THE CENTER FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

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The Olive Branch

Spotlight Article: An Interview with Dr. Lindsey Blom By: Emily Hart

This past week, I had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Lindsey Blom, Associate Professor of Sport and Exercise Psychology and Advisory Board Member of the Peace Center at Ball State University. Dr.

Blom also is the director of the "Sport for Social Action Tajikistan" project that Dr. Lawrence Gerstein of the Peace Center contributes to as well.

the goal to teach these Tajikistani teachers and coaches how to use soccer to develop peaceful living and leadership skills in the children they work with.

a three-phase project with



I have found to general energy

In the first phase, we went to Tajikistan to learn about their culture and their soccer leagues. For the second phase, ten under a Once the we have we can of tunity to flict reso building

From October 15th to November 1st, Dr. Blom led a workshop for visiting teachers and coaches from Tajikistan as a part of an initiative to use the universal language of sports to build peace and resolve conflict around the world.

- Why did this group from Tajikistan come to Ball State and what did they do?

We and this group from Tajikistan are part of a project that is funded by the Department of State SportsUnited Vision. It is



teachers and coaches came here for sixteen days of training. For the third phase, we will return to Tajikistan in May of 2015 to help those teachers and coaches run workshops.

er We have had 37 individuals from Indiana, mainly from Muncie and Ball State, contribute to the project. It is this team approach that makes this project work; these individuals helped make the project successful.

- How can sports help facilitate peacebuilding?

I have found that sport in general energizes people and brings them together under a common interest. Once they are together, we have an audience that we can offer an opportunity to talk about conflict resolution and peacebuilding skills.

 What were some of the most memorable moments with the group from Tajikistan?

There were many of them! My most memorable moment was this past Sunday (October 26th), when we took four teachers and coaches to play a soccer match with us at a facility in Indy. I think actually playing together Page 2 The Olive Branch

Spotlight Article: An Interview with Dr. Lindsey Blom

and working together as a team was very memorable, it facilitated a lot of conversations and furthered our understanding of each other's cultures.

- What did you learn from the group?

I've had several people in the project say that this visit reminded them that people are people even if they speak a different language and come from a different culture. It reminded them that the world is much bigger than

world is much bigger than just their daily life in Muncie. We had an opportunity to allow people to learn about other cultures. When you actually get to meet and talk with and live with people from other cultures, I think it changes your perspective on the world and increases your cultural literacy.

I feel that they [the Tajikistani teachers and coaches] were very brave and trusting to be able to come here and trust that we would take care of them. We were impressed.

- What do you think the group from Tajikistan learned from you?

Aside from the goals of the project and learning about peacebuilding, we did get some feedback from them about smaller things. One of the things they were amazed by was our hospitality. They said that "everyone was helpful and smiled a lot." In Tajikistan, it is rare that

people smile if they do not know each other.

They were also amazed at how multicultural the U.S. is and how so many people from so many different places can live and work together.

With their host families, they were exposed to some different family dynamics and different roles in marriage and parenting, specifically with the husband and wife working equally together and the father being very nurturing and spending



a lot of time playing with the kids. There were also some minor things, like in Tajikistan they drink a lot of hot drinks and we drink cold drinks more often, so the fact that we put ice in absolutely everything was very new to them.

- What do you feel was accomplished by working with this group?

I would say that, first, we all had the opportunity to combat stereotypes about the others' culture. Secondly, we were able to teach these Tajikistani coaches who, in their own words, have not had any training on sports education. We were able to teach them ways of working with children in sports and open them up some ideas about involving children in the process of decision making and peacebuilding. On Monday, they actually coached a group of kids by themselves, using the skills we had worked on with them and following our curriculum,

so I think we really made a difference in teaching them how to use soccer to facilitate peacebuilding with kids.

 What are the difficulties of intercultural relationship building and peace work?
 How are those overcome?

The hardest obstacle for us to overcome is the assumption that the American way will work for everyone. You really have to learn about the local, target audience and make sure your curriculum activities and content all fit in with their culture. One thing we do [to overcome these difficulties] is ask a lot of questions, saying "this is how we do this, how might this work for you?" We emphasize discussion. Doing research is important to learn as much about the other culture as you can, so you can ask the right questions and get the right feedback.

A similar issue is making sure we don't frame this as "us helping them," and making it a collaborative, mutual learning relationship. Sometimes Americans feel like we have to go save people, and that is not an effective approach. That puts the other

group in a position of thinking there is something wrong or inferior with them and with their culture. In reality, we have as much to learn from them as they have to learn from us.



Article: World Health News and Social Media By: Alyssa Mitchell

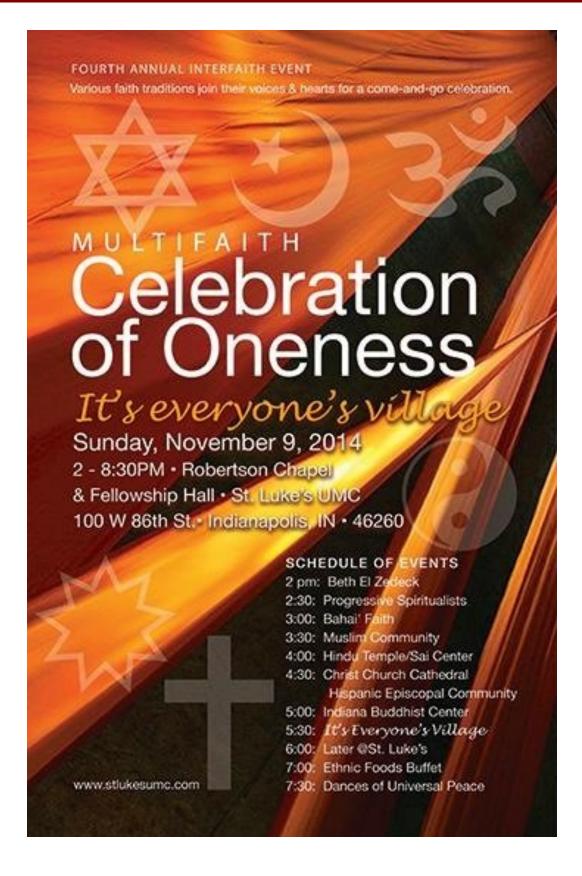
Over the past decade or so, social media has taken over the lives of millions of people. From Facebook to Twitter to Instagram and more, social media has become a great resource that is easily accessible to anyone with an internet connection. Social media has the capabilities to connect people with each other, even with people who they have never met before. This connection can be used to help people learn more about events going on around the world, in a manner that is faster than ever before. The instantaneous nature of social media means that people can learn about world events even as they are happening, even if they are happening thousands of miles away. This makes social media an incredibly powerful tool that can affect millions of people at once.

The ability to reach millions of people with a single click has begun to affect how people learn about world health problems from across the world. Previously, people would wait to hear about the news until they read the newspaper or watched the nightly news. Information

about SARS, swine flu, and anthrax was slowly disseminated, and the news media largely controlled how the public learned and understood these health crises. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, people have been inundated with news about the Ebola virus over the past month from a variety of sources, and social media has played a significant role in that happening.

Although there are many positive aspects of social media, there is also a negative side to it as well. Misinformation can spread just as easily as correct information. The internet is a free space in which anyone can post anything. This causes problems when the information is not correct. Uninformed people may read articles or bits of information that are not true or not from a credible source and start spreading that incorrect information with others. The spreading of information is fast for both positive and negative information. The spreading of wrong information means that there is a chance that people will go into a false panic and if we can avoid

that, we should at all costs. With regard to the Ebola virus, there has been a flood of misinformation spread about the symptoms and how it can be transmitted between people. This has caused people to panic unnecessarily because they are afraid it will spread like it has in Africa. Social media also can impact the perceptions of its users. A lot of articles that are posted on social media are biased. If someone is uninformed and reads a biased article, they are more likely to agree with the argument at hand. People often do not take the time to think about whether an article has a goal besides simply providing information, and therefore, they tend to agree with the information that the article is presenting. Social media produces and spreads many different types of articles and news links and they all have the ability to change the perceptions of a person, whether it is positively or negatively. This, along with the dissemination of misinformation, can be incredibly dangerous for the millions of people who use social media.



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Organizations on Campus

Social Justice Coalition

Meetings: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Peace Center

Join together with the network of the many social justice groups at Ball State and discuss events, collaborations, and interact with likeminded social activists! We can all affect change in small ways individually, but by working together, the change we can make grows exponentially

Social Justice League

Mondays from 5 pm – 6 pm

Peace Center

Along with raising of money for the ARC Package from Heifer International, the Social Justice League will be selling Beads for Life in the upcoming weeks. Look for them in the Atrium and Student Center! Dates to come!

Also, sign the Bike Lanes petition. Contact President Chelsea Smith (<u>bsu.social.justice@gmail.com</u>) for more info.

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

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.

Mosaic- Taboo Tuesdays

Tuesdays from 7 pm - 8 pm

Student Center 302

An open dialogue series sponsored by MOSAIC (a newly formed social justice peer education program sponsored by the Office of Student Life) to engage undergraduate students in open dialogues focused on social justice topics to promote awareness, change, and intergroup understanding.

Global Brigades

On November 6th at 6 p.m., join Global Brigades for bonding on their social night at the Rock Wall! Their next scheduled meeting will take place on November 13th in the basement of Bracken Library. Note – There will be no meeting on November 27th because of Thanksgiving.

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

Oxfam

Every other Tuesday (next meeting will be on November 12^{th}) from 6 pm - 7 pm Educational Resource Room 2

Nov 17 + 18; Oxfam members will be going passing out promotional flyers for the Hunger Banquet at the Scramble Light. Come stop by and help or support an awesome cause.

The Hunger Banquet will be happening on Nov 20th in Cardinal Hall B at 7. The event is to raise awareness about global food disparity and inequality. Learn about and enjoy food from around the world! The Oxfam America Ball State Chapter helps run global poverty reduction campaigns on Ball State's Campus with the aim to educate the student body about global injustices, especially related to poverty and hunger worldwide.

Timmy Global Health

Meet Times: Wednesdays @ 8 in the Schwartz Digital Learning Pod

Timmy Global Health is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting our partner organization in Tena, Equador through advocacy, fundraising, and medical brigades. We change the world one person at a time by encouraging people of all ages, races, creeds, and abilities to help other abroad thorugh out annual medical brigade.

Building Tomorrow

Meet Times: Tuesdays at 7 in the Schwartz Complex in Bracken Library

Purpose: Building Tomorrow at Ball State empowers Ball State to invest their resources, time & talents in providing students in sub-Saharan Africa with access to an education.

Events: Their big event for the semester is Bike to Uganda. They will be raising funds with every mile they bike at their stationary bike marathon on. All the money raised will go to building a school in Uganda. The fun part is that as the sponsor school, Ball State architecture students will get to design the school, and the Ugandan school's colors will be Cardinal and White.

Students for Education Reform (SFER)

Purpose: SFER is a non-profit organization striving for social equity in America's K-12 school system through advocacy and awareness events both locally and state-wide. Their goal is to partner with other organizations on BSU's campus in order to bring better education to future generations as well as maintaining relations with national chapters of SFER.

Events: SFER End of Summer BBQ happening on September 28th at 5 pm. Time and location are TBA, but check out their facebook to get the update.

Feminists for Action

Meet Times: Tuesdays @ 6 in Burkhardt Building 220

This organization educates the campus and the community about women's issues and events. The group will respond as necessary to promote affirmative action, initiate positive programming, and combat abuse, prejudice, restriction of rights, and discrimination against women.

Multicultural Center

Enjoy a number of exciting cultural events this November from the Multicultural Center!

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On-Campus Events

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.

MEDITATION AT THE MUSEUM

FRIDAYS @ 5:30- DAVID OWSLEY MUSEUM OF ART

Clear your mind and find inner peace after a long week while surrounded by beautiful works of art! The last hour of the weekday is reserved for quiet time at the David Owsley Museum of Art.

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/.

CULTURE EXCHANGE SERIES

WEDNESDAYS from 12:00-1:00 - STUDENT CENTER YUHAS ROOM

Want to learn more about the world beyond Muncie, IN? Then join us for a Culture Exchange! Each week a different country is highlighted; the presenters are typically natives who can offer an insider's look into their country and its culture. Attendees are welcome to bring a lunch to the presentation (internationally-themed food will also be provided by a dedicated BSU chef). Attendees are also reminded to show respect and prevent distraction to presenters by arriving on-time.

Upcoming Culture Exchange Presentations

November 12 Triin Peitel - **Estonia** November 19 Ryo Iyoda - **Japan** December 03 Bruno Cabrera — **Brazil**

Eco Summit

The 3rd Annual **Eco Summit** will be held on **November 1, 2014 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center.

The Eco Summit is for students, faculty and professionals from all across Indiana who are interested in discussing the successes and challenges of fighting climate change. Breakout session topics include food/water, eco-activism, sustainable development and much more! Guest speakers will include Jim Poyser (executive director of Earth Charter Indiana) and Sue Errington (Muncie's State Representative). Registration Link: http://www.eventbrite.com/e/eco-summit-tickets-13118416537

SAFEZONE AND TRANS-SAFEZONE TRAINING - FALL 2014

Become an ally/advocate for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning population at Ball State University and beyond. For dates and registration, click here!

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FOLKSONGS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 from 12-1:30—PITTENGER STUDENT CENTER MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Focusing on the role that folksongs have played in the history and politics of U.S. Social movements, this "singing lecture" brings the stories to life. <u>Corey Dolgon</u>, Ph.D. in American Culture sings songs that document this nation's many hard fought struggles and describes the power of music as part of advancing social causes.

The performance presents issues from many perspective and examines the role of folk songs in workers' lives and activists' organizing. While informative, this event is also participatory so plan to join in the fun!

FRIDA KAHLO OF THE GUERILLA GIRLS: LIVE! "MASKED FEMINIST AVENGERS OF THE ART WORLD"

NOVEMBER 11 at 5:00 - SURSA HALL

Since 1985 the Guerrilla Girls, an anonymous group of gorilla-masked activists, have been battling sexism and racism in art, politics, and popular culture. The Guerrilla Girls made waves when they covered New York with a poster that called attention to the many depictions of female nudity in art, but the lack of representation of women artists by asking, "Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?" They boldly, but hilariously undermine and expose discrimination wherever they find it and inspire others to become activists too.

PERSPECTIVES DISCUSSION - A READING OF "CRAZY HORSE'S GIRLFRIEND" NOVEMBER 12 from 12:00-1:00 pm — AJ 150C

Erika T. Wurth is Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee and was raised on the outskirts of Denver. She teaches creative writing at Western Illinois University and was a writer-in-residence at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Wurth will read from and sign her new novel *Crazy Horse's Girlfriend*, which is filled with complex characters overcoming and being overcome by circumstances of their surroundings, and thoroughly shakes up cultural preconceptions of what it means to be Native American today.

BRACKEN ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE GUEST SPEAKER: ALEXANDRA COUSTEAU NOVEMBER 12 at 7:30 – STUDENT CENTER

Globally recognized speaker and advocate for water issues, Alexandra Cousteau shares her thoughts on the importance of conservation and the sustainable management of water with "This Blue Planet: Preserving and Sustaining a Healthy Earth." As a *National Geographic* "emerging explorer" and filmmaker, Cousteau continues the work of her grandfather Jaques-Yves Cousteau and father Philippe Cousteau earning global recognition for pushing the boundaries of discovery, adventure and global problem solving.

THE AMAZING TASTE: GLOBAL FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 13 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - STUDENT CENTER

Join us for cuisine from 20+ countries, student music and dance performances, African drummers and Latin music, dance instruction, cultural displays and games, an exotic animal show, hair braiding and beading, a bug tasting room, and much more family-friendly fun! Meal swipe or \$8.20 for students with a meal plan. \$8.95 + tax for guests ages 13+. \$5.95 + tax ages 3-12. Free for ages 2 and under. Access to cultural displays, activities, and entertainment is FREE! Ticket (wristband) sales begin on November 10. Visit the Amazing Taste website for additional information.

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LGBT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The LGBT Mentorship Program at Ball State University pairs gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) undergraduate students or those who are questioning or developing their own sexual/gender identity with graduate students, faculty, and staff who identify as part of the LGBT community or who are allies to the LGBT community. For more information please visit http://cms.bsu.edu/-/media/WWW/DepartmentalContent/CounselingCenter/PDFs/Handout%20Mentee%209232014.pdf

Off-Campus Events

MEDITATION FOR WORLD PEACE

NOVEMBER 6 from 6:00-6:20 pm – UNITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

A weekly meditation with Michael Wright - to hold the vision of the inevitable occurrence of world peace - will be held at Unity of Indianapolis, 907 N. Delaware. Please enter from parking lot behind building. For more info call Michael at 627-3225, or email Dorothy Mack at mackda@att.net

EXHIBIT: PASSENGER PIGEONS - NOVEMBER 1-MARCH 1 - MINNETRISTA

Discover how the story of the passenger pigeon is unlike that of any other bird in this engaging and important exhibit. Explore the story of this amazing and unique bird, once one of the most abundant birds in the world and in East Central Indiana, before the species became extinct in 1914. Uncover the relationship between people and nature for the 100-year anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon.

JOEL GREENBURG: A FEATHERED RIVER - NOVEMBER 10 at 7:00 pm - MINNETRISTA

Accompanying Minnetrista's *Passenger Pigeons* exhibit will be a presentation by writer Joel Greenberg. Greenburg's book, *A Feathered River Across the Sky*, is the first book about the passenger pigeon since a 1950 monograph. Greenberg will explore how a thriving bird became extinct so quickly and what we can learn from the choices humans make. This presentation is free.

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

KALEIDOSCOPE: ETHNIC/RACIAL MINORITY SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAYS from 4:00-5:30 pm – MULTICULTURAL CENTER 2nd FLOOR

A safe, supportive place for ethnic/racial minority students to explore and discuss navigating two or more cultures. Topics may include discrimination, identity, family concerns, relationships, adjustment, academic concerns, and body image. All ethnic/racial minority students are welcome to join any time!

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Conferences

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

Unity Connections Conference (formally known as the Unity Week Diversity Symposium)

Saturday, January 24th

9:30 am - 4 pm

The Unity Connections Conference is inviting faculty, staff, and students/student organizations to submit a program proposal for a concurrent session of 55 minutes. <u>Proposals</u> are due on November 14, 2014 by midnight and will be chosen based upon their relevance to the conference theme and goals.

This year's theme is Culture Shock which aims to shift the paradigm of culture and practices of inclusivity from a variety of lenses. The goals of this year's conference are to help participants: (1) Construct meaning from ideas and concepts related to diversity and inclusion; (2) Explore unique human experiences that make up the human experience; (3) Understand the intersection of socially and culturally constructed identities based on race, ethnicity, gender/gender expression, sexuality, class, age, ability, and religion; and (4) Develop ways to build an inclusive community at Ball State University.

The International Peace-Builder's Forum (IPF)

Link for more information: http://caux.iofc.org/en/IPF2014

Registration Link: https://application.caux.iofc.org/en/online-applications/new-

Grants and Fellowships

The Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Fellowship Fund to support faculty members and graduate students that are presenting scholarly papers or serving on a symposium at professional conferences on topics directly connected to the mission of the Cohen Fund which "is to provide a lasting memorial to Benjamin Cohen by fostering new approaches to the problems of peacemaking.

Two awards of up to \$500 are available for this academic year. Funds may only be used to offset travel expenses (e.g., airfare, lodging, local transportation, meals). You can find the application linked with this opportunity at:

http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/peace/academicopps/cohenpeacetravelfund

Information about the Cohen Fellowship Program can be found at: http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/peace/academicopps/cohenpeacefellowship

Please note that is ESSENTIAL that a submitted proposal clearly articulate how the presentation fits with the mission of the Cohen Fund. Proposals that are not consistent with this mission will not be reviewed. Please also note that the deadline to apply for these funds is December 1, 2014 and March 1, 2015.

Peace Puzzle

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COMMUNICATION
DIFFERENCES
HEALTH
NONVIOLENCE
RESOLUTION
TAJIKISTAN

CONFLICT EBOLA HOPE PEACE SOCIAL COUNTRIES FRIENDSHIP MEDIA RELATIONSHIP SPORTS

Peace Song of the Week:

USA for Africa - We Are the World https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9BNoNFKCBI

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 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.

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

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

Hunter Sully, Graduate Assistant

Our Programs Include:

Mediation training and services
Meditation classes
The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
The Social Justice League organization

310 N. McKinley Ave. Muncie, IN 47306 (765) 285-1622 www.bsu.edu/peacecenter peacecenter@bsu.edu