilities of individuals around the world to make a significant, meaningful change to their society. "I believe that individuals can make a difference. Follow whatever you are passionate about, embrace it, and don't be afraid to accept the challenge." For now, Chon's new challenge is expanding the Polaris Project internationally. She wants to see communities around the world reach out to stop human trafficking and prevent the sale and trade of men, women, and children who are forced to work as slaves.

By Emily Hart



Recognizing the Signs

Are you or someone you know being trafficked? Is human trafficking happening in your community? Is the situation you may have encountered actually human trafficking? The following is a list of potential red flags and indicators of human trafficking to help you recognize the signs.

Common Work and Living Conditions: The Individual(s) in Question...

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture



Recognizing the Signs cont.

Lack of Control

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Misc.

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story



We encourage community members to "look beneath the surface" in all situations they encounter and to be vigilant for potential instances of human trafficking. Knowing the red flags and indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying more victims.

If you see any of these red flags, contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text to BeFree (233733) for specialized victim services referrals or to report the situation. This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative.

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<http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-the-signs>



Blog of the Week

By Dustin Ward

Problems are socially constructed. This means a situation is not considered a problem until an individual, or a group deems it as such. Environmental issues such as global warming, deforestation, and population growth have taken the attention of some United States organizations and individuals, but the majority of the population, including myself, reaps the benefits of obliviousness. The question is why? Why do we Americans ignore the steps being taken towards our own destruction? The answer is privilege. Dictionary.com defines privilege as a right, immunity, or benefit enjoyed by a person beyond the advantages of most. The American people, specifically the white, able-bodied individuals above the poverty line, take advantage of privilege bestowed to them that other peoples of the world do not experience. These privileges can exceed environmental issues, but for the sake of this blog we will not go there. America's consumption rate of energy and water is amongst the highest in the world. I take a shower at least once a day; this is a privilege. I brush my teeth twice a day (and I use hot water to rinse my toothbrush); this is a privilege. I am doing this blog post with all the lights in my room on; while the television displays a "no signal" screen in the backdrop; this is a privilege. These are privileges I do not want to give up, and I believe many people feel the same as I. The first three chapters of Joel Andreas comic "Addicted to War" demonstrate how America gained and maintains these privileges.



got privilege?



Blog of the Week cont.

If we, the United States, want something, then we take it. Andreas gives example after example of how we as a country have raped and pillaged our way into dominance. This shows that America has, and will continue to fight for scarce resources.

Privilege is a nice thing to have when you are the one benefiting, but with privilege comes oppression. I take a shower every day because someone else cannot. I brush my teeth twice a day because someone else cannot. I use a computer because someone else cannot. I scored over a four on my ecological footprint quiz because someone else scored considerably lower (this person would not even have access to take the assessment). In the opening paragraph of "The Land Ethic", Aldo Leopold states that all things in life are connected. This is a beautiful idea, and in terms of science he is correct, but as of now the human race is not living a life of connectedness. Instead it is one of power, profit, and privilege. Problems of terrorism and homeland security cast a shadow on the environmental movements. The sad truth of the matter is the profit margins for destroying and rebuilding are higher than sustainability. The focus should not be on the impact we have on Earth, but the impact Earth has on us. After all, chances are the human race will be gone before the planet is cremated.



Dustin Ward is a student in Gerald Waite's Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution course. This reflection was written for the class blog, which can be found at www.bsupeacestudies.wordpress.com



On-Campus Events

Unity Week 2014
Friday, January 24th

LATINOPALOOZA, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Pruis Hall; The Latino Student Union will sponsor a talent showcase of Ball State students, faculty and staff.

FRIDAY NIGHT FILMWORKS: THE BUTLER, 9:00 p.m., Pruis Hall; The Butler tells the story of a White House butler who served eight American presidents over three decades. The film traces the dramatic changes that swept American society during this time, from the civil rights movement to Vietnam and beyond, and how those changes affected this man's life and family.

Saturday, January 25th

UNITY WEEK DIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Student Center; Attendees will attend workshop sessions related to diversity and presented by faculty, staff and students of Ball State University. The keynote speakers are Melinda Messineo, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology/Associate Professor of Sociology, and Ro-Anne Royer Engle, Director of the Multicultural Center. Online registration will be open through 5:00 p.m. Thursday, January 16, 2014. Feel free to share this information with your students, colleagues and friends.

UNITY SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT, 7:00 p.m., Pruis Hall; The Unity Scholarship Pageant originated in 1968 and is sponsored by the Black Student Association. The pageant strives to promote unity and hosts over 400 people annually as Mr. and Miss Unity of Ball State University are crowned.

For more information, email Barry Hawkins or call the Office of Student Life, (765) 285-2621.





On-Campus Events

Marilyn K. Cory Lecture Series:
Rachel Marie-Crane Williams
January 29, 2014 at 7:30 pm
Burkhardt Building Room 109

The Department of English is proud to welcome Rachel Marie-Crane Williams to campus as part of the Marilyn K. Cory Lecture Series. She will deliver a public lecture on gender in comics. Williams is an artist and teacher at the University of Iowa with a joint appointment between the School of Art and Art History (Intermedia) and Gender Women's and Sexuality Studies. Her work as a researcher and creative scholar has always been focused on women's issues, community, art, and people who are incarcerated. American alternative/single creator comics and graphic novels have been at the heart of her creative scholarship for the past few years. Her current projects include a graphic novel about the Detroit Race Riots of 1943.

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.





On-Campus Events

Counseling Center Group Therapy Sessions (cont.)

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.

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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.





On-Campus Events

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. 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 call the Counseling Center at 285-1736 or visit Facebook at BSU Internationals for more information.

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African-American Student Experience at Ball State Exhibit Bracken Library, Archives and Special Collections

African-American students at Ball State University have a rich history of campus involvement and activity. 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*, our new exhibit in Archives and Special Collections, on display on the second floor of Bracken Library until February 28, 2014.

The display draws from several collections housed in the Ball State University Libraries Archives and Special Collections. Featured collections 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.

For more information, see the post on the Archives and Special Collections blog, and contact Archives and Special Collections at 765-285-5078 or libarchives@bsu.edu.





Off-Campus Events

Anti-Warfare Vigil

January 24, 2014 from 4:30-5:30 pm

Federal Building at Michigan and Pennsylvania, Indianapolis

The weekly vigil protesting warfare is 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

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C.U.R.E. Meeting

January 24, 2014 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

North United Methodist Church, W. 38 and Meridian, Indianapolis

Join us for the Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants monthly meeting. For more info, phone Marilyn Reed at 352-0358 or Lela Ewers at 831-0765.


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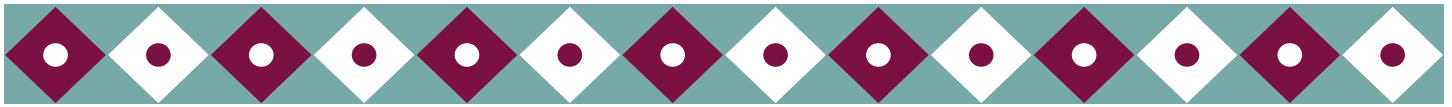
Peace Vigil

January 25, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets (Nashville)

There will be a Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not The Answer!", 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

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.

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 peacebuilding. 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 as more information becomes available.

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.





Conferences

National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education

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 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."

The University of Massachusetts Boston 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.





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.





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*If you would like YOUR events to
be included in the newsletter,
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We're on Twitter!
Follow [@bsu4peace](https://twitter.com/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

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