



The Olive Branch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Mai Khoi: Musical Icon for Human Rights
- Environmental Protection Agency and Peacebuilding
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Tunnel of Oppression
- Leaders Creating Spaces for Meaningful Participation
- Conferences
- On and Off Campus Events
- Organizations
- Support Groups



The Olive Branch is a publication of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Ball State University. Every issue, we shine a spotlight on people, events, campus groups, conferences, and organizations who are working towards a more peaceful world.



Mai Khoi



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

EST. 1918



MAI KHOI: MUSICAL ICON FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Freedom of expression drives and empowers art in all societies. It is central to our ability to advance the discussion on social issues and change our world for the better. Not only is freedom of expression a fundamental human right, but it also opens the vital flow of information in society and allows citizens to hold governments accountable. For Vietnamese pop star, Do Nguyen Mai Khoi, known professionally as Mai Khoi, fighting for freedom of expression in her country is what drives her art.

Mai Khoi has been described as “Vietnam’s Lady Gaga,” and the moniker seems to fit the independent pop singer well. She has also been compared to the Russian protest band, Pussy Riot, for speaking out against violence against women, suppression of LGBT rights, and Vietnam’s Communist Party. Notably, Khoi, who in 2018 was one of three recipients of the Václav Havel International Prize for Creative Dissent, didn’t always center her art around protest.

Mai Khoi’s love of music began at the age of eight when she began taking guitar lessons from her father who was a music teacher. Her career began at age 12 when she joined her father in playing music at weddings. Khoi eventually enrolled at a musical conservatory in Ho Chi Minh City, but later dropped out, citing boredom with the program. Khoi began playing at bars and clubs and quickly began to develop a following. Her career took off in 2019 when she won the state-owned Vietnam Television’s Album of the Year Award. Khoi, however, was critical of the way that the government stifled artistic freedom, so she decided to use her fame to advocate for social issues like women’s and LGBT rights.

“I thought maybe I could encourage people to pay attention to the elections...Before that no one cared about this. No one said a word about the elections,” said Khoi (Mooney, 2018)

In countries such as Vietnam, where only one party can rule, and human rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of expression are repressed, the work of activists like Mai Khoi are paramount. For this reason, the fiercely independent artist decided to use her influence to garner attention towards the Vietnamese elections, which she described as “fake.” Along with several other activists, Mai Khoi attempted to defy the one-party system and ran for a seat in Vietnam’s National Assembly in 2016. While she was disqualified from appearing on the ballot, she and many other Vietnamese citizens believe that she successfully created a discussion surrounding politics and censorship in the country. Though her political bid was unsuccessful, in May 2016 she was among a number of activists invited to meet with President Barack Obama during his visit to Vietnam.



Official Photograph of Mai Khoi and her Band Members

MAI KHOI: MUSICAL ICON FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Unsurprisingly, while Khoi's activism work has allowed her to shed some light on human rights issues in Vietnam, it has also made her a target of repression. In November 2017, she and her husband were evicted from their Hanoi apartment after protesting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. Her concerts were raided by the police and in March 2018, she was detained for eight hours at Hanoi airport upon returning from her European tour. Today, it is very difficult for the conventional pop singer turned protest artist to perform publicly in her country. Many of her recent performances have been at underground venues or overseas. But throughout it all, Mai Khoi has kept her focus on the music and advocating for freedom of expression.

Khoi's newest album, titled "Dissent", has remained true to her pro-democracy stance, with song titles such as "Re-education Camp" and "Please, Sir," which directly address the oppression of human rights by Communist Party leaders. Mai Khoi also says that "Dissent" has deep musical importance with its traditional and ethnic influences, unlike much of the imported music that is popular in Vietnam. As her fame continues to grow, Mai Khoi hopes that her activism will inspire young people. She states, "our campaigns have changed the way people think about political participation... for me, it's about opening new ways of thinking and acting, making the unthinkable thinkable and the unspeakable speakable" (Mooney, 2018).



Performing at the Oslo Freedom Forum in May 2018

For more information on Mai Khoi check out the following links!

[How Facebook is Damaging Freedom of Expression in Vietnam](#)

[Biography of Mai Khoi](#)

[A Star of Vietnam](#)

References

Mooney, P. (2018, September 15). This Vietnamese singer tried to battle state censorship. Now she only performs there in secret. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2018/09/15/this-vietnamese-singer-tried-battle-state-censorship-now-she-only-performs-secret/?utm_term=.5ea48b519cbc

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND PEACEBUILDING

On Wednesday, April 22nd, 1970, the United States celebrated its first Earth Day. With the increase in ecological sympathies—due to the rapid industrialization and technological progress in the twentieth century—the degradation of natural resources was highlighted and there was a new push for sustainability. Indeed, a year before this celebration, Congress, led by Nixon, took up the role of “*protector of earth*,” and created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA; The Guardian, 1992).

“The context of Earth Day 1970... [reflected] the turbulence of the time. Since the mid-1960s, the streets has become a common outlet for political and social discontent. Yet Earth Day, forged in an era of strife and change, had its own personality...violence and confrontation were nowhere to be seen” (The Guardian, 1992).

The agency was created to address national environmental degradation and was given funds for both scientific research and public policy enforcement. To this end, the EPA has been able to, among various other accomplishments, improve air quality, phase-out several hazardous chemicals, and begin regulating greenhouse gas emissions over the past decades.

Although it may seem unlikely at first glance, the EPA’s actions are critically enmeshed with issues of peace and social justice. In fact, the EPA can even be considered a peacebuilding organization. In a recent report, *From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment*, the International Institution for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Program point out many conflicts have developed over scarce natural resources. Although environmental issues are rarely the sole cause of conflict, the report found that disputes connected with environmental issues are significantly less likely to reach and sustain peace for more than a few years if those issues are not addressed. Further, low income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues (Alotaibi et al., 2018; Tessum et al., 2018).



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND PEACEBUILDING

Because of these reasons, the importance of putting sustainable management considerations into peacebuilding is greater than ever. Fortunately, the EPA, with its comparatively early start, has been able to provide proven strategies for future peacemaking processes to other nations, specifically with regard to environmental sustainability. As environmentalists Scheer and Moss assert,

“[Its] very existence serves as an important model for other countries to follow, and indeed most nations of the world now have their own environmental oversight authorities to keep tabs on pollution and set standards for the safe use, handling and disposal of pollutants” (Scheer and Moss, 2017).

Of course, an environmentally sustainable nation will ultimately depend on its citizens to revise current environmentally harmful practices and realize the importance of sustainable practices. These practices encompass everything from reducing the disproportionate load borne by marginalized communities, to waste management, to clean energy, to mitigating the environmental effects of animal agriculture. Although the threat of global warming, rampant pollution, and exhausted natural resources looms, there is a rich history of environmental activism behind us for support, one that promises a more peaceful community.

For more information on how you can help your global community visit the following links!

[Our Mission and What we Do](#)

[The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment](#)

[Frequent Questions on Recycling](#)

References

- Alotaibi, R., Bechle, M., Marshall, J., Ramani, T., Zietsman, J., Nieuwenhuijsen, M., & Khreis, H. (2018). Air pollution and the burden of childhood asthma in the contiguous United States in 2000 and 2010. ISEE Conference Abstracts, Vol 2018 (1), retrieved from: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/isesisee.2018.P03.1790>
- Scheer & Moss. (2017). What good the EPA has done for the environment? Retrieved from <https://el-observador.com/2017/03/17/what-good-the-epa-has-done-for-the-environment/>
- Tessum, C., Apte, J. S., Goodkin, A. L., Muller, N., Mullins, K., Paoella, D., Springer, N., Marshall, J., & Hill, J. (2018). Air pollution-related and health equity effects of the United States economy: 1997-2015. ISEE Conference Abstracts, Vol 2018 (1), retrieved from: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/isesisee.2018.P02.1140>
- The Guardian. (1992). The Guardian: Origins of the EPA. Retrieved from <https://archive.epa.gov/epa/aboutepa/guardian-origins-epa.html>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2018), approximately 15 percent of the world's population have some form of disability. This percentage translates to over one billion people who have disabilities, out of which roughly 150 million adults experience severe difficulties in functioning. Notably, due to aging populations and the rise in chronic health conditions, there has been an increase in the rates of disability in the population.

To improve the welfare of individuals with disabilities, in 1992, the United Nations (U.N.) proclaimed December 3rd as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to promote the rights and well-being of this community, and to increase awareness in every aspect of their political, social, economic and cultural life. With decades of U.N. work in the field of disability, including the adoption of the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2018 saw a campaign focused on empowering persons with disabilities for an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda pledges to “leave no one behind” and views persons with disabilities as agents of change that can fast track the process toward promoting a resilient society. In the next decade, the U.N. intends to include individuals with disabilities when planning their future steps towards disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and urban development. The international organization envisions a future where persons with disabilities, organizations, and academic institutions work as a team to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

References

World Health Organization (2018). Disability and health fact sheet. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>

TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION

On the January 24th, 2019, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) had the opportunity to participate in the Tunnel of Oppression as part of Ball State University's Unity Week. The Tunnel of Oppression is an annual simulation in which students are guided through and immersed in different situations that oppressed peoples face every day. These situations highlight different societal biases and prejudices, including homophobia, racism, and gender-based violence. With the assistance of Michael Daehn, an Associate Professor of Theater Education at Ball State and an advisory board member of CPCS, we brought to the event a skit addressing hate speech and white supremacy. It featured the harassment of people with racial and ethnic minority identities at a political rally. The protesters in the simulation used hate speech to express their disgust that non-white persons were not only at the rally but living in “their” country. Upon meeting the protesters, one of the harassed peoples, more ethnically ambiguous than the other, joined them and took up a white mask, symbolizing that they could be “accepted” by the protesters and safe from the harassment if they gave up their own minority identity. At the end of the event, the tour groups were debriefed and encouraged to critically discuss the contents of the scenes with the goal of sparking empathy and encouraged individuals to stop similar occurrences from happening, especially in our daily lives. If you would like to participate, please keep an eye out for this eye-opening event next year!

Participants of Tunnel of Oppressions, from left to right: Aashna Banerjee, Michael Cottone, Jacob Nichols, Ren Halter-Rainey, Brook Haynes, Kayls Keesling



LEADERS CREATING SPACES FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

On January 26th, 2019, Ball State held its second annual Beneficence Leadership Conference, an opportunity for students and staff to take part in leadership-based programming as part of Unity Week. The Ball State Center for Peace and Conflict Studies hosted a session which focused on creating spaces for leaders with intersectional identities. The session, led by the interim director of the Peace Center, Dr. Maria Hernandez Finch, was entitled “Leaders Creating Spaces for Meaningful Participation.”

The focus of the hour-long session was to inform the audience of how individuals with intersectional identities can become leaders, and how existing leaders can better include individuals with intersectional identities in teams. The session began with Dr. Hernandez Finch briefly introducing topics surrounding intersectionality, the remainder focusing on discussions with a panel of Ball State student leaders. Ball State graduate students Aashna Banerjee and Taylor Thomas and undergraduate students Ren Halter-Rainey and Kayls Keesling shared stories of navigating leadership positions with their intersectional identities.

Aashna, who is the graduate assistant for the Peace Center, spoke about how her intersectional identities have shifted now that she lives in the United States, compared to her native India. She argued that growing up in a household where she was not expected to conform to traditional gender roles and that has helped her navigate spaces where men try to make her feel inferior. Taylor, a graduate student in the Department of Counseling Psychology, spoke about her identity as a black woman, as well as the effects of coming from an economically under-resourced family. She explained that her background has made her less willing to take up space and talked about how having access to limited financial resources has prevented her from accessing the same opportunities as her peers. Ren, a junior Political Science major who uses they/them pronouns, spoke about their identity as a non-binary transgender student and how coming to college has allowed them to express themselves. They voiced how they have felt pressured to take on as many leadership roles as possible in order to represent their community well and how that has affected their college experience. Kayls, a senior Creative Writing major who also uses they/them pronouns, spoke about their experiences as a non-binary woman and how they dealt with coming out while working as a Resident Assistant. Additionally, Kayls spoke about how they have taken on leadership positions within organizations unfamiliar with their identity, and how they have tried to educate those they have worked alongside.

Each of the presenters provided advice on how leaders could include people with intersectional identities on their teams, or what individuals with intersectional identities should know if they want to pursue leadership. According to Aashna, it’s important to own who you are and have confidence in your own abilities. Taylor suggested that leaders should actively listen to what their team members have to contribute to discussions. Ren emphasized an easy way for leaders be more inclusive of non-binary and transgender identities is by introducing themselves with their pronouns to help students feel more welcome to share their identities. Kayls’s advice to potential leaders is that sometimes it will feel like you’re the only one in the room who looks like you, but that you can still succeed.

As the title of the session indicates, the Peace Center hoped that by giving leaders with intersectional identities a place to step up and talk about what has helped them succeed, more will be done to help other students with intersectional identities participate meaningfully in teams. The goal of the presentation was to help attendees learn how intersectional identities can play a role in leadership and increase their awareness to create more welcoming environments. Ren commented,

“I know that I feel so much more included when people I am working with understand my identity. Even student leaders can do so much to make those with intersectional identities feel welcome (Ren Halter-Rainey).”

CONFERENCES

Monday, February 11th to Wednesday, February 13th	International Conference on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution This conference gives members of different disciplines a chance to present their ideas on conflict resolution. Presentations from experts in business, humanities, and social justice studies are expected. Those interested in seeking a stimulating opportunity to learn and share the latest research, best practices, theories, and insights in organizational behavior, performance, and leadership should attend. Located in New Orleans.
Saturday, February 23rd	29th Annual Rotary International District Peace Conference The focus of this event is “Peacebuilding: One Person at a Time”, this conference has distinguished community members as well as students contributing to this event in the name of peacebuilding. Located at University of La Verne, California.
Tuesday, February 26th to Friday, March 1st	Global Peace Convention This convention brings together leading international experts, policy makers, and peace advocates to share our best practices and develop multi-sector partnerships for sustainable peace and development. Located in Seoul, South Korea.

PEACEKEEPING ORGANIZATION OF THE MONTH

The Elders is an organization made up of influential policy makers and social activists from around the globe. Their mission is simple: To Work Together for Human Rights. They are able to accomplish their mission time and time again by focusing on governance and leadership, conflict, and its consequences around the globe, as well as inequality, exclusion, and social justice.



THE ELDERS

ON AND OFF CAMPUS EVENTS CONTINUED

Friday the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 1st @ 3pm	Meditation in the Museum Join us every Friday in the David Owsley Museum of art for a chance to unwind and reflect on the week. Integrate the dimensions of wellness to promote your quality of life, improve personal habits, and achieve balance through guided meditation.
Tuesday, February 5th @ 3pm	Lifelong Learners: A History of TBM Avenger Pilot, Howard Riche Bruce Baldwin doesn't remember his grandfather. TBM Avenger Pilot Howard Ricke passed away when Bruce was just a few months old, but he flew with him. Listen to Bruce tell the story of one Hoosier man in WWII, his family, and the startling discovery he made about his grandfather in 2013.
Thursday, February 7th @ 7pm	Strengthening the Community Through Access to Justice Ball State's Department of Political Science, Legal Studies Program, and College of Sciences and Humanities present this panel session, which will examine obstacles citizens face when navigating legal services meant to protect and advance their rights.
Thursday, February 14th @ 5pm	Music in the Museum Enjoy a performance of love songs inspired by the "Impressions of Love" special exhibition. Located in David Owsley Museum of Art, treat your valentine to a romantic evening out.
Monday, February 18th @ 7:30pm	Centennial Guest: Deborah Roberts (ABC News) Deborah Roberts joined the ABC newsmagazine "20/20" in June 1995 and has also served as a substitute anchor on Good Morning America and World News Weekend. Celebrate our centennial with this iconic woman.
Tuesday, February 19th @ 3pm	Lifelong Learners: Public Health and MRC in Muncie Dr. Donna Wilkins, Health Officer, and Susan Morris, LPN, Public Health Emergency Response and Preparedness Coordinator, will be present to explain to the group what services the health department can provide, talk about restaurant reports, and explain their philosophy.
Tuesday, February 26th @ 3pm	Lifelong Learners: Why do International Students Choose BSU? A panel of Ball State University international students moderated by Tom Schwartz will provide an opportunity for the group to chat with visiting international scholars and discover what drew them to study so far from home.

Peace Center Crossword

K	K	G	Y	R	N	S	T	H	G	I	R	J	L	T
O	C	I	J	S	Q	I	V	X	C	L	L	R	A	H
S	Z	E	D	I	W	D	L	R	O	W	Q	S	N	R
L	E	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	S	O	Q
E	F	C	S	P	E	A	C	E	X	G	Q	E	I	G
D	X	O	I	U	K	G	B	Z	W	D	U	N	T	J
U	M	H	Q	T	P	U	X	J	B	A	L	L	A	U
C	M	Y	Y	E	C	P	W	G	F	H	B	U	N	D
A	W	W	U	R	V	A	O	Q	X	Z	Y	F	R	F
T	R	B	A	T	W	O	R	R	X	N	P	D	E	A
I	H	R	I	M	Y	G	L	P	T	S	H	N	T	P
O	Q	H	I	T	C	I	L	F	N	O	C	I	N	G
N	A	C	T	I	O	N	G	M	F	J	O	M	I	T
P	N	O	I	T	A	P	I	C	I	T	R	A	P	O
H	U	M	A	N	F	J	P	M	O	D	E	E	R	F

ACTION
CONFLICT
EDUCATION
FREEDOM
HUMAN
INTERNATIONAL
LOVE
MINDFULNESS
PARTICIPATION
PEACE
PRACTICES
RESOLUTION
RIGHTS
SUPPORT
WORLDWIDE

Enjoy a fun crossword filled with words that can be found in this months edition of The Olive Branch!

If you have any art or poems that you would like to send to us to be featured in next months newsletter, please reach out to us on any of our social media platforms or email Olivia at olhaskett@bsu.edu. Any content related to peacekeeping, conflict resolution, or current events in relation to positive work being done for our global community is appreciated.

ORGANIZATIONS

International Justice Mission

IJM is a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world. IJM fights by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors, and strengthening justice systems. The group meets Tuesdays at 6:00PM in the Student Center, room 301.

Cardinal Kitchen

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

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.

Global Brigades

Global Brigades is an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to meet their health and economic goals through university volunteers and local teams.

Feminists for Action

Feminists for Action is a group dedicated to the empowerment of women, men, and children through advocacy and education. They strive to educate others about issues in the global, national, and community level. They encourage thought-provoking discussions and work to organize events to benefit feminist causes. FA meets Tuesdays at 6:00PM in Burkhardt Building room 220.

Ethnic Theatre Alliance

The purpose of Ethnic Theatre Alliance is to explore worldviews of cultures, diversity, and social justice in order to educate members through Fine Arts. They do this in accordance with the Ball State University mission to create a community for the members to learn and develop worldview cultures so they may become better artists and people.

OFF-CAMPUS GROUPS

- A Better Way
- AWAKEN
- Edible Muncie of Delaware County
- Islamic Center
- Muncie Action Plan
- Muncie Human Rights Commission
- Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- Muncie OUTreach
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- YWCA
- Whitely Community Council
- United Way of Delaware County
- Blood N Fire

ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED

Ball State University Social Justice League

The Ball State University Social Justice League (SJJ) is an organization of students and faculty members united by their commitment to social justice. The SJJ seeks 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.

Student Action Team

SAT is an organization made up of general members and housing and residence life representatives. This organization is dedicated to volunteering and supporting Ball State University. SAT meets 4PM on Mondays in the Kinghorn multipurpose room.

Spectrum

Spectrum's goal is to provide an anonymous, healthy and safe place for Ball State University students and surrounding communities who are discovering their sexual orientation to help find an understanding network of support. Spectrum meets Thursdays at 8:00 PM in SC 310. Prior to meetings, they meet to have informal family dinner in the Tally at 6:30PM.

OXFAM America

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

Students for Life

Ball State Students for Life (BSSFL) is committed to the protection of all human life; from conception until natural death. They strive to educate members and the Ball State University community about why they value life in all its forms. They strive to respond with love, compassion, and support to those who suffer from restrictions of life. BSSFL meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8PM in the Whiting Business Building room 142.

Call to Action

Call to Action (CTA) is a student organization at Ball State looking to educate and create awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) political issues at the local, state, and federal levels in order to empower students to take positive action towards equality for LGBT individuals and to influence others to take positive action. CTA has meetings on Mondays at 7:30PM in Teacher's College room 108.

BSU COUNSELING CENTER SUPPORT GROUPS

Every year, hundreds of students, faculty, and staff members use the services of the Counseling Center at BSU. This comprehensive services office provides free and confidential psychological and career resources to students. Call (765) 285-1736 or stop by Lucina Hall, Room 320. All support groups start the week of 9/10/18.



Understanding Self and 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. This group has sessions multiple times a week. Mondays 1:00-2:30PM. Wednesday 1:00-2:30PM and 3:00-4:30PM.

Weight Not, Want Not

Weight Not, Want Not is a supportive group for women with eating disorders or body image struggles who want to explore effective ways of coping. Its time is to be determined by availability of group members.

Safe Haven

This therapy group provides a safe place for LGBT 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. Safe Haven meets every Tuesday from 2:00-3:30PM.

Surviving and Thriving

Surviving and Thriving is aimed to help sexual assault survivors. In this group, students share their experiences, find ways to cope, and gain perspective. The time for this group is to be determined by availability of group members.

Life ProTips

This four week workshop is meant to help better understand your thoughts and feelings to better overcome the daily challenges of life. This group meets on Mondays 4:00-5:00PM.

Building Resilience

This four week workshop helps you learn useful skills to empower you to build resiliency when things feel out of control. Meets on Mondays 3:00-4:00PM.

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. Our services include monthly events, newsletters, the Social Justice League, the Muncie Interfaith Fellowship, meditation classes, mediation training and services.

Staff Members

- Director: Lawrence Gerstein, Ph.D.
- Interim Director: Maria Hernandez Finch, Ph.D.
- Research Fellow: Gerald Waite, M.A.
- Curriculum Coordinator: Steven Hall, Ph.D.
- Outreach Coordinator: Beth Messner, Ph.D.
- Graduate Assistant: Aashna Banerjee

To include your events in the newsletter, please write to abanerjee@bsu.edu

Come visit us!

- Address: Our office is located at 310 McKinley Avenue, Muncie, 47306.
- We are the white house across the street from the campus shuttle bus stop at the BSU Student Center!
- Our doors are open 9 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday.

Do drop by!



Follow us!

