The Olive Branch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- United Arab Emirates: Power to the Youth
- Together for All: Peaceful Efforts in Times of Climate Change
- Indy Festival of Faiths 2018
- Conferences
- End Zone Red Zone
- On and Off Campus Events
- Organizations
- Support Groups
- About Us

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

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.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
EST. 1918

Shamma Mazrui

UNITED ARAB EMRATES: POWER TO THE YOUTH

Today, social media connects our world. It is a social norm to have access to the internet or a cell phone leading to pertinent links between individuals and communities. This connectedness seems to be most prominent in the younger generations of society and is exemplified by the works of Shamma Al Mazrui. Using the power of social media, Mazrui has bridged the generational gap between law-makers and their constituents, in her position in the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In 2016, Shamma Al Mazrui was appointed to the position of Minister of State for Youth Affairs in the UAE by Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. At 22 years, she is the youngest member in a cabinet where the average age is 30, and the youngest government minister in the world. She was appointed to her current position after Al Maktoum tweeted asking the UAE's universities to nominate a young person for the role. As UAE's first Rhode's scholar at the University of Oxford with passionate political views, the choice to appoint Mazrui was clear. She is one of eight women in the twenty-nine-member cabinet and has made it her goal to create pathways for young people to have more engagement with government and within society. This increase in the involvement of the youth has been valuable to the progression of the Emirati nation, and Al Maktoum's work has reached innumerable community members through social connections and media usage.

> "I am only now starting to embark on my journey… and yes, it is a huge responsibility on these young shoulders, but it also shows that every one of our young men and women can afford to have dreams that touch the sky. That our ambition knows no limits." said Shamma bint Suhail Faris Mazrui (Emirates News Agency, 2016).

Al Mazrui has included the youth in the process of Emirati governance and policy in multiple ways. First, she established the National Youth Council, which brings together young community members from a variety of backgrounds to represent the affairs of youth to the government. The goal of this council is to allow the youth of the UAE to voice the ways they believe social justice can be made possible. In gaining this new perspective, the UAE has been able to make strong progress for the sake of peace in their community. Second, she established "youth circles," which allow young people to participate in meetings that research global issues pertinent to society today, including climate change and education. In doing so, Mazrui's initiatives are providing a platform for communication between the government and young people. Acting as a representative of the issues and aspirations of their own generation, Mazrui and her team's voices are growing stronger in the global political conversation. Lastly, Mazrui actively speaks about the role of the youth in the Middle East at international events, which allows the voice of Emirati youth to be heard.

Mazrui's work in reaching out to society members on social media outlets illustrates the ever-changing ways in which we can connect and communicate with each other. Her policy changes are peaceful as well as inclusive. If we were to replicate the methods that Mazrui is using in the United States, we may be able to increase the influence that young people have in our society. We have already seen an application of Mazrui's social media tactics in the U.S., but we still need more youthful members in the federal government cabinet to positively influence policy making.

References

Emirates News Agency. (2016, February 25). Nothing impossible in UAE: Youth minister tells youngsters. Retrieved from http://wam.ae/en/details/1395292013353

TOGETHER FOR ALL: PEACEFUL EFFORTS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In a world with increasing temperatures and melting glaciers, one cannot help but wonder if the recent catastrophic weather events are a byproduct of climate change. Domestically, Hurricane Florence devastated the states of North and South Carolina, and Virginia, while Hurricane Michael struck Florida. Internationally, the Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami ravaged Indonesia. Even though these events left catastrophe behind, they also brought nations, communities, and organizations together in an act of solidarity to provide for those in need.

Hurricane Florence made landfall in the Carolinas on September 14th and left behind a death toll of 53 people and an estimated property damage of $38 billion. Despite the havoc Florence caused, nations and organizations were quick to respond. 40,000 workers from across the United States and Canada went to the Carolinas to restore power. Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency mobilized its forces with other departmental agencies including the Interior Department to send rescue teams to heavily flooded areas. Relief efforts poured in from organizations including the Lilly Foundation, which pledged to match each dollar donation given to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Although somewhat less impactful than Florence, Hurricane Michael landed in Florida on October 7th, and caused property damage of $6.1 billion and a death toll of 36 people. Rapid response, however, was seen in the form of relief from various agencies charged with restoring power and providing temporary housing and meals for the people affected.

Overall, when disaster strikes, as was the case with Florence and Michael, it can be difficult to find reprieve. However, the support provided by community members, and national organizations served to highlight the importance of rapid mobilization and community assistance—demonstrating the power of the collective as people from various backgrounds came together for the same purpose.

Internationally, on September 28th, a deadly tsunami devastated the eastern Sulawesi island in Indonesia, leaving 1600 people dead, and many more displaced. Although the tsunami took Indonesia by surprise, the response from the international community is notable. Apart from hefty monetary donations from the United States and the United Kingdom, assistance has also poured in through other means. Other countries contributed shelter kits, medical equipment, medical teams, and solar lanterns, while India launched Operation *Samudra Maitri* (extending friendship through the sea) sending aircraft and naval ships with relief materials .

Overall, it appeared that in situations of adversity caused by natural disasters, nations, organizations, and communities came together in an act of solidarity. Their efforts attempted to bring peace to regions wrecked by natural disasters, by helping in terms of monetary donations, skills, and medical aid. There is no doubt that without their assistance, the disastrous effects of these tragedies would have been felt for an extended period.

Such acts of helping remind us that unity in adversity is truly an important aspect of demonstrating humanness. Although, the organizations, nations, and communities offering assistance may have differed extensively, they were able to combine their strengths to support communities in distress; highlighting the importance of bridging differences to aid reconstruction efforts and mitigate loss. By displaying selflessness and aiding their neighbors near and far away, they contributed to bringing peace to areas of unrest, while working towards building a culture of support and care.

INDY FESTIVAL OF FAITHS 2018

The Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) held their 6th annual Festival of Faiths in downtown Indianapolis on October 14th. Notably, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies partnered with this festival and participated in the celebrations with the presence of our Traveling Peace Pole. The festival was designed to recognize, highlight, and celebrate the diverse religious landscape in Central Indiana. A primary goal of the festival was to heighten awareness about the many religious congregations that coexist in Central Indiana and to provide an opportunity to share and learn about each other's traditions in an open and public setting.

The festival was first celebrated in the fall of 2013 and has steadily grown each year. Since the formation of the CIC in 2011, the organization has built up a large, robust, and diverse network of partnerships with Central Indiana congregations, colleges, and universities, and civic and community organizations. One of its most important assets in fulfilling this mission is CIC's diverse and active board, consisting of forty religious and community leaders.

This year's festival theme was "Compassion Through Action," and brought together three dozen groups and congregations as the Midwest's largest one-day celebration of religious diversity and vitality. The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies displayed its traveling peace pole, created in 2017 for our event entitled, "Build Peace." The peace pole offers individuals a chance to share their concept of peace on a colorful paper circle, thereby forming a visual reminder of the diversity and commitment to peace embraced by members of Ball State University and now persons in Central Indiana. The peace pole also serves to commemorate persons who lost their lives in April because of violent tragedies.

The Festival of Faiths was a remarkable sight because it provided a forum for individuals from numerous faiths to assemble. This is especially notable given the normative heterogeneity in the Midwest, a point made by several religious group leaders during the welcoming ceremony. All the displays and activities at the Festival were a call to learn how to coexist with people of various walks of life, religions included, and a call to figure out how to pursue peace through understanding and cooperation. The Festival facilitated a beautiful collection of cultures and encouraged its participants to view each other as fellow human beings, despite potential differences. We were grateful for the opportunity to participate in an event where people from all backgrounds could come together to celebrate life, each other, our unique differences, and the promise of a more peaceful future.

2018 ESR MINISTRY OF WRITING COLLOQUIM

FROM INSIDE OUT: HEALING OURSELVES, BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES

Date: November 2-3, 2018.

Location: Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN.

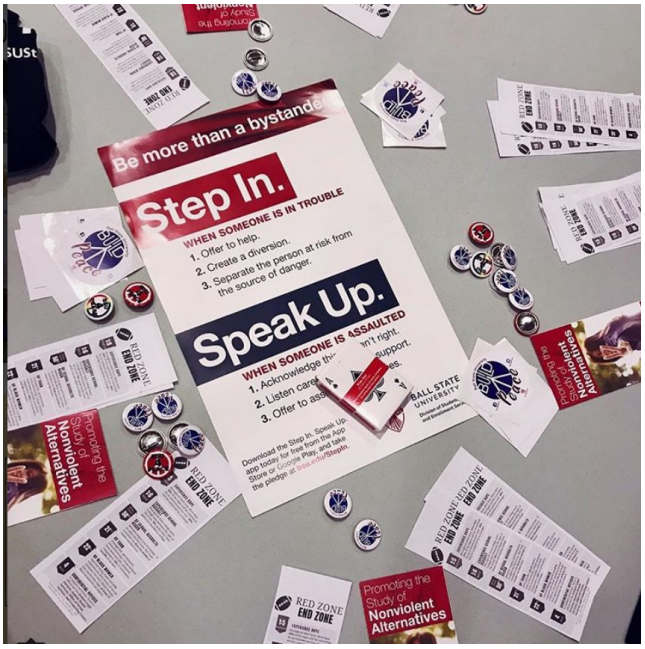
Keynote: Rev. Carol Howard Merritt will deliver her keynote address on "Our Art is Our Breath".

You can learn more about the Colloquium at https://esr.earlham.edu/news-events/events/writers18.!

CONFERENCES

- Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference 2018. Bangkok, Thailand. November 5th-7th.
- Geneva Peace Week, Building Peace in a Turbulent World. Geneva, Switzerland. November 5th-9th, 2018.
- The Paris Peace Forum. La Grande Halle de La Villette. Paris, France. November 11th-13th, 2018.
- Academicsera, 344th Annual International Conference on Human Rights (ICHR). Los Angeles, California. November 18th-19th. Chicago, Illinois. November 22nd-23rd.

END ZONE RED ZONE



One in four female students report being sexually assaulted during their time at college according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. Additionally, more than 50% of college sexual assaults occur from August to November in any given year. During this time, the first six weeks of the fall semester has an exceptionally high number of assault incidents; a phenomenon called the "Red Zone." Students and organizations in college campuses across the United States have been hard at work to raise awareness of this issue and make resources available in case of sexual assault. For our Peace Center's October event, we collaborated with other campus organizations to raise awareness about the issue of sexual assault.

On October 24th, the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies co-hosted "End Zone Red Zone" with Step In Speak Up, the Student Government Association, and the Resident Halls Association. This event aimed to spread awareness about sexual assaults on campus and the existence of the dangerous Red Zone period. The potential reasons that the number of incidents happen during this period could be increased alcohol consumption at the beginning of semesters, students' guards are down as they look to make friends, and there is more time to socialize. Ball State University offers many resources for students who have experienced sexual assault. These resources include the Office of Health, Alcohol, and Drug Education, the Office of Victim Services, and the Step In Speak Up student organization.

End Zone Red Zone aimed to bring BSU students together and to explore the subject of sexual assault in a relaxed environment. As a part of the event, students gathered to play yard games, had a chance to win Step In Speak Up merchandise, and enjoyed a safe space to talk about issues related to sexual assault. Information about sexual assault and resources were available to all participants as well. Overall, we are grateful to have been able to participate in this event and we aim to continue to raise awareness about the problem of sexual assault, especially on college campuses.

ON AND OFF CAMPUS EVENTS CONTINUED

Monday, November 5 **Crowdfunding Basics for Your Neighborhood - 5:30 PM**

Crowdfunding platforms such as Go Fund Me, Kickstarter, and Patroncity offer unique opportunities to raise funds for individual and neighborhoods. This November 5th training will continue a monthly series hosted by Muncie Action Plan, Ball State's Building Better Neighborhoods program, Shafer Leadership Academy, and the Bowen Center for Public Affairs. In this session, they plan to review the basics of these platforms along with fundamental strategies for implementation. The events are free and open to anyone who wants to take an active role in their community.

Tuesday, November 6 **Get your Free Voter ID! - 10:30 AM**

The League of Women Voters of Muncie has partnered with the Downtown MITS bus station to provide FREE rides to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to obtain FREE voter IDs! To be eligible to get you ID bring one document proving your identity, one document proving your social security number, two documents proving our Indiana residency and one document proving your lawful status in the United States. All documents must be original and/or certified documents. For more information, go to mitsbus.org or call 765-289-MITS (6487).

Wednesday, November 7th **Perspectives in Student Center Forum Room - 3:00 PM**

Perspective is a monthly inter-dialogue event talking about issues of diversity, social justice, and equity. Each month, the Multicultural Center discusses a new issue to light in order to start a discussion. The hope is that these discussions will bring attention to the varying perspectives of an issue and potentially move those involved to seek an open, respectful dialogue about tough topics actively. These events are an open space where ideas and thoughts are respected.

Saturday, November 10 **Candidates of the Future - 9 AM**

Facilitated by the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University, this workshop is rooted in the belief that everyday citizens can lead. This six-hour workshop is for anyone, regardless of political experience, who has an interest in running for local office and wants to learn more about the campaign process. The purpose of the Bowen Center for Public Affairs is to advance civic literacy, community involvement, public service, and nonpartisan government research to make a difference for the community

ON AND OFF CAMPUS EVENTS CONTINUED

Sunday, November 11 **Spaghetti Dinner - 12PM**

This event is sponsored by The Unitarian Universalist Church. Its goal is to raise money for the parish, and provide education on drug use and LGBTQ+ harm reduction. All ages are encouraged to attend.

Monday, November 12th **EIL Speaker Series: Elaine Welteroth - 7:00PM**

Excellence in Leadership presents the Fall 2018 Speaker, Elaine Welteroth. As a former Teen Vogue editor-in-chief, Elaine is committed to diversity and social justice. The Excellence in Leadership speaker series provides a platform for some of the nation's most recognized leaders to share their experiences, insight, and knowledge with our campus. Speakers all share a unique perspective on what it means to lead, and how students can strive to make an impact, now and in the future.

Wednesday, November 14 **Blood-N-Fire Muncie Ministries Food Pantry - 3:00 PM**

The monthly BNF Ministries Food Pantry serves to assist families that are struggling to put enough food on the table and make ends meet. This program is open to the public, and all are welcome. Volunteers are also welcome and encouraged. Additionally, Blood N Fire hosts community meals every Saturday. Doors open at 4 p.m. and the meal is served at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday November 28th **Rinker Center's Cultural Exchange - 12:00 PM**

The Rinker Center for International Programs hosts culture exchanges each week where a student or group of students presents information on a country. Students native to the country lead most of the cultural exchanges, and every week the exchange highlights a different country. The majority of exchanges provide an overview of the country and its culture with time set aside for a question and answer session. The Rinker Center and the Multicultural Center sponsor this event.

Thursday, November 29 **November 2018 Blood Drive@ 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in Pruis Hall**

As one of the community service projects of the Ball State Staff Council, the Angels for Life Committee has been working with the Indiana Blood Center since 2008 holding blood drives on campus. Each month, the American Red Cross at Ball State hosts a blood drive for the Ball State and Muncie communities.

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 (SJL) is an organization of students and faculty members united by their commitment to social justice. The SJL 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 Whitinger 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 be 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, 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 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.
- Research Fellow: Gerald Waite
- 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!

310 McKinley Avenue, Muncie, 47306
White house located across the street from the campus shuttle bus stop at the BSU Student Center!

9 AM-4 PM: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9 AM-5 PM: Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Do drop by!

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