

The Olive Branch

Spotlight Article: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

By: Alyssa Mitchell

Inside this issue:

Spotlight Article: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 1-2

The Facts About Ferguson 3-4

Ball State's Peaceful Protest 4

Organizations 5

On-Campus Events 6

Off-Campus Events 7

On-Campus Support Groups 8

Kareem Abdul Jabbar is most known for his many years as a center for the Los Angeles Lakers in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Throughout his career as a professional basketball player, he was awarded Most Valuable Player (MVP) six times, NBA All Star nineteen times, All-NBA fifteen times and NBA All-Defensive Team eleven times.

Abdul-Jabbar was born on April 16, 1947 in New York City, New York as Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor, Jr. His parents were involved with the Roman Catholic Church, and so they enrolled him into Power Memorial Academy – a Catholic high school. During his time in high school, he developed his skills as a basketball player. He soon became famous by taking his team on a 71-game winning streak. After this amazing feat, Alcindor was named "The Tower from Power". After graduating from high school, he went on to The University of California, Los

Angeles (UCLA) where he continued to play basketball and helped the team earn a three-year record consisting of 88 wins and 2 losses. During the 1967 season, the dunk was banned in college basketball due to his constant use of the type of shot.

Throughout the rest of Alcindor's college career, he continued to receive multiple awards and was then drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks. While playing for the Bucks, they won the NBA championship in 1971. Shortly after, he officially changed his name to the Muslim name Kareem Abdul Jabbar and adopted the Muslim religion. He played for the Bucks from 1969 to 1974. In 1975, he began playing for the Los Angeles Lakers and continued to play with them until he announced his retirement on June 28, 1989.

Since his retirement, Abdul-Jabbar became an assistant coach for the Lakers due to his

interest in coaching throughout his career. He has also coached for the LA Clippers and the Seattle SuperSonics. Abdul-Jabbar has also branched out to film and television, he began writing books and he became a cultural ambassador since his retirement. In his acting career, Abdul-Jabbar has been featured in many television series, along with countless movies. As an author, he has been named a best-selling author and wrote his first book *Giant Steps* in 1983. His latest book is called *On the Shoulders of Giants: My Journey through the Harlem Renaissance*.

In 2012, he accepted a cultural ambassador position from Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Through his position as a cultural ambassador, he released a children's book "What Color is My World?" which highlights stories about African-American inventors who have been looked fondly upon historically. He also promoted the importance of social and



Spotlight Article: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Cont.



“The town is trying to figure out how to turn a tragic moment into a lasting movement.”
-Kareem Abdul-Jabbar



racial tolerance, the importance of education, and using sports as a means of empowerment and cultural understanding to youth. Although he was a hero to many kids as an NBA star, his actions to help the youth of America made him an even bigger role model for the children he was advocating for.

Along with his books, Abdul-Jabbar has recently written an article in conjunction with the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri. The article, *The Coming Race War Won't Be About Race*, was published in Time Magazine online. Use the following link to read this article:

<http://time.com/3132635/ferguson-coming-race-war-class-warfare/>

In this article, Abdul-Jabbar not only discusses the happenings in Ferguson but looks to the bigger issue of how our society discriminates by class. Abdul-Jabbar calls it “class warfare”. Inequality is produced through the way our daily lives are structured and the way

our country has put those structures in place. He claims that it is not just the topic of race that is the issue we are fighting for anymore. Race is the topic that is used to distract the country from the class inequality. He explains through a cycle of events that being poor is the real target of the police force. Unfortunately, the perception of being poor and being of colored skin is a powerful one, and has permeated throughout society to the point where many think that it's true. This is where the line is blurred between social class and skin color. It can be difficult to identify between the two when the media is using skin color to distract its audience from the actual problem of class differences.

Abdul-Jabbar presents an interesting idea about dystopian books and movies that have recently been released. He uses *Snowpiercer*, *The Giver*, *Divergent*, *Hunger Games*, and *Elysium* as examples of these stories. They all present major class dif-

ferences in them and how those differences are policed and monitored by the authorities. One of the major themes in each of these novels is the notion of the rich continuing to accumulate more wealth, while the poor simply continues to get poorer. This theme is a strong driving force within these novels, and strongly parallels what is occurring in society today.

Besides this newly published article, Abdul-Jabbar has participated in some other peace work since being retired. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he fought against the religious stereotype of Muslims in the United States and supported that cause due to his tie to the religion. Although he did not support the happenings of 9/11, he did fight for equal treatment for Muslims living in the United States. He has also become involved with projects regarding socio-economic justice groups and African-American history.

The Facts About Ferguson

By: Emily Hart

On Saturday, August 9th, 2014, Michael Brown was shot and killed in Ferguson, Missouri. The killing of this 18-year-old African-American male by a white police officer spurred protests across Ferguson and sparked a nationwide outcry for investigation into this allegedly racially-charged incidence.

According to the official police record of the incident, Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson found Brown and his friend Dorian Johnson walking in the street at approximately noon on the 9th. He asked them to move to the sidewalk, after which they replied that they were mere minutes from their destination and would be off the street shortly. An altercation then took place between Wilson and Brown through the window of the police car. A shot was fired from inside the vehicle, striking Brown; the two young men then began to flee. Wilson left his car and pursued them on foot, firing at least six more shots and fatally wounding Brown. Within three minutes of the initial encounter, Michael Brown was dead.

Eyewitness accounts of the shooting vary; because Ferguson police cars do not have dashboard surveillance cameras, very few recordings of the event exist.

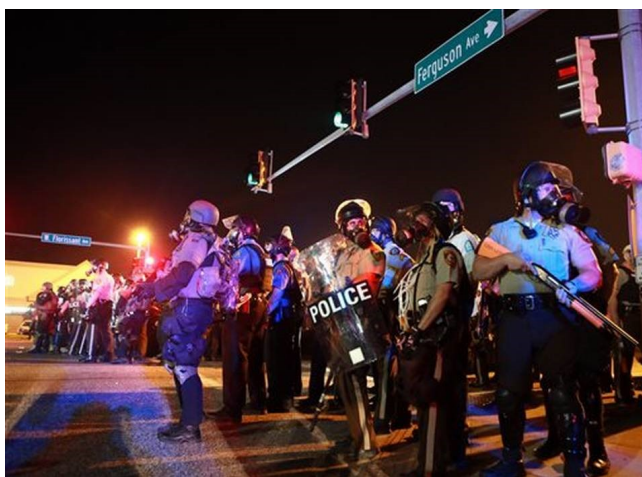
According to Dorian Johnson, who was involved in the altercation, he and Brown were walking to Brown's grandmother's house when Wilson pulled up behind them in a police cruiser and said "Get the f*** on the sidewalk." Johnson replied that they would get off the street momentarily, at which point Wilson drove forward, apparently satisfied. However, Wilson allegedly then put the car into reverse, almost hit-

several more times before ultimately killing him. Dorian Johnson's lawyer has issued a statement saying that Wilson "did not attempt to resuscitate Brown, did not call for medical help, and didn't call it in that someone had been shot."

St. Louis County police chief Jon Belmar has stated that "The genesis of this shooting incident was a physical confrontation during which Brown physically assaulted the police officer." Belmar alleges that as Wilson attempted to exit his vehicle, he was shoved back into his seat and assaulted by Brown. After Brown allegedly made a

move to take Wilson's firearm, the officer then retaliated for his own safety. According to Fox News and ABC News, an anonymous source has stated that Wilson sustained "a serious facial injury" during the confrontation.

Vigils for Michael Brown began in Ferguson almost immediately after his killing; after one day of peaceful protest, local police forces responded to reports of vandalism and



ting Brown and Johnson before grabbed Brown around the neck, initiating a back-and-forth struggle between the two. According to Johnson, Brown did not grab for the officer's weapon as alleged by some accounts; Wilson drew his gun and shouted "I'm going to shoot," almost simultaneously firing upon Brown. Following this initial shot, Johnson says that Brown was able to run away with his hands in the air, saying "I don't have a gun! Stop shooting!" Wilson then exited his vehicle to chase Brown, firing

The Facts About Ferguson cont.

looting by assembling roughly 150 enforcement officials, armed with riot gear, to keep the protests in check. On August 11th, the police began imposing curfews and firing tear gas and rubber bullets on the crowd, which included children and journalists. The Washington Post and other media outlets cite the cause of the unrest in Ferguson to be the probability of racism being a contributing factor in the shooting. According The Washington Post, the Ferguson Police Department "bears

little demographic resemblance" to the largely black community. 48 of the 53 Ferguson police officers are white, in contrast to the population of Ferguson, which is roughly 66% black. This has historically bred local "suspicions of the law enforcement agency." Furthermore, an annual report distributed by the Missouri Attorney General discovered that police officers in Ferguson were "twice as likely to arrest African Americans during traffic stops as they were whites." The Los Angeles Times sup-

ports these findings, claiming that the incident in Ferguson has been the result of racial and class tensions "building for decades."

Media outlets such as the Los Angeles Times have also been examining the disturbing trend of local police departments across the nation treating peaceful protestors as violent threats, arming themselves with increasingly advanced, military-grade weapons to respond to protesting civilians and journalists.

To keep up with the happenings in Ferguson, use #Ferguson on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Ball State's Peaceful Protest

"The protest was a great experience because it brought college students, faculty and families from the Muncie community together under one common goal—peace. It was incredibly uplifting."

- Kelsey Johnson, Vice President of Ethnic Theatre Alliance

"The tragedy of Brown's death is illustrative of larger issues in this country that are comfortably left undiscussed. ETA believes that it is our responsibility as active American citizens to educate ourselves in regard to difficult issues and combat them with open, direct conversation."

- Shay Stewart, Treasurer of Ethnic Theatre Alliance

"Things can't change unless enough voices rise up and insist on change. The ETA students and all the other groups participating are finding their voices. This is just the beginning. It is all very exciting."

- Karen Kessler, Faculty Advisor

"The purpose of Sunday's peaceful protest was to educate students on the issues that are taking place outside of the Ball State bubble...It is the responsibility of ETA to spark the conversation between students."

- Nathaniel Thomas, President of Ethnic Theatre Alliance

Organizations on Campus

Social Justice League

Meet times: Mondays @ 5 in the Peace Center

Current Focuses:

- Petitioning Muncie for Bike Lanes
- Fundraising for Heifer International to send necessary resources to a community

The aim of the Social Justice League is to actively work to change social institutions, political and economic systems, and governmental structures that perpetuate unfair practices, structures, and policies in terms of accessibility, resource distribution and human rights.

Circle K

Meet Times: Tuesdays @ 7:30 in WB 136 (next meeting on Sept. 2)

Current Focuses:

- Participating in CROP Hunger Walk on Sept. 6
- Volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank from 8-12 on Sept. 4

Circle K is an international collegiate volunteer organization sponsored by Kiwanis International that emphasizes community service, leadership development and friendship. Members have participated in such projects as game night at a local retirement community, UNICEF fundraising, and making blankets for Riley Children's Hospital. The club also attends district and international conventions around the state and nation.

Global Brigades

This club is a secular, international student-operated volunteer organization whose mission is to provide sustainable development to underserved communities throughout the world. Along with affiliate groups, the Ball State team recruits student volunteers and professionals, gathers supplies, and travels overseas.

Ethnic Theatre Alliance

The purpose of the Ethnic Theatre Alliance shall be to explore worldviews of cultures, diversity, and racial-discrimination in order to educate members through Fine Arts.

<https://www.facebook.com/ethnictheatrealliance2014>

On-Campus Events

ERIC CONRAD: MIX-UPS

AUGUST 19-SEPTEMBER 13 – ATRIUM GALLERY

This series of figurative sculptures incorporates hand-woven fabric, found clothing, and various other materials to create fragile structures that are mixed-up, entangled and forced into co-dependent communities where there is potential for reconciliation and collapse.

Atrium Gallery Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ; Saturdays 1-4 p.m.

WITHOUT CAMOFLAGE

THROUGH AUGUST 31 – DAVID OWSLEY MUSEUM OF ART

This art exhibition focuses on a theme that dominates today's art in general: the artist as social and political commentator. Museum Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm; Saturday-Sunday 1:30-4:30pm.

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 2nd, 2014.

FUNKADESI

SEPTEMBER 4 at 7:30 – PRUIS HALL

Funkadesi blends bhangra, Bollywood, and Indian folk music with reggae, funk, and Afro-Caribbean grooves. The Chicago-based band's "one-family" vibe makes for an enthralling live show. This festive, virtuoso experience of cultural unity is sure to wow crowds through danceable grooves. Call the Emens Box Office at 765-285-1539 for ticket information.

LARRY RIVERS AND THE BOSTON MASSACRE

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4 – DAVID OWSLEY MUSEUM OF ART

The ongoing struggles for personal freedom and civil liberties are highlighted in Larry Rivers and the Boston Massacre, a series of 13 works on paper on view in the Art Museum's Brown Study Room. Rivers compares these American ideals during the American Revolution and the Vietnam era. Museum Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm; Saturday-Sunday 1:30-4:30pm.

NEXT TO NORMAL

SEPTEMBER 5-13 – UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Next to Normal is the electrifying rock musical about a suburban mother struggling with an extraordinary challenge and the impact it has on her family. Tickets go on sale August, 25, 2014. General Public: \$18 - Faculty/Staff: \$17 - Senior Citizens: \$15 - Students: \$13 Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. and one hour before each performance. For more information call 765-285-8749.

PEER VICTIM ADVOCATE TRAINING COURSE

TUESDAYS from 8:30-9:45 am – HEALTH CENTER ROOM 206

Students completing this 10 week training, starting September 9th, will become members of the PVA team and will be educated on providing advocacy and support to victims of crime. Review the training requirements at <http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/victimservices/getinvolved>. Please apply by 8:00 a.m. on September 2nd at <http://www.bsu.edu/forms/ovspeerva/>.

WORLD ART COMMUNITY DAY

SEPTEMBER 14 from 1:30-4:30 – DAVID OWSLEY MUSEUM OF ART

The David Owsley Museum of Art invites everyone to come explore art from around the world during Community Day. All of the museum galleries and exhibitions will be open during the festivities. Activities include live music, storytelling, Shodo Japanese calligraphy demonstration, art-making activities, refreshments and more.

Off-Campus Events

FARMERS MARKET

WEDNESDAYS from 3:00-6:00 pm; SATURDAYS from 8:00 am- 12:00 pm - MINNETRISTA

Join friends and families in exploring the market-fresh finds and homemade treats, brought to you by the local community!

OPEN SPACE: ART ABOUT THE LAND

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 28 – MINNETRISTA

Celebrate the significance of land with an art competition/exhibition which recognizes and encourages Indiana artists who derive creative inspiration from the land, or whose work celebrates the notion of open space as it relates to the land. A portion of the proceeds will go to help further the Red-Tail Land Conservancy's mission to preserve and restore ecologically significant land in East Central Indiana.

JUSTIN RINEY AND MOTHER OCEAN: ONE MAN, ONE PADDLEBOARD, AND 365 DAYS

SEPTEMBER 6 at 1:00 – MINNETRISTA

Mother Ocean is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating, inspiring, and empowering ocean advocates worldwide. Its founder, Justin Riney, will present an entertaining travelogue of Expedition Florida 500, his year-long exploration of Florida on a stand up paddle board. Cost is \$5.

WHITE RIVER CLEANUP

SEPTEMBER 13 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm – WESTSIDE PARK

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." -Wendell Berry. The 8th Annual White River Cleanup is here! Help make Muncie clean and beautiful. On-site registration begins at 8:00 am; all volunteers should register online if you wish to receive a free t-shirt. Volunteers are encouraged to dress appropriately by wearing clothes and shoes that can get dirty and wet. Please bring gloves if you have them. For more information, visit <http://www.beautifulmuncie.org/>. Register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8thAnnualWhiteRiverCleanup>.

CROP HUNGER WALK

SEPTEMBER 14 at 2:00 - College Avenue United Methodist Church

Join us at College Avenue UMC on 1968 W Main Street to help end hunger in Muncie, the United States, and around the world! CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. 25 percent of what the Walk raises will stay here in Delaware County! On-site registration begins at 1:30. Visit www.crophungerwalk.org for online registration and more information.

LIVING LIGHTLY FAIR

SEPTEMBER 20 from 9:00-5:00 - MINNETRISTA

The Living Lightly Fair provides a full day of speakers, music, art, kids' activities, and a green marketplace of vendors and exhibitors, all aimed at offering ideas and inspiration for living more sustainably. Admission is FREE. Highlights of the fair include:

- Speaker Jim Poyser, Executive Director of Earth Charter Indiana, Director of Youth Power Indiana, and Hoosier Environmental Council's Environmentalist of the Year for 2013. His featured presentation, "Living Lightly in Heavy Times," begins at 10:30 am.
- Musician Krista Detor, a Bloomington singer/songwriter and avid supporter of education, animal welfare, and sustainability. Her performance begins at 3:45 pm.
- Special all-day feature, "Celebrating Educators for Sustainability." Local educators will have displays showcasing the sustainability-minded activities they've undertaken with children and teens in East Central Indiana.

More information and the day's schedule are available at www.livinglightlyfair.org.

A shuttle bus, sponsored by Freshman Connections, will run between campus and Minnetrista throughout the day. Pick-up and drop-off will occur every half-hour at the Williams circle drive (behind the College of Architecture and Planning).

On-Campus Support Groups

KISS: KNOWING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' STORIES

WEDNESDAYS from 3:30-5:00 pm – MULTICULTURAL CENTER This gathering, starting on September 3rd 2014, is designed to provide support for international students by coming together and sharing cross-cultural stories. Through sharing our stories, participants will find similarities and differences as well as gain support from each other. The leaders will also share their personal journeys with members and use various approaches to encourage members' sharing.

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 3:00-4:30; Tuesdays 3:00-4:30; Wednesday 2:00-3:30; Thursday 2:00-3:30 (women's group)

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. Thursdays 3:00-4:30

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.

CHOICES

A group for students who are exploring making changes in their relationship with alcohol and other substances. Mondays 3:00-4:30

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. Fridays 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. Thursdays 3:00-4:30

Conferences

Peace and Justice Studies Association

San Diego, California

October 16-18, 2014

Registration Link: <https://www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference>

No Registration Date specified

Global Peace Leadership Conference

Washington, D.C., USA 2014

September 19- 21

Registration Link: <http://www.globalpeace.org/events-web-app/global-peace-leadership-conference-washington-d-c-usa-2014>

American Montessori Society 2015 Annual Conference

Philadelphia, PA

March 12-15 2015

Registration:

Early Bird (through 1/16) Pre-Registration (1/17 – 2/18) On-Site (starting 3/11)

Registration Link: <https://amshq.org/Events/AMS-Annual-Conference/2015-Annual-Conference/Register>

About Us

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

Emily Hart
eakathman@bsu.edu

Alyssa Mitchell
almitchell@bsu.edu

Hunter Sully
hmsully@bsu.edu

Rachel Cunigan
rjcunigan@bsu.edu

310 N. McKinley Ave.
Muncie, IN 47306

(765) 285-1622

www.bsu.edu/peacecenter

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, peacebuilding, leadership, meditation, and sportspersonship 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.

Our Programs Include:

Mediation training and services

Mediation classes

The Brown Bag lunch speaker series

The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship

The Social Justice League organization