

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spotlight Person Article
.....1 & 2

Spotlight Event Article
.....2 & 3

September Event.....3

October Event.....4

Conferences.....4

Organizations.....5 & 6

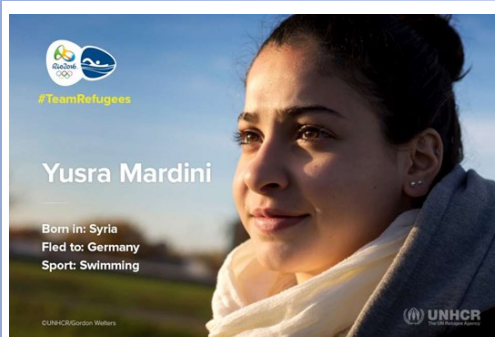
**On & Off-Campus
Events.....7**

**On-Campus Support
Groups.....8**

Peace Pole.....9

About Us.....9

Spotlight Person : Yusra Mardini



Recently, the United Nations has launched a new animated video that dramatizes the story of a young Syrian refugee named Yusra Mardini, who was given a chance to achieve her dream last summer when she competed in the 2016 Olympics in Rio De Janero as a member of the Refugee Olympic Team. Mardini was recently appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in April of 2017 and the video that depicts her story was released in time for the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2017.

Mardini was born on March 5, 1998 in Syria. Her dream to become an Olympic Athlete began at a young age. She grew up in Damascus, and began swimming with the support of the Syrian Olympic Committee. She first represented Syria in 2012 at the FINA World Swimming Championships. Only three years later, her home in Syria was destroyed, forcing her, and her sister Sarah, to flee their home country. They made it to Lebanon and then Turkey –

where arrangements were made for the sisters to be smuggled into Greece on a boat with 18 other migrants that was built to carry only six to seven people. Due to the stress of holding 18 people on board, the small dinghy's motor stopped working, and was struggling to gain momentum through the Aegean Sea. In that moment, Mardini, her sister, and two other people on the boat who were able to swim got into the water and pushed the boat for over three hours until it got to the Greek island of Lesbos. From there, the sisters traveled through Europe to Germany where they settled in Berlin one month after leaving their home in Syria. Their parents eventually traveled to meet them there.

Mardini made a name for herself in Rio when it was publicized that her talent of swimming helped her to save nearly 20 lives. She took action when many would have just accepted that there was nothing they could do. Instead of seeing the boat's motor failing as a nightmare coming forth in reality, she saw it as motivation stating in an interview, "I remember that without swimming I would never be alive maybe because of the story of this boat. It's a positive memory for me." She has also addressed the plight of refugees, and how she wants society to see them. In the same interview with the British newspaper, *The Independent*, "I want everyone to

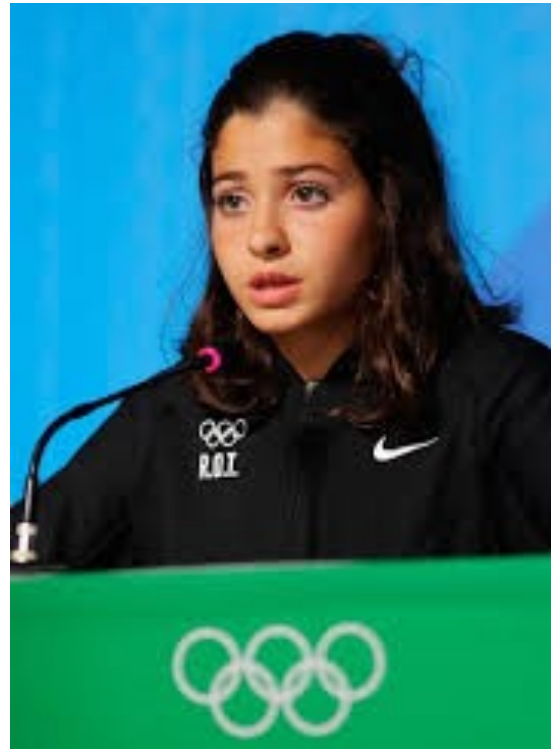
Spotlight Person : Yusra Mardini

think refugees are normal people who had their homelands and lost them not because they wanted to run away and be refugees, but because they have dreams in their lives and they had to go.”

For more information, click [here](#), or [here](#).

To read *The Independent's* full article, click [here](#).

To view the UN's animated video, click [here](#).



Spotlight Event : Ethnic Cleansing in Myanmar

Over the past few months, the Rohingya Muslims—a minority group in the country of Myanmar—have been relentlessly persecuted, forcing more than 400,000 Muslims to flee to the neighboring country of Bangladesh.

The ongoing events in Myanmar have been described as a military campaign and as a “Textbook example of ethnic cleansing,” according to the United Nations. Since the end of August 2017, a wave of violence throughout the Rakhine state of Myanmar has claimed more than 1,000 lives. Towns are being set on fire, and left empty and dead. It is estimated that there are still approximately 700,000 Rohingya left in Myanmar, but the population will continue to lessen as more people are slaughtered, or flee to Bangladesh and other locations.

On Tuesday, September 19, Myanmar’s leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, addressed the crisis, condemning the human rights violations within the Rakhine state. However, she failed to address the accusations that the situation is a campaign of ethnic cleansing by the military, leaving many people critical of her sincerity and calling her disingenuous.

According to Mark Dummett of the BBC in 2010, the Rohingya Muslims are one of the most persecuted ethnic groups in the world. Their displacement has been going on for years, but the Rohingya Muslim people have been at risk for a far longer time. The Rohingya Muslims were frequently perceived as illegal immigrants and outsiders in Myanmar, and this perception was amplified during WWII. Since

Spotlight Event : Ethnic Cleansing in Myanmar

then, these Muslims have faced many struggles, including losing their citizenship in 1982.

Now, they are being openly persecuted. Those who have fled are settling in makeshift refugee camps with little food, water, protection, or supplies. There is a fear that although they are safe from persecution, many will die in the coming weeks due to exhaustion, lack of food and water.

Currently, the Rohingya Muslims are desperately waiting for help and looking to countries around the world for support against the Rakhine military state. As the U.S. struggles to reckon with its own biases and laws regarding illegal immigrants, the country should turn to Myanmar to see an example of

where hatred and othering has gone horribly wrong.



("Rohingya Protestors pushing for change in Myanmar" by Andrew Mercer)

The Rise of Neo-Nazism and White Supremacy

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 marked the beginning of this semester's Discussion Series. The topic of this discussion was rather timely and relevant to recent happenings in the U.S. The event was facilitated by Dr. Lawrence Gerstein, and the panelists were Professor Bryan Byers, Ph.D. and Nathaniel Rose from Muncie R.A.C.E.. The panelists discussed The Rise of Neo-Nazism and White Supremacy for just over an hour to over 180 people comprised of Ball State students and faculty, Burris High School students, Muncie community members, and even a group of students from Anderson University. During the first half hour of the discussion, panelists responded to a series of questions, and then the floor was open the remainder of the time for attendees to ask their own questions and/or reflect on what had already been said. Although the topic is considered a hot button issue, the lecture hall remained quiet while answers were given; everyone was very attentive and respectful of

the panelists and fellow attendees.

The questions asked regarded the history of White Supremacy as well as recent happenings, but each person who spoke during the second half of the discussion seemed to want to know the same thing in the end: What can be done to stop it? Mr. Rose was the first to answer this question, and the two panelists built on this as the night went on. His advice, especially to students, was to get involved in the effort of stopping it rather than just acknowledge the problem. By joining campus groups, getting involved, and speaking out, we can help fill the gap between the "us versus them" dialogue.

Pictured from left to right: Bryan Byers, Lawrence Gerstein, and Nathaniel Rose.



Discussion Series Events

Stay tuned for our next Discussion Series Event, coming soon!



Conferences

[PJSA From Civil Rights to Human Rights](#)

Where: Birmingham, Alabama

When: October 25-28, 2017

Description: As peace scholars, educators, and activists, we are challenged to rise up and present a new vision, a new strategy, a new engagement of our culture, that will create new relationships and a movement of Justice and Peace in the 21st Century. The new will honor the old, and will build upon it bringing wisdom, insight, passion, and determination that will carry us forward."

[Alliance for Peacebuilding 2017 Annual Conference](#)

Where: U.S. Institute of Peace, Alliance for Peacebuilding

When: October 11, 2017, 9 a.m.- 5p.m.

Description: Call to Action to the Peacebuilding Community: New Solutions for the Future

[Psychology & Peace 2018](#)

Where: University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

When: March 9-11, 2018

Proposal due: November 30, 2017

Description: 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](#)

Where: Ball State University, Muncie, IN

When: April 6-7, 2018

Proposal due: December 15, 2017

Description: 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 and Off Campus Events

The Simon and Garfunkel Story

When- Friday, October 6 @7:30 p.m.

Where- Emens Auditorium

"Touring for the first time ever in North America, 'The Simon and Garfunkel Story' is a critically acclaimed concert style theatrical experience about two young boys from Queens, New York who went on to become the world's most successful music duo of all time. Using state of the art video projection, incredible lighting, and a full live band 'The Simon & Garfunkel Story' is a moving and powerful concert"

ARTRAGEOUS! The Interactive Art and Music Experience

When- Friday, October 20 @7:30 p.m.

Where- Emens Auditorium

"Imagine witnessing the creativity of an artist creating a masterpiece before your eyes in mere moments. Combined with captivating vocals, intricate choreography and exciting music, Artrageous takes you on a visual journey and a high energy ride of inspiration, creativity, and engagement. Our troupe of artist, musicians, singers and dancers pay tribute to a variety of art forms, icons and musical genres throughout the evening. The result ~ A uniquely entertaining, Masterpiece show culminating in a gallery of fabulous finished paintings."

Mandy Harvey

When- Saturday, October 28 @7:30 p.m.

Where- Emens Auditorium

"Mandy Harvey is a deaf American singer-songwriter. A Vocal Music Education major at Colorado State University, Mandy lost her residual hearing in 2006-2007 at age eighteen due to a neurological disorder, and left the program. She pursued several career options, including education, but returned to music in 2008. She quickly became a regular performer at Jay's Bistro in Fort Collins and then branched out to having regular concerts at Dazzle Jazz Lounge in Denver (Top 100 Jazz venues in the world)."

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.

Peace Pole Events

On Sunday October 15, 2017 the peace pole was at the Indy Festival of Faiths. This event was presented by The Center for Interfaith Cooperation at Veteran's Memorial Plaza. The mission for this event is to strengthen community ties, connect communities of faith via civic engagement, and pursue peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation.



For more information about The Center for Interfaith Cooperation click [here](#).



Center for
Interfaith
Cooperation



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:

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Our Programs Include:

Mediation training and services

Mediation classes

Discussion Series Events

The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship

The Social Justice League

Organization

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