

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

BSU CENTER FOR PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES



CENTER FOR  
**PEACE &**  
CONFLICT STUDIES  
— www.bsu.edu/peacecenter —

## Spotlight Person: Former President Carter

Many people know him as an ineffective president – his term from 1977 to 1981 was full of issues at home and abroad, and his perceived mishandling of the situations caused his defeat when he ran for reelection. In truth, the fact that he held the highest government office in the United States allowed this man to achieve more in regards to peace and activism than many others before him. President Jimmy Carter has stood out in the years since his term in office for his work in the fields of peace studies, civil rights, and human rights advocacy.

Jimmy Carter was born on October 1, 1924 in Plains, Georgia. His father was a hardworking peanut farmer and his mother was a nurse known for crossing racial divides in 1920s to counsel African American women on health care issues. Growing up, Carter was a studious and disciplined boy – he even began working in his father’s store at the age of 10. He loved to sit with his father in the evenings and listen to baseball games and politics on the radio. Carter grew up in a deeply religious family and attended the all-white Plains High School – however, many of his close friends were African American and he reports many of his adult role models were African Americans who worked alongside his father on his farm.

In college, Carter joined the Naval ROTC and later attended the highly selective

Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he began his studies in the summer of 1943. While his small stature and introverted personality caused him to not fit in well with his fellow midshipmen, he excelled academically and graduated in the top ten percent of his class. He married a girl he had known from his childhood – Rosalynn Smith – in June of 1946. After many years moving around for the Navy, Carter eventually moved his family back to Rural Georgia after his father’s death to care for his mother and help keep the family farm alive. At this time, he became active in community politics, won a seat on the Sumter County Board of Education in 1955, and would eventually become its chairperson.

During this time, the Supreme Court’s decision on the Brown v. Board of Education case was causing great strain in the Old South. Carter was the only white man in his hometown of Plains, Georgia to refuse to join a segregationist group called the White Citizens’ Council, and he was subjected to racist treatment along with the African Americans in his community. In 1962, after the Supreme Court ruling in the Baker v. Carr case, Carter ran for the Georgia State Senate and won a very close election. He gained a reputation as a tough and independent politician during his two terms as a state senator due to his steadfast persistence on curbing wasteful spending and his ardent

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>Spotlight Person Article</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>Spotlight Event Article</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Up-coming Event</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Previous Event</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Conferences</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Organizations</b>	<b>6 &amp; 7</b>
<b>On-Campus Support Groups</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>On &amp; Off-Campus Events</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>About Us</b>	<b>10</b>

## Spotlight Person: Former President Carter

support for civil rights.

Carter ran for governor of Georgia in 1966. While he lost his first run for Governor due to voters believing he was too liberal, he won the position in 1970. Once elected into office, he returned to his progressive values that he had promoted early on in his career. He called for an end to segregation, an increase in the number of black officials in state government, and promoted both education and prison reform. One of his main achievements involved the slashing and streamlining of the enormous state bureaucracy into a smaller and more effective system.

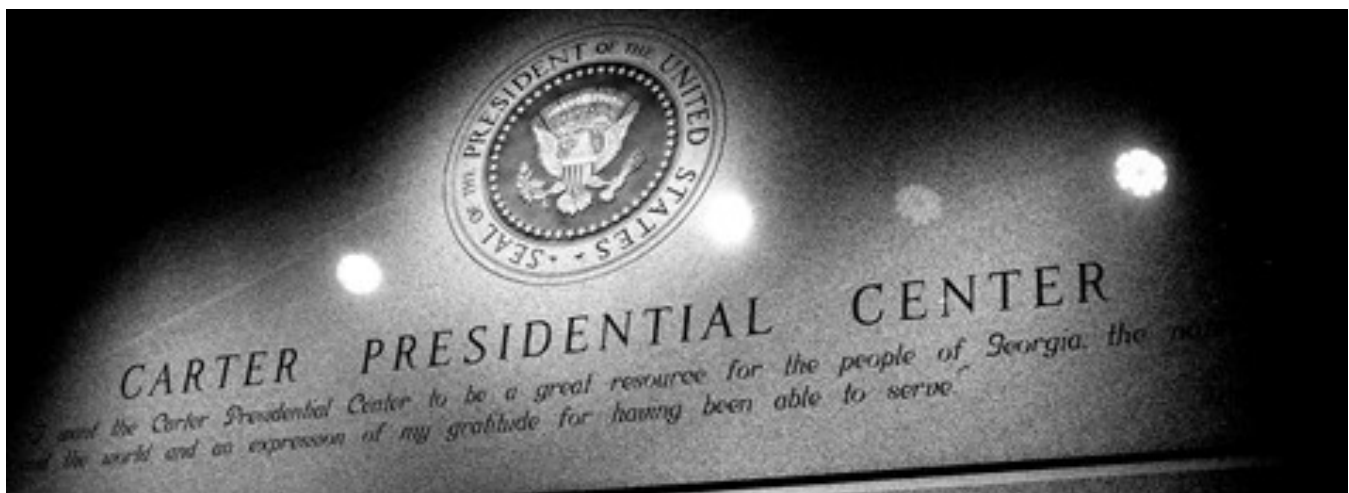
After watching America's downfall during the 1970s with the war in Vietnam and the resignation of President Nixon after the Watergate scandal, Carter believed the next president should be a liberal leaning outsider. He became one of ten candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1976 – and he was probably one of the least known of the bunch. His anonymity struck a chord with the American people who were frustrated with establishment politicians. Carter famously declared, "I'll never avoid a controversial issue." He eventually beat President Gerald Ford to become the 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

While in office, President Carter fought for foreign policy centered on a promise to make human rights a central concern for U.S. relations with foreign countries. He suspended economic aid to countries he believed violated human

rights issues. His most well-known achievement in foreign policy came with the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt, which led to a historic peace with Israel withdrawing from the Sinai and each side officially recognizing each other's governments. Carter is also known for creating the President's Commission on Holocaust Remembrance, which would eventually lead to the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. This Museum is a living memorial to the Holocaust, its victims, and the survivors.

In 2002, Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian efforts after leaving the White House. He is regarded as one of the greatest ex-Presidents in American History due to his work with Habitat for Humanity and the work of his foundation, The Carter Center, that promotes the preservation of human rights and alleviates human suffering around the world. He is known for creating local healthcare systems in Africa and Latin America, overseeing elections in fledgling democracies, and promoting peace in the Middle East. Despite recent bouts with cancer and poor health, President Jimmy Carter continues to persist as an advocate for civil and human rights, and human decency around the world.

For further information on The Carter Center visit: <https://www.cartercenter.org>



## Recent Domestic Terror Attacks in the United States

In the last two months, America was rocked by not one, but three deadly attacks. With two attacks carried out by gun and the other by vehicle, the debate for gun control and public safety resurfaced once again. These three attacks were horrific, horrendous, and truly tragic.

On October 1, 2017, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock opened fire at a Las Vegas casino, killing 58 people and injuring more than 500 others. He was able to sneak in over 20 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition into his hotel room with no detection by the casino staff, and then proceeded to use said weapons to attack a crowd of over 22,000 people at a music festival. Why was it so easy for him to acquire that many firearms? As a country, we have become desensitized to attacks of terror and are no longer surprised to hear of their occurrence.

Since the events in Las Vegas, there have been two more horrific attacks on American soil; one on October 31, 2017 in New York, killing eight people, and one on November 5, 2017 in Texas, killing 26 people. However, it's important to note that the New York attack was not committed using guns, but rather, a truck; the attacker, Sayfullo Saipov, drove a rented vehicle through a pedestrian and bicycle path, hitting people at random. On the other hand, the attacker in Texas, Devin Patrick Kelley, used a rifle, two handguns, and a Glock in his attack on a rural church outside of San Antonio. Note: Kelley, who had been court-martialed by the military and received a bad-conduct discharge, did not have a license to carry and should not have been able to acquire firearms.

All three of these events were horrific tragedies occurring on American soil to innocent, unknowing individuals. It's clear that there is a recurring problem here that must be talked about and dealt with—so why have we all moved on from these events so quickly? According to the Gun Violence Archive, since January 1 of this year, the U.S. has seen 273 shootings, averaging out to 7.5 a week. However, it's important to note that a *mass* shooting is defined

as: Occurring in a public space, attacking people at random—no specific intent, killing four or more people. With that in mind, the U.S. has experienced 10 deadly mass shootings since January. However, even 10 is a significant number when considering the devastation each event incurs, and these records fail to account for mass attacks carried out by other weapons, such as vehicles in the case of New York this past month. Despite all that, or perhaps *because* of the frequency of attacks, there is no longer a shock value when a new headline pops up on the TV or on the internet, and that begs the questions: if we no longer care when innocent people die in casinos, churches, and city streets, what *will* make us care? Is there anything left that will shock us? Is there any hope left that we can prevent more attacks from happening, or are we resigned to accept the inevitable future attacks? We hope not! And, we hope people will take action to change this situation in the U.S.

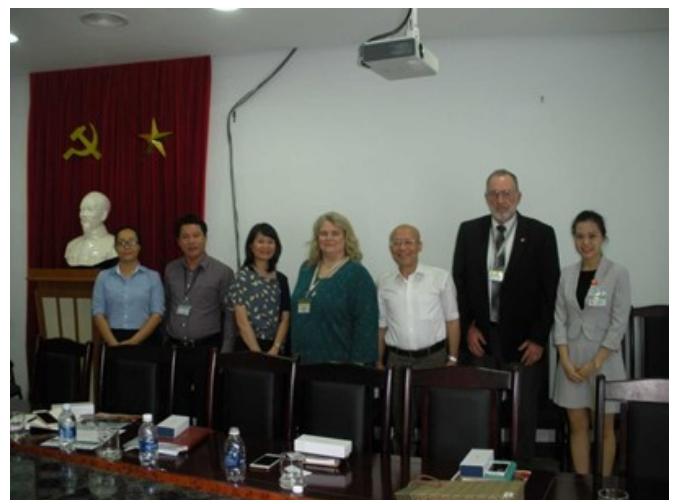


For USIP website click [HERE](#).

## Peace Professor's Recent Trip to Vietnam

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is promoting cultural exchange through a new Two Plus Two Undergraduate Degree Program with the Miller College of Business and the University of Da Nang in Vietnam. This program is set to begin Fall 2018. Research Fellow to the Center, Professor Emeritus Gerry Waite, along with Dr. Sushil Sharma, Associate Dean of the Miller College of Business, and Dr. Mary Theresa Seig, Director of the Rinker Center, traveled to the University of Da Nang in October. They finalized plans for the degree program, and participated in the University's International Conference for Young Researchers in Economics and Business. Starting in Fall 2018, Vietnamese students will be able to split their time between the University of Da Nang and Ball State University to earn degrees from both. In addition, Dr. Seig and Professor Emeritus Waite met with city

officials in Da Nang to discuss the possibilities of English training for city employees/English teachers through the Ball State Intensive English Institute. They also discussed Da Nang becoming a sister city with Muncie. Overall, this is a chance for the Ball State and Muncie communities to expand their global knowledge and build international relationships as well.



Professor Emeritus Waite pictured second from the right and Dr. Seig pictured in center.

## Avoid, Deny, Defend: Civilian Response to Active Shooters

The BSU Center for Peace & Conflict Studies and BSU Police Department Presents:

Avoid, Deny, and Defend: Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events Training

November 29, 4-5:30pm

Teachers College 120

**AVOID/DENY/DEFEND**

Presenter: James Duckham, J.D. & BSU Chief of Police

Facilitator: Lawrence Gerstein, Ph.D.: Director, Center for Peace & Conflict Studies

Learn about response options you have should you find yourself in an active shooter situation.

Further information: [peacecenter@bsu.edu](mailto:peacecenter@bsu.edu), [avoiddenydefend.org](http://avoiddenydefend.org)

## Breaking the Silence: Sexual Harassment

Due to recent events on and around Ball State's campus, this month's panel discussion was very timely. The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies welcomed Melissa Holloway, Deputy General Counsel of Ball State, and Allison Wynbissinger, Victim Advocate from the Office of Victim Services, to speak to over 100 people on the topic of, "Breaking the Silence: Sexual Harassment." The Center's Graduate Assistant Kailah Glock facilitated the discussion that covered a wide range of sub-topics under the broad topic of sexual harassment. The audience seemed to be most interested in how Ball State and the University Police Department handle cases of sexual harassment, as well as the differences between sexual assault and sexual harassment. The legal and emotional support that Ball State offers students also was a main point of discussion. It is so important that students from all spectrums of campus are making a genuine effort to educate themselves on the issue that seems to plague college campuses. The whole point of hosting these panels each month is to get students and community members talking about current issues, and perhaps look at them in a new light, and it seemed this panel accomplished that.

For further information: [bsu.edu/studentaffairs](http://bsu.edu/studentaffairs), [bsu.edu/ovs](http://bsu.edu/ovs), or download the "Step In. Speak Up." app.

## Conferences

### [Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference 2017](#)

AETAS Lumpini, Bangkok, Thailand  
November 27-29, 2017

Tomorrow People Organization- internationally recognized non-for profit organization with headquarters in Belgrade, Serbia. The official language of the conference in English. Attendance of delegates from more than 40 countries is expected. This highly exciting and challenging international conference on peace and conflict resolution is intended to be a forum, discussion and networking place for governmental officials, academics, researchers, professionals, administrators, policy makers, advanced students, and others

### [Psychology & Peace 2018](#)

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN  
March 9-11, 2018

Proposal due: November 30, 2017

The purpose of Psychology & Peace 2018 is to explore the ways that psychology and psychologists from all specialties can contribute to peace and peacemaking.



### [Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Peacemakers: People, Politics, & Possibilities](#)

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

April 6-7, 2018

Proposal due: December 15, 2017

Organized by the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, community activists and scholars as well as laypersons will present their strategies, research, and recommendations related to peacemaking and peace-building, and those that explore the bridge between activism and research.



## Organizations

### International Justice Mission

Tuesdays @ 6 p.m. in the Student Center, Rm. 301

November 17 - 6-8 p.m. - Documentary Night @ Student Center Ballroom

November 21 - 6 p.m.-Midnight - Benefit Concert @ The Living Room

IJM is a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world. Ball State's chapter is a group of students who are passionate about ending slavery & human trafficking around the world. They believe that through Jesus Christ, they can create tangible change in the lives of slaves through prayer, educating people, changing our behavior, & volunteering. IJM fights by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, & strengthening justice systems.

### Feminists for Action

Tuesdays @ 6pm in Burkhardt Building Rm. 220.

A group dedicated to the empowerment of women, men, & children through advocacy & education. They strive to educate others about issues in the global, national, & community level. They encourage thought-provoking discussions & work to organize events to benefit feminist causes.

### Ball State University Social Justice League

Wednesdays @ 5pm at the Center for Peace & Conflict Studies.

SJL seeks to promote awareness, equality, & justice on the BSU campus, in the state, in the country, & in the global community. SJL desires to educate & discuss modern injustices & social justice topics, promote the distribution of advantages to be fair & equitable to all, & actively work to change current injustices.

### Cardinal Kitchen

Cardinal Kitchen is Ball State University's campus food pantry. The pantry is located on the second floor of the Multicultural Center & is available for use to all undergraduate & graduate students. The pantry is open the first three Wednesdays of every month from 5:00 - 8:00pm. The mission is to ensure that no Ball State student goes hungry on our campus.

### Ethnic Theatre Alliance

Mondays @ 5:00 p.m. in Arts & Communications Building Rm. 308.

ETA uses theatre to explore cultures, diversity, & racial-discrimination to develop worldviews in BSU students, & create well-rounded artists.

### Global Brigades

Global Brigades is an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to meet their health & economic goals through university volunteers & local teams. GB offers skill-based 1-3 week brigades to Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, & Ghana. Each of these programs meets an aspect of GB's holistic model to strengthen the health & economic development of communities. Social Media: Twitter; Instagram; Facebook

## Organizations, cont.

### **MOSAIC**

MOSAIC is a social justice peer education program whose mission is to engage undergraduate students in open dialogues focused on diversity and social justice topics to promote awareness, change, and inter-group understanding.

### **ALIVE Campaign**

Wednesdays @ 9 p.m., in the Student Center Rm. 308

The Alive Campaign is a student-ran group at Ball State that is dedicated to raising awareness towards Suicide Prevention by representing as a "Life Appreciation Organization."

### **OXFAM America**

Oxfam America is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, & injustice. Oxfam saves lives, develops long-term solutions to poverty, & campaigns for social change.

### **Call to Action**

Wednesdays @ 7:30pm in Teacher's College Room 108

CTA is a student organization at Ball State looking to educate & create awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender (LGBT) political issues at the local, state, & federal levels in order to empower students to take positive action to-wards equality for LGBT individuals & to influence others to take positive action.

### **Students for Life**

Every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Monday of each month @ 7:30pm in Bracken Library, Educational Resource Rm. 1 Ball State Students for Life (BSSFL) is committed to the protection of all human life; from conception until natural death. We strive to educate our members & the Ball State University community about why we value life in all its forms. We strive to respond with love, compassion, & support to those who suffer from restrictions of life.

### **Timmy Global Health**

Wednesdays @ 8:00pm in Bracken Library Schwartz Complex.

Timmy Global Health expands access to healthcare & empowers students & volunteers to tackle today's most pressing global health challenges.

### **Student Action Team**

Mondays @ 4:00pm in the Kinghorn Multipurpose Room.

SAT is an organization made up of general members & housing and residence life representatives. This organization is dedicated to volunteering & supporting Ball State University

## On-Campus Support Groups

### **INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION HOUR**

TUESDAYS from 6:00-7:30 pm – STUDENT CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

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. ICH begins September 8th, 2015.

### **COUNSELING CENTER THERAPY GROUPS:**

(Therapy groups require appointment at counseling center before joining. Call 285-1736 or let your intake counselor know you are interested in a group.)

### **UNDERSTANDING SELF & OTHERS**

Group members explore patterns of relating to self and others by discovering understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. Discussions vary greatly from depression, anxiety, relationships, family concerns, eating issues, alcohol abuse and/or personal growth. The groups thrive on diversity as members discover the common bond through emotional experiences.

Mondays 1:30-3:30; Wednesday 3:00-4:30; Thursday 1:00-2:30

### **WEIGHT NOT, WANT NOT**

Supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping. Time to be determined by availability of group members.

### **SAFE HAVEN: LGBT 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. Mondays 10:00-11:30

### **C.A.L.M.:**

Care for myself, manage my Anxiety, Live in the moment, practice Mindfulness - This group offers a secure space for students struggling with anxiety to not only explore their fears and worries, but also receive feedback and support from others with similar concerns. The group also focuses on teaching students about a variety of techniques, including mindfulness meditation, which can be particularly helpful in managing anxiety. Another benefit of being in a group is having a place to experiment applying new skills and ways of relating to others, in a safe and supportive environment. Tuesdays 3:00-4:30

### **L.I.F.E. SKILLS**

Are you struggling with how to deal more effectively with stress? Are you your own worst critic? Do you ever wish you had some better ways to take care of yourself? This group can help teach you tangible coping skills to take with you, and from the very first session, you can begin taking active steps toward change. These brief, 4-session workshop style groups will be running at different times throughout the semester.



## On and Off Campus Events

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Culture Exchange- Nigeria

12 pm Rinker Center

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Post Soviet Lessons of the Russian Revolution  
100 Years later

4 pm Bracken Library 104

Friday, December 1, 2017

The Christmas Star

6:30 pm Chales W. Brown Planetarium

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Holiday in Bloom: Annual Holiday Open House

6 pm Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid  
Greenhouse

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Culture Exchange– France

12 pm Rinker Center

Sunday, December 10, 2017

“It Can Happen Here”

2:30 pm University Theater

## About Us

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary center whose mission is to pursue research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; to implement nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; to offer mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and to train people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportsperson-ship skills. The center also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect.

### If you'd like us to include your events in the newsletter, please contact:

Kailah Glock

[keglock@bsu.edu](mailto:keglock@bsu.edu)

Anna Muckenfuss

[akmuckenfuss@bsu.edu](mailto:akmuckenfuss@bsu.edu)

Jonah James

[jjames@bsu.edu](mailto:jjames@bsu.edu)

Genevieve George

[ggeorge@bsu.edu](mailto:ggeorge@bsu.edu)

Daysi Jarvis

[dcjarvis@bsu.edu](mailto:dcjarvis@bsu.edu)

### Our Programs Include:

Mediation training and services

Mediation classes

Discussion Series Events

The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship

The Social Justice League

Organization

310 N. McKinley Ave.

Muncie, IN 47306

(765) 285-1622

[www.bsu.edu/peacecenter](http://www.bsu.edu/peacecenter)

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

### Staff Members:

Lawrence H. Gerstein, Ph.D.,  
Director

Gerald Waite, Research Fellow

Steven R. Hall, Ph.D., Curriculum  
Coordinator

Beth Messner, Ph.D., Outreach  
Coordinator

Kailah Glock, Graduate Assistant



[www.facebook.com/  
ballstatepeacecenter](http://www.facebook.com/ballstatepeacecenter)



[@bsu4peace](https://twitter.com/bsu4peace)