



All People, All Voices, All Matter.

It has been another very meaningful season with the Peace and Justice Initiative. From the events with Carl Wilkens, the only American who chose to remain in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide and the Director of World Outside My Shoes which seeks to inspire and equip people to stand up against genocide, racism, and intolerance; to the engaging events with Dr. George Lopez, Vice President of the United States Institute of Peace's Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding; and the community event to discuss privilege and unearned advantage with Dr. Peggy McIntosh, an anti-racism activist and educator, the associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women and the founder and co-director of the National S.E.E.D. Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), the PJI has had a purposeful and productive fall. Please enjoy our bi-annual newsletter that tells many inspiring stories through words and images that highlight the impact of the PJI.



To keep up with events and information about the Initiative, <u>Like us on Facebook!</u>

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Global Peace Week 2014

VALENCIACOLLEGE

Peace and Justice Initiative

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Newsletter edited by Rachel Allen and Krystal Pherai Featuring photography by Willie J. Allen Jr.

FEATURED

Global Peace Week September 15-19, 2014



This fall, in celebration the International Day of Peace, the Initiative hosted its second annual Global Peace Week, with the celebrations reaching 5 Valencia all Campuses! The week's events included peace education, festivals

with music, arts, crafts, guest speakers, Playback Theatre, workshops on emotional intelligence, coexistence, compassionate listening, and metta meditation, and screenings of the Global Peace Film Festival (GPFF).

Carl and Teresa Wilkens also visited Valencia for their second year in a row as part of Global Peace Week. Carl, a humanitarian aid worker was the only American to stay in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994. Together, Carl and Teresa founded World Outside My Shoes, a nonprofit organization committed to inspiring and equipping people to enter the world of "The Other." Their new film, titled after Carl's book *I'm Not Leaving*, was also screened at Valencia as part of the GPFF.

The United Nations sanctioned International Peace Day is September 21st of every year. The mission of Peace Day is to have at least one harmonious, non-violent, cease-fire day throughout the world. Visit Peace One Day for background on how International Peace Day came into being and for more information on what you can do to help accomplish a global change.



Having fun making a human peace sign



PJI Coordinator Rachel Allen during the East Campus Global Peace Week festivities



A big hit during the East Campus Peace Day festivities was the "Conversation Pool." With thought-provoking questions written on balloons, students gathered in the pool to engage in powerful discussions about nonviolence.



Global Peace Week Festivities



Painting Peace Rocks



Students enjoying the Osceola Campus Festival



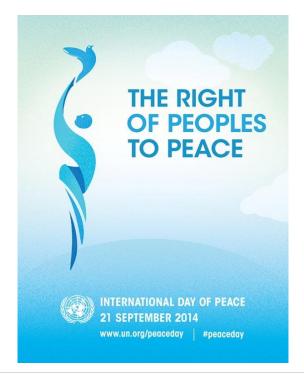
Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982.



Professor Lott helping students with a nonviolence survey



Playback Theatre through Satori Entertainment



Global Peace Week Workshops



Professor Michael Savage facilitated a workshop on the Rwandan Genocide



Professors Michael Savage and Yasmeen Qadri



Chris Cuevas ,from the Office of Students with Disabilities facilitated an interactive workshop on Emotional Intelligence



Professor Mollie McLaughlin (above) and Professor Hank Van Putten (below) enjoy the Emotional Intelligence Workshop with students and fellow faculty





Professor Jim Belcher facilitated a workshop titled "Coexisting with ALL Species: The Social, Environmental and Economic Mess We Are In."

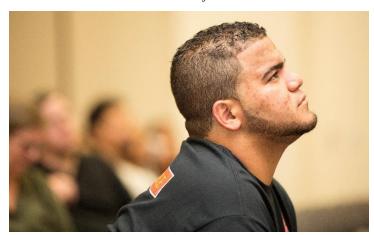
Global Peace Week: Featuring Carl and Teresa Wilkens and Their New Film *I'm Not Leaving*



Teresa and Carl Wilkens speaking after I'm Not Leaving



Professor Mayra Holzer led the West Campus Global Peace Week's activities as part of her honor as the Patricia Havill Whalen Endowed Chair for 2014-2015



Peace and Justice Ambassador Joseph Torres







Jim Coffin and Bryan Fulwider from the <u>Interfaith Council</u> speak with Wilkens at the West Campus event



Professor Subhas Rampersaud with his HERO club

Dr. George Lopez Returns to Valencia October 16-17, 2014



Consultant and friend of the PJI, Dr. George A. Lopez became vice president of <u>USIP's Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding in August 2013 after 27 years at the <u>Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies</u> at the University of Notre Dame where he held the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., chair in Peace Studies. Lopez's research on state violence has been published in a wide range of social science and policy journals. He has been a frequent commentator about war and peace issues in the national and international media. He has consulted with the PJI to support the growth of our curriculum and peacebuilding work. Below are highlights from Lopez's October visit.</u>

Peacebuilding Amidst So Much Violence: A New Assessment

With the continued brutal violence in Sudan, Congo, the emergence of ISIL in Iraq and Syria, and the invasion of Crimea by Russia, we might be led to believe that war and violence are winning more than ever before. In his keynote address at the West Campus on October 16th, Dr. George A. Lopez explored these topics and the question, "Is war winning?" The standing-room only lecture and discussion served to be very engaging and helpful in examining relevant issues of today.



Professor Aida Diaz engaging in the discussion

"Learn to Serve. Serve to Learn." Workshop Inspires Service Learning at Valencia



On Thursday, October 16, 2014, the Office of Curriculum Initiatives and the Peace and Justice Initiative hosted a half-day workshop focused on peace building through service titled "Learn to Serve. Serve to Learn" at the West Campus Special Events Center.

The workshop brought together faculty, staff and students to engage with keynote speaker Dr. George A. Lopez, as they developed strategies to enrich students academically, civically, personally and preprofessionally.

"The workshop gave me an opportunity to think through a plan to imbed Service Learning into my 20th Century Humanities course," shared Rachel Allen, professor, humanities. "I look forward to partnering with Knowledge for Living, a nonprofit in downtown Orlando, and its executive director Aminah Hamidullah, as our class explores the Civil Rights movement of the mid-20th Century and examines the historical basis, including national policies that resulted in the struggling, low-income communities we encounter today.



"This type of integrated, engaged learning will surely inspire and motivate my students to think deeply about the issues introduced, assess and communicate theirs and others' values and move toward action in the form of a

service project that we design as a class — meeting Valencia's core competencies in the process," she said.

Robyn Brighton, director, curriculum initiatives adds, "Service learning continues to evolve with every year, and the feedback we receive from students has been amazing."



In addition to the Office of Curriculum Initiatives and the Peace and Justice Initiative, the "Learn to Serve. Serve to Learn." workshop was made possible by the Office of Faculty Development and Instructional Development.

This article first appeared in the Valencia Grove.





Christie Miller has been a college leader in Service Learning

Dinner, Dessert, and Conversation

The Peace and Justice Initiative's Advisory Council spent the evening of October 16th with Peace and Justice Ambassadors and members of the Notre Dame Club of Greater Orlando to enjoy a Hesburgh Lecture Series event about global and local peacebuilding featuring Notre Dame's Professor Emeritus Dr. Lopez. The event, organized by Notre Dame Alumni Mary Heaton, marked the beginning of a fruitful partnership.



Dr. George Lopez and Mary Heaton with members of the Notre Dame Club of Greater Orlando



PJI Advisory Council member, Aminah Hamidullah sharing about her non-profit, Knowledge for Living



PJI Advisory Council member and Professor Subhas Rampersaud adding to Dr. Lopez's discussion



PJI Advisory Council member Patricia Newton, City of Orlando Human Relations Official



Krystal Pherai and Peace and Justice Ambassadors discussing the evening's presentation



Dr. Lopez's residency was sponsored by the <u>United States</u>
<u>Institute of Peace</u>, the <u>Notre Dame Club of Greater Orlando</u>,
the <u>Hesburgh Lecture Series</u>, the Valencia Foundation
through the Patricia Havill Whalen Chair in Social Sciences
awarded to Professor Mayra Holzer, and the Peace and
Justice Initiative.







Dr. Peggy McIntosh, Anti-Racist Educator Returns to Valencia November 20-21, 2014

With a commitment to equitable and diverse campuses and communities, and in response to the continuing national crisis related to race relations, the PJI, in partnership with Rollins College, UCF, the League of Women Voters and Park Maitland School again invited Dr. Peggy McIntosh, antiracist educator, advocate and author of the famous Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack of White Privilege to engage students, faculty and the wider community in dialogue about privilege and unearned advantage. As one participant noted, "These are great things to discuss because they create such a sense of community and an awareness/celebration of differences." One League member noted, "I have not, as a white woman, thought extensively about all of the privileges I have just being myself," and one Rollins student noted, "Bringing four major players and change-makers in Central Florida together with shared purpose and knowledge will radiate waves."



Bouts of Frank Talk Key to Unlocking Ferguson's Roots

November 23, 2014 | By Darryl E. Owens Originally Published in the *Orlando Sentinel*

Peggy McIntosh stood before some 160 collegians and others inside a meeting room at the Winter Park Community Center.

The esteemed feminist, lecturer, and anti-racism crusader looked a bit like Aunt Bee, but sounded a lot like Al Sharpton. "We have been taught, and drunk it in, that white people are 'knowers' and that knowledge is *white*."

What ...

"I was appalled that a lot that I thought I'd earned I hadn't earned. I was just born white in a system" that works for her.

the ...

"We white people were raised to have high opinions of ourselves."

...heck?

Did someone forget to summon the PC police?

Good.



For as long as I've inhabited this column space, after every American racial paroxysm from "Beergate" to Trayvon Martin to Ferguson, I've said the only way to get to the heart of difference is outbreaks of heart-toheart dialogue.

From provocative drama to a silver-haired bomb thrower, I've witnessed that very thing unfolding this past month around Central Florida. What's happening here is heartening, given the storm clouds enveloping Ferguson, Mo., as the grand jury decides the fate of a white cop who shot dead an unarmed black teenager.

This growing awareness that the root of Ferguson's thorny problem — race, cultural diversity and marginalization — are salient issues Central Floridians dare not duck.

The recent run started at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, where I caught the improbably true "Best of Enemies," a jarring play about the journey toward friendship for a poor civil rights activist and a Klansman.

A play that dared to reveal hard truths. "Black, white; those are just skin colors," declared Mary Atwater, chosen by a clever bureaucrat to work with the segregationist in helping make desegregation work in Durham, N.C. "I think there's a lot more to it than that."

"I think there's something inside us, every one of us that freezes up when we see anybody different; it's like a gate that slams down so we can feel safe behind it." Her antagonist, C.P. Ellis, saw things differently: "The truth is that whites and (you know the epithet) will never get along because they shouldn't."

I watched the incendiary dialogue explode in the ears of a largely white audience. It cheered me to see the fire in their eyes signaled disagreement.

Recently, I moderated a forum at the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center in Maitland focusing on marginalized communities. The distinguished panel volleyed frank questions with the audience in a productive, open discussion examining how exclusion due to classifiers such as race, religion or immigration status cripples one's humanity.

Last week, came the Peace and Dialogue Awards presented by the Atlantic Institute, which traffics in cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue. What a delight to witness a diverse sea of faiths and ethnicities engaged in mutual social exploration.



Then, there was McIntosh — author of the polemical 1989 article, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." At the session, "Moving Us Closer to E pluribus Unum," put on by Rollins College, University of Central Florida, Valencia College and the League of Women Voters, she'd drop napalm — like debunking the myth of white internalized superiority — and watch the

racial rainbow of listeners catch fire with one-minute, one-way, one-on-one soliloquies.

Breathtaking, cathartic, and eye opening.



Professor Hank Van Putten in discussion with students

"Facing race," McIntosh has written, "I have learned, opens new doors to possibility and connection. My life has been transformed by walking through those doors."

Truth is, those who walked through the doors at those events I've chronicled are the choir to whom I've preached. Still, if we are ever to fully demolish these barriers, and promote greater understanding, it's up to these enlightened souls who know better to do better.

To return to their communities, become a conscious contagion, and spread John F. Kennedy words: "If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity."



Sister Gail Grimes from the <u>Hope CommUnity Center</u> shared the importance of the evening's topic for our community.

EVENTS

PJI and the League of Women Voters of Orange County Team Up for Screening of *Girl Rising*



On September 12th, the Initiative and the <u>League of Women Voters of Orange County</u> teamed up for the second annual community screening of the <u>Global Peace Film Festival</u> to show the power of film and women, this year with <u>Girl Rising</u>. Girl Rising journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change

the world. Viewers get to know nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to achieve their dreams. Prize-winning authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned actors give them voice.

After the film screening, the audience engaged in a panel discussion which included former Peace and Justice Initiative intern and recent UCF graduate, Linnette Bonilla, Valencia Professor of Education, Dr. Yasmeen Qadri, and UCF's Director of Women's Studies, Dr. M.C. Santana. Krystal Pherai, Staff Assistant of PJI served as the moderator of the panel.





Professor Emeritus Registers Voters



Voters of Orange County.

Just in time for the mid-term elections, Penny Villegas, Professor Emeritus of Peace Studies helped Valencia students on the East Campus register to vote! Penny not only registered new voters, but also shared the importance of voting and provided students with non-partisan voter guides from the League of Women

Iron Eagle Welcomes PJI to Retreat Center



Apache Medicine Man and dear friend of the Initiative, Iron Eagle hosted a day-long retreat at his beautiful land in Ocala on November 2nd. The day included a talking feather circle, lighting the fire ceremony, meditation, water blessing ceremony, and prayer dance.

Considering that the first great injustice on our own land was carried out against the native people, the PJI greatly values the chance to partner with Iron Eagle in order to educate, reconcile and build bridges of understanding and compassion. As we continue to heal past harms and move forward with shared values, we gain a deep understanding of our inherent interdependnce as taught through Native American philosophy.

Iron Eagle returns to our community the evening of January 24th to launch the week-long *Conversation on Justice* and leads workshops and events throughout the week.



Professor Mollie McLaughlin enjoying the peace and serenity of the forest surroundings



Valencia students, faculty, staff, PJI Advisory Council and community members came together for the daylong retreat.



Hank Van Putten participates in a naming ceremony



The children of various ages ran together and played freely in the woods of Iron Eagle's land.





The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

- Black Elk



PJI and Human Resources Host Conversations on Race



In response to current events, and as our country reflects on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act, we ask ourselves how far we have come toward equitable treatment of all people. Through the *Conversations on Race*, we reflected on the topic of race as it affects each of us in our daily lives and as we consider action steps to help us move forward together toward more equitable communities.

These workshops reached the East, West, and Osceola Campuses during the first week of November. Our dialogue on race will continue during the *Conversation on Justice* in January 2015.

Students reflected on the *Conversations on Race*:

"I feel like I should discuss these issues more with other people because we can help make a change."

"I learned how to engage in conversation about race without having to feel uncomfortable."

"I want to break the stereotypes and educate others on diversity."

"...race really affects us today and we often ignore or accept things people say about another's race, when we should say something...this is an issue we cannot ignore."

"It [the workshop] made me more aware of the power of my voice."

"...I have to make my life a "have to." I never know if I can inspire someone or make a difference if all I do is keep my mouth shut."

"Listening to each other's history is very valuable."

In written reflection, students used the following words to describe the *Conversations on Race*. Click the image to enlarge it.



INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

Valencia Night at the Islamic Society of Central Florida

The <u>Islamic Society of Central Florida</u> hosted its third annual *Valencia Night* on October 10th to welcome 200 people from the Valencia community to learn more about Islam. Valencia students, faculty, staff, and family enjoyed a tour of the mosque, an informational session on the fundamentals of Islam presented by Imam Muhammad Musri, and a delicious Middle Eastern meal.

Students responded to the event positively, noting that it altered their perceptions about Muslims; perceptions that they acknowledge come largely from media images. In the words of one student:

I appreciated all the hard work they did to make us feel comfortable. I like that I saw others challenging themselves and asking questions, listening and putting judgments aside...I am grateful that I went because the knowledge stuck with me and I can pass it on to someone else who may not understand [Islam].

To view a video of Valencia Night, click here.



The Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering Kicks Off International Education Week

The fall Peace Breakfast took place on November 17th as the kick-off event for International Education Week at Valencia's East Campus. Reverend Kathy Schmitz of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Imam Muhammad Musri of the Islamic Society of Central Florida, and Reverend Bryan Fulwider of Building US led an engaging interfaith discussion, answering questions and sharing prayers from their different faith traditions.



The Peace Breakfast, hosted bi-annually, serves as a time for people of all faiths to enjoy a peaceful morning together of interfaith and cross-cultural sharing.



The Peace Ambassadors with Imam Muhammad Musri, Reverend Kathy Schmitz, and Reverend Bryan Fulwider



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

- Anne Frank

PEACE AND JUSTICE AMBASSADORS

The Peace and Justice Ambassadors give back to the Valencia community and greater Orlando community by assisting the Peace and Justice Initiative with events, projects and activities. The mission of the Peace and Justice Ambassadors is to cultivate student empowerment through activism and outreach that promotes nonviolence, compassion, and dignity for all earthlings, while upholding and embodying the core principles of the Peace and Justice Initiative.

Peace and Justice Ambassadors: Register for Service Learning: SLS 2940, CRN 27601 this spring.

Peace and Justice Ambassador Fall Retreat: How I Found a Voice with PJI

By Wymise (Jessie) Clerzeau, Director of Community Relations for SGA and Peace and Justice Ambassador

Many times in my life I stood quiet when I knew there needed to be a change. I felt as if there was nothing I could do about helping those who were in need. I felt alone and unaware about what was going on in today's society. I knew about homelessness, battered women, and third world poverty-stricken countries. I always wanted to do something but never knew where to start so I just kept quiet, until one day at an SGA meeting I met Krystal Pherai, PJI Staff Assistant. She invited me to join PJI as a Peace and Justice Ambassador, and from there my eyes have opened and I've felt dynamic changes. One event in particular that changed my life was the fall Ambassador Retreat.



Ambassador Stephanie Arredondo, Professor Jim Belcher, and Ambassador Terrance Coakley decorating votive candles



Ambassadors Sharon Caracciolo-Clayton, Rachelle Nemorin, Alice Ngamije, Heather Walker, and Amanda Graham

The September 6th Ambassador Retreat was epic! Many of the PJI Ambassadors attended, as well as the faculty and staff that are a part of the Initiative. I felt at peace; it felt like I was home and a part of a new family. One of the activities that was very impactful was when we all got in a circle and shared about ourselves based on the items we brought with us. The items we shared represented our culture, something that represents our connection to Valencia College, and something that represents our relationship to the concepts of peace and justice or how we integrate peace and justice into our lives. People shared different things. One of the things I shared was my Bible. I explained how I go to the scriptures for my daily needs, how the peace and justice morals also represent the morals in the Bible, and how Jesus calls us to tend to the needy. I also told the group that one day I would like to go into ministry.

One of the professors shared something that was very breathtaking. He wore a mask that looked like a bird. He spoke as if he were the bird himself. He described how hazardous the ocean sea was for him. He asked that somebody do something about it. He gave the bird a voice by simply speaking up for it. From that moment on I knew I was a part of something great and that I found my voice because I was speaking up for something.



PJI has given me a new voice. The retreat taught me that you can make a difference if you are speaking up for something you believe in. It helped me to embrace many different cultures and ethnicities, it gave me a family, but most of all it gave me my voice! No longer will I

hold back. There is much to do.

Iron Eagle and Two White Feathers Join Valencia for Sustainability Day



This year, Valencia's East Campus celebrated the annual Sustainability Day on October 23rd. Through this event, students, faculty, and staff were given tips to living more a sustainable lifestyle, learned about sustainability-

related issues, and participated in a nature walk, among other activities.

Iron Eagle and Two White Feathers joined the Peace and Justice Initiative for Sustainability Day to share Native American wisdom and music, which captivated students' minds and hearts that day.



Iron Eagle and Two White Feathers

Sustainability Day was sponsored by the <u>Valencia Earth</u> <u>Science Association (VESA)</u> and Professor of Biology, Patti Smith.

Listen to the wind, it talks.
Listen to the silence, it speaks.
Listen to your heart, it knows.
Native American Proverb

From Valencia to UCF: PJI Intern Reflects on Journey with the Initiative

By Kelly Ormesher, Valencia Graduate, PJI fall 2014 Intern and Peace and Justice Ambassador

In the spring of 2013, I blindly signed up for a class entitled "Introduction to Peace Studies" taught by the wise and kind-hearted Ms. Eli Solis. I originally thought the course would just be an easy "A." What I did not know, however, was that the course would be the most

thought-provoking and life-changing class that I would end up taking in college. In the first few weeks of the course our professor started telling us about a retreat put on by the Peace and Justice Initiative. I immediately signed up. I walked into the building with shaky hands having no idea what to expect. Within about five minutes I had met some of the most wonderful friends that I could ever imagine. For the first time, I felt like I was right where I was supposed to be: in a room full of loving, non-judgmental, and kind people. The Peace and Justice Staff Assistant, Krystal Pherai, began telling us the responsibilities of an Ambassador and I found myself completely interested and ready to sign up for whatever she needed. Since then, I have been to every meeting and event that I could squeeze into my schedule between school and work.

Even after graduating from Valencia I have been an active Ambassador. I found that there was always something that kept me coming back—I am still not sure whether it is the people involved or the work itself, because both are equally important. In the fall of 2014, I signed up for a service learning class through UCF and immediately called Krystal Pherai and Ms. Rachel Allen, the Coordinator of the Peace and Justice Initiative. I found myself sitting in the office within a few days and now that I am coming to the bittersweet end of the semester, I cannot believe how fast it has flown by.



Being an Ambassador for almost two years, I have been to many events such as movie screenings, key note speakers, and volunteering in the community. What I was lacking, however, was being a part of the planning process. By becoming the service learning intern I spent a few days a week in the office with Krystal and

Ms. Allen. I got to see the inner workings of the organization and found out just how much work is put into each and every event. I got the opportunity to help create flyers and distribute them, spread the word about events to professors and students, and organize supplies. This was all before the event even began! It was truly rewarding to see all of the hard work pay off when I witnessed students enjoying themselves at the events throughout the semester.



Heather Walker and Kelly Ormesher

Being an Ambassador, and more recently an intern, has absolutely changed my life. I have met people I never dreamed of such as Dr. Peggy McIntosh, UN Ambassador Chowdhury, and Carl Wilkens. I have learned to be more accepting, more compassionate, and more caring. I have learned just how much work it takes to run an organization and have gained even more respect for the wonderful Krystal Pherai and Rachel Allen.

And, after years of searching, I have learned what I want to do with my future and it is simple: I want to help people. In the touching words of The Dalai Lama, The planet does not need more 'successful people.' The planet desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of all kinds. It needs people to live well in their places. It needs people with moral courage willing to join the struggle to make the world habitable and humane and these qualities have little to do with success as our culture is the set.

HEROS Discuss Human Trafficking

By Subhas Rampersaud Professor of Political Science and Yoga, HERO Advisor, and PJI Advisory Council Member

In partnership with International Student Services and in observance of International Education Week, November 17-21 the West Campus HERO (Human Empathy and Rights Organization) student club organized an event to raise awareness around human sex trafficking.

The event commenced with a documentary on global sex trafficking titled <u>Not My Life</u>, followed by a panel discussion. Panelists included Jane Shugart, a volunteer with <u>Shed Light District</u>, Sarah Webb and JoEllen Revell from the <u>Victim Service Center of Central</u>

Florida, Diana Scimone, author and founder of the Born2Fly Project, and Dr. Doreen Watson, West Campus Professor of Sociology. The post-film discussion lasted for a full hour with engaging questions from students.

HERO's also organized a clothes drive for <u>Transitions</u>, a small resale boutique that supports women desiring freedom from sexual exploitation. Much thanks to Professor Mayra Holzer, West Campus Peace and Justice Chair and her intern Karena Louis, Bliss Thompson of International Student Services, and the West Campus security and custodial team.



Panelists with Subhas Rampersaud





PEACE STUDIES CURRICULUM

Peace and Justice Studies Courses at Valencia

CCJ 2930: Peace, Conflict and the Police EDG: 2935: Promoting the Culture of Peace ENC 1102: Freshman Composition II:

Perspectives on War, Philosophies of Peace Multimedia Literature and the Holocaust

LIT 2174: Multimedia Literature and the PAX 1000: Introduction to Peace Studies

PSY 2930: Psychology of Peace PSY 2930: Positive Psychology SLS 2940: Service Learning WOH 2003: A History of Genocide

For course descriptions, please visit this <u>link</u>.



Peace and Justice Faculty Curriculum

"Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher."

- Parker J. Palmer

The Peace and Justice Initiative at Valencia College promotes peace and justice for all. Our aim is to nurture an inclusive, caring and respectful environment on campus and within our community--one where conflict leads to growth and transformation, rather than violence or aggression. Faculty members who wish to integrate practices promoting these values into their classrooms are encouraged to engage in faculty development courses with the Peace and Justice Curriculum.

Principles of Peace and Justice Pedagogy

- Places collaborative relationship as central to the work, focusing on the culture of collaboration
- Encourages a reflective practice to support meaning and purpose (mindfulness practice, emotional intelligence)
- Addresses conflict as a source and opportunity for growth and transformation
- Uses the tools of dialogue, discussion and conversation (introduces the *Principles for How We Treat Each Other*) in the classroom
- Supports an inclusive community in which all voices are heard and valued; engages in the exploration of the "other" with an acknowledgement of our inherent interdependence.
- Recognizes that there can be no peace without justice for all.

Faculty Course Offerings

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Fostering Cultural Responsibility
- Creating Safe Space for Dialogue
- Working with Conflict
- The Danger of a Single Story: Racial Identity Development

- Cultivating the Contemplative Mind in Education through Research, Practice, and Personal Insight
- SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Seminar
- Special Topics: Developing the Culture of Peace
- Special Topics: Teaching Peace in the 21st Century
- Special Topics: Peace and Justice Retreat (spring semester, two days off campus)
- Emotional Intelligence
- The Principles for How We Treat Each Other

In addition to faculty PhD's and leaders in these areas, the Peace and Justice Initiative invites expert consultants and scholars to advance the curriculum. This work is developed and supported in partnership with the Teaching and Learning Academy.

For more information about the faculty curriculum, contact Celine Kavalec-Miller or Rachel Allen.



SEED I and SEED II

Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity: A Faculty and Staff Development Program at Valencia College

Students "Start Right" with PJI Principles at Winter Park

A message from Stacey Johnson, President, East & Winter Park Campuses



The "Start Right" philosophy and the Peace and Justice Initiative (PJI) principles collided in one Winter Park classroom during the first week of the fall 2014 semester.

English Professor Cate McGowan, hoping to eliminate her first week admonitions and

syllabus rules, embraced a more positive direction. She adopted the Peace and Justice Initiative's principles, "How We Treat Each Other" and coupled it with Valencia's Start Right practice.

Cate implemented the lesson by first emphasizing the importance of "How We Treat Each Other" and provided students with a copy of the principles. She noted that it was the most important handout they would receive all semester.

Additionally, class assignments followed and concluded with a group project where students created the 14th "rule" for "How We Treat Each Other." The students noted that it felt great to have input into the course goals and a handout was provided that combined the students' input as an addendum to the original ideals of "How We Treat Each Other." Click here to read the student addendum.

Cate has found that the climate in her courses has been one of great respect and joy and plans to continue this exercise in the future.

This article first appeared in the <u>Valencia Grove</u>.

For classroom sets of the <u>Principles for How We Treat Each Other</u>, please contact the PJI office or find them online. Let us know other creative ways you are embedding the Principles into your personal and professional life.

Posters of the *Principles for How We Treat Each Other* (11" x 17" and 24" x 30") are available for free to faculty and staff for classrooms, offices, and common spaces on campuses. Please contact the Peace and Justice Office to acquire posters.

Follow this <u>link</u> for printable versions of the *Principles for How We Treat Each Other* found in English, Spanish and Creole.

A Culture of Nonviolence: Honors Students for Peace

By Rebecca Nash, Alpha Gamma Omega, Vice President of Scholarship and Peace and Justice Ambassador

Beginning in the fall semester of 2014, the East Campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Gamma Omega, has become increasingly devoted to the exploration of peace studies and its application in the world. This year, we have chosen to examine the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance movements throughout the 20th century and leading into the present for our annual Honors in Action project.



Honors in Action is a yearly research project conducted by individual chapters of Phi Theta Kappa around the world to facilitate critical thinking and prepare students

academic research later in their college careers. The organization chooses a specific study topic, this year being, "Frontiers and the Spirit of Exploration," from which the individual chapters select one of nine themes to research, using this research to implement a serviceable action to benefit their community. Our chapter has selected, "Borders and Boundaries," as our theme this year, under which we have been able to study the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance movements in terms of the establishment of geographic and sociocultural boundaries.

With the support of the Peace and Justice Initiative, as our serviceable action we are planning an event entitled, "A Walk in Their Shoes." This event will be held in January as a nonviolent resistance demonstration to draw attention to problems facing the homeless community today. It will also double as a fundraiser, with all proceeds being donated to the Coalition for the Homeless. We intend to have several Valencia and community organizations be a part of this event, providing information, sharing food with the homeless, or running sign-making booths. We encourage everyone to get involved to help this worthy cause.

Alongside this event, Alpha Gamma Omega has been working all semester to educate our members and the Valencia community about nonviolence. Recently, we hosted two documentaries with discussions on the topic. The first film was *Five Broken Cameras* after which we discussed specific nonviolence tactics implemented by the Palestinian village as shown in the film. From this screening, not only was a wonderful dialogue started about peace studies, but students and faculty also had the opportunity to watch a controversial film and discuss it in an academic setting, facilitating critical thinking skills.

Our second documentary was A Force More Powerful, which explores successful nonviolent movements from the 21st century. This film generated a student-led

dialogue, exposing the interest in peace studies and conflict resolution within Valencia students. We received a wonderful response for both events and appreciate the support of the Peace and Justice Initiative in these endeavors.

I must say that working this semester as a Peace Ambassador has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my academic career. Learning about the *Principles for How We Treat Each Other* and being able to discuss controversial topics such as race, gender, sustainability, and privilege have allowed me to apply this knowledge into Phi Theta Kappa. *I believe that the integration of peace studies into every organization on campus will help create a more socially sustainable future and I am incredibly grateful to the Peace and Justice Initiative for opening my eyes to the world of peace education.*

The Golden Rule

The following contribution is an assignment from an Introduction to Humanities course that imbeds peace studies into the curriculum by exploring interfaith understanding. For the assignment, students are invited to study the Golden Rule as it is expressed in thirteen of the world's religious texts and to create an artistic expression and written response to their discoveries.

By Ryan Spencer, Introduction to Humanities Student

In reference to the Golden Rule, I created a drawing displaying the tree of life holding up Earth in its branches. The roots of the tree are intertwined with the thirteen religions that incorporate the Golden Rule. The inspiration for my work was the text found in Taoism that states "regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss." As I read this, I began to think of the entire planet as a whole. No matter how different we are or what we believe in, we are all unified in calling this planet our home. I drew the different religious symbols among the tree's roots to represent the beliefs that support our world. If we were to sever a section of the roots, the tree sustaining our planet would be weakened substantially. The more humanity tries to eliminate other belief systems or cultures, the weaker our tree of life becomes, which could eventually destroy Earth for everyone. The roots of the tree are underground which symbolizes the difficulty we have as humans to realize that our differences are also the things binding us together. The more we support each other, the more we are strengthening ourselves.

The more time I put into pondering this concept, the clearer the message appeared to be. Previously, I have never taken much time to analyze the Golden Rule, let alone discover that it is apparent in thirteen different world religions. It was truly enlightening taking the time to do so. The bottom line of this project and what I gathered from my research is that we are all one. Every human being has their own story and traditions but we are all bound together by the place we live. I believe now more than ever that in order to live in a thriving community, we must work together and put our differences aside. If we attempt to end other belief systems and cultures, we are only hurting ourselves.



One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct....loving-kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.

Confucius, Analects 15.23

FACULTY AND STAFF FOCUS

New Team Visited Kroc



Mollie McLaughlin, Professor of Communication and Bonnie Oliver, Professor of Economics attended the week-long *Teaching Peace in the 21st Century Faculty Summer Institute* in June at Notre Dame University. At the <u>Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies</u>, Mollie and Bonnie focused on advancing Valencia's peace and justice studies curriculum and designing their own courses within the curriculum.

Faculty Contributes to Peace Education Journal



Recently, Dr. McDonald had an article accepted for publication in the "Journal of Peace Education" on his work developing a peace and conflict course in criminal justice. In the area of peace and conflict studies, he attended the "Teaching Peace in the 21st Century" workshop at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, as

well as workshops at <u>Eastern Mennonite University</u> on conflict assessment and developing peacebuilding programs. In 2013, he was awarded the Patricia Havell Whalen Endowed Chair in the Social Sciences to develop a study abroad program to Northern Ireland and was recognized for Teaching and Leadership Excellence by the <u>National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development</u> (NISOD).

Valencia Professors Discover the Strength and Hope in Haiti During Peace Education Mission





Paul Chapman, professor of Humanities and Peace Studies, joined a delegation from the Peace and Justice Initiative and St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church of Winter Park for a peace education conference in Jacmel, Haiti. The group

taught conflict mediation and resolution skills to members of the Diocese and the larger community in the Jacmel region. He learned that in the face of unimaginable hardships — both natural and manmade — the resilient maintain a hopeful belief, "Ayiti pap peri!" (Haiti will not perish!).



Until earlier this year, I'd never heard of Jacmel, Haiti, a coastal town about a 3 hour drive southwest from the capital city of Port-au-Prince. However, from August 13 to 17, I joined three colleagues, Professor Eli Solis, Professor Rachel Allen and Professional Photo Journalist Willie Allen, to spend the last few days of my summer break in this small beach side town of about 40,000 people. Our purpose was to run a 3 day Peace Education conference for a group of 45 people made up of teachers, principals, humanitarian workers, and students.

The conference was the result of a partnership with St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Winter Park. The church has been working in Haiti for several years in order to help in the areas of spiritual development, medicine, business, and peace education. Last year a few leaders from the Church heard about the Peace and Justice Initiative at Valencia and asked us for some help in teaching conflict mediation/resolution skills as well as any other tools that might help with everything from neighbor disputes to classroom management.



Professor Paul Chapman teaching the history of nonviolence

With that in mind we developed a variety of sessions devoted to building skills such as conflict resolution and how to have constructive dialogue rather than just debate. We also discussed how our Principles of How We Treat Each Other can be applied to everyday life situations. Lastly, we taught the history and use of nonviolent methods to bring about change. However, as is often the case, I received just as much as I gave during this journey.

After a less than two hour flight from Ft. Lauderdale, we landed in Haiti, a country that proudly carries the honor of being the only place in the world where, after years of struggle, a revolution led by Africans free from the chains of slavery succeeded in establishing a new nation in 1804. Such courageous beginnings are not part of the story often told about Haiti. More common are the stories and images showing the despair, violence, and corruption of the Western hemisphere's poorest country. We also hear of the Haitian diaspora where hundreds of thousands have fled a country in turmoil or of the past conflict and current unstable relationship Haiti has with the Dominican Republic. And yet, while these stories and images are part of the reality of Haiti, we had to find our own stories within this battered but resilient island and its people.

Driving down a major road in the capital city of Port-au-

Prince, Haiti, it is shocking to see the devastating consequences years of civil unrest and instability can cause. To be honest, I don't think I blinked once as we drove from the airport, through the city and into the mountains on our way to Jacmel. Road side tent cities extend into chaotic mazes around Port-au-Prince. Garbage is piled up in ditches and canals in places like Cite Soleil. Basic services like regular access to clean water and trash pick-up are almost non-existent. Still. every once in a while I would see people sweeping the streets. And that's what struck me - under such harsh conditions, the Haitian people were improvising a life for themselves, adapting however they could to the drastic economic, political, and natural disasters that have plagued Haiti for decades and, little by little, moving forward in any way they could.



In sharp contrast to the garbage and rubble of Port-au-Prince, we spent one afternoon hiking through some beautiful mountain trails just above Jacmel. There we found the beautiful waterfalls of Bassin Blue, a paradise-like example of the natural beauty that exists in "La Perle des Antilles" (The Pearl of the Antilles). However, this centuries old description applies not only to Haiti's natural beauty but also, as I realized from my experience, to its people. For example, singing is a huge part of Haitian life. In fact, it was one of the many skills used by our Haitian friends to teach us about building community and peace through music. It was a huge lesson for all of us. We need to step out of the academic role from time to time and make space for something like the power of song to connect us.

So while the news we get about Haiti is often depressing, I can assure you strength and hope are alive and well in Haiti. If you don't believe it, take a moment to look up Frantz Francois, a Gandhian style peace activist living in Cite Soleil, one of Port-au-Prince's most shattered areas. He is a living example of the

Haitian phrase "Ayiti pap peri!" (Haiti will not perish), a hopeful belief that even though Haiti has a history of political turmoil, dictators, and devastating natural disasters, this country of paradoxes will continue to strive for and achieve a better future.



This article first appeared in the Valencia Grove.

For more photos from the Initiative's trip to Haiti, visit Willie J. Allen Jr.'s website.

PJI's Krystal Pherai: Peace Leader and Community Activist

Krystal Pherai, Staff Assistant to the PJI has emerged as a leader in peace education and advocacy at the college and within the community. In her role as coordinator of the Peace and Justice Ambassadors, she models and teaches peace practices for Valencia students. Within the community, she offers a voice for the millennials about peace activism.



In recognition of the passage of the monumental Civil Rights legislation, The Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida brought together institutions and individuals throughout Central Florida to examine the impact of the Civil Rights Act. Valencia College has been

proud to partner in these endeavors.

As part of this commemoration, the Enzian Theater presented a special screening of <u>Booker's Place: A Mississippi Story</u>, followed by a community panel discussion about the film. Krystal Pherai served as one

of the panelists, along with Father Rudolph Cleare, ED of the 'Negro Spiritual' Scholarship Foundation (moderator), John Davis of the Black Chamber of Commerce, and Jill Schwartz, a local civil rights attorney. Belinda Frazier, Board Member of The Holocaust Center, introduced the panelists after the film.

Booker's Place examines the tragic repercussions in a

life when in 1965 one man risked telling the truth in a segregated Southern Mississippi town. Following the screening of the film, audience members



shared personal reactions and asked powerful questions related to education and the challenges we face today to overcome systemic racism, while others asked questions about the Civil Rights Act. Krystal gave her perspective as a college student and young activist, sharing the College's work on antiracism by inviting scholars like Dr. Peggy McIntosh and introducing the SEED Program (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) for faculty and staff. She also revealed some of her generation's hopes and dreams in regards to race relations for the United States.

"I feel honored to have served on my first panel discussion amongst so many incredible community leaders. As the Staff Assistant of the Peace and Justice Initiative, I was proud to share the work Valencia is doing, like SEED, to create a more inclusive atmosphere for all. As an activist, I was happy to share how committed I am as an ally to those who continue to face oppression due to race. I am inspired by Booker Wright, who acted with such courage, despite the inevitable backlash he would face. I commend the Holocaust Center and their partners for hosting these conversations on race, as racism remains a prevalent injustice in our world; one that requires more action and dialogue."



weeks after participating in her first panel discussion, Krystal was invited to sit on a What is Peace? panel as part of the Global Peace Film Festival. The discussion also focused on race relations in the United

States and was moderated by Father Rudolph Cleare.

Additional panelists included Dr. Vanessa Littleton from UCF's School of Public Administration, Allie Braswell, former President of the Central Florida Urban League, and Dr. Cynthia Schmidt, Director of the Center for Law and Policy at UCF.

Krystal serves the community in other ways as well: Biannually she organizes a Fall Fest and Spring Fling for families in residence at the <u>Coalition for the Homeless</u>. Krystal was featured in the Coalition for the Homeless' blog this fall to honor her years of service to the organization. Read the blog post here.



A candid photo of Krystal at the 2014 Fall Fest

This past May, she coordinated her first rally in conjunction with the <u>Bring Back Our Girls</u> movement to bring community awareness to the more than 273 young school girls kidnapped in Nigeria in April 2014.



Krystal recounts her experience:

At our peak, we were 30 individuals strong chanting, "Hey hey, ho ho! Boko Haram has got to go!" and "When women's rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!" Although I fretted over the relatively small size of the rally, reflecting back, I realize I couldn't have asked for a better group. Those 30 individuals were full of energy, passion and commitment to raise awareness of the injustice that is still taking

place. They represented students, faculty, staff and alumni from Valencia College, students from the University of Central Florida and Rollins College, and community partners from the <u>Islamic Center of Orlando</u>, <u>Florida Abolitionist</u>, <u>Amnesty International's Orlando Chapter</u> and <u>YAYA</u>.

The rally was covered on two local news stations, including WFTV and Fox 35 News. Watch the Fox 35 coverage below.



More recently, Krystal and several Peace and Justice Ambassadors have taken part in local rallies concerning police brutality in response to the deaths of unarmed Michael Brown and Eric Garner and the national conversation about racial inequity in the United States.



As a result of her years working with the Initiative and courses in peace education, Krystal notes that the *Principles for How We Treat Each Other*, the PJI's practices of respect and nonviolence, have become an integral part of both her professional and personal life. She is an inspiration for Valencia students with whom she works. Krystal earned an Associate in Arts degree in general studies from Valencia College and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Leadership Studies at the University of Central Florida.

SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Annual Fall Fest



Bi-annually, the PJI partners with classes and clubs across the college to host a party for the families in residence at the Coalition for the Homeless. The goals of



service are to positively impact another human being's life, to be exposed to societal inadequacies, to become empowered to improve those inadequacies, to encounter cross-cultural experiences, to take on skills of responsibility and caring

for others, and to gain self-confidence in the process of giving. This fall, a record number of 60 volunteers gathered on October 25th to host the fest! Valencia participants included the Peace and Justice Ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Beta Lambda, the Gay Straight Alliance, the Honors students, the HERO Club, the African American Cultural Society, Valencia Volunteers, and Valencia Future Educators.







To view photos from past service projects at the Coalition, visit the Initiative's <u>Facebook page</u>.

PJI Participates in *It Takes Courage to Stop Abuse* Door Hanging Event for Second Year



Valencia students, faculty, staff and Peace and Justice Initiative members were among 571 volunteers who participated in the Harbor House of Central Florida's fifth annual *It Takes Courage to Stop Abuse* Door Hanging Event on Saturday morning, November 15th.

Launching out of the University of Central Florida and Valencia College's West Campus—the new starting

locations for the event—volunteer teams spread out across Orlando visiting apartment complexes and housing divisions. In just three hours, 23,648 door hangers were placed at residences with the message "It Takes Courage to Stop Abuse!"

In the days following the event, 46 people filed injunctions for safety and protection, 45 hotline calls were received, and 3 families sought safety within the Harbor House's shelter. Of the 107 survivors in their safe short-term housing, 63 are children.

The Door Hanging Event was sponsored by the <u>Harbor House of Central Florida</u>, the Orange County Sherriff's Office, the City of Orlando, the Clerk Circuit Court of Orange County, Valencia College, and the University of Central Florida.



Hunger and Homelessness Day of Awareness



Members of the Peace and Justice Ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa, and the East Campus Film Club

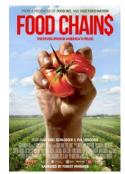
On November 21st, the Peace and Justice Initiative participated in the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida's Day of Awareness. Their actions were well-received by the community and two news stations covered the event.

"Taking a morning to hold a sign waving at and smiling to my fellow Orlando residents while we joined together to remember that we have fellow citizens who did not wake up in a warm bed, was such a positive experience. As one of the signs said, 'No one expects to be homeless.'" –Jarrett Fletcher, President, Phi Theta Kappa

To view more photos from the Day of Awareness event, visit the Coalition for the Homeless' Flickr page.

PJI Joins Peaceful Protest at Downtown Publix with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers after Nation-Wide Release of *Food Chains*

On November 21st, a powerful new film, titled *Food Chains* was released nation-wide. The film features the <u>Coalition of Immokalee</u> Workers' (CIW) Campaign for Fair Food as the long-sought solution to the exploitation and abuse of farmworkers in the US. Revealing the complicity of the supermarket industry in this abuse, the film calls



viewers to take action in pressuring food retailers to use their power to eradicate abuse in their supply chains by joining the CIW's <u>Fair Food Program</u>. Under the Fair Food Program, tens of thousands of workers now have never-before-seen rights: the provision of shade and water; the right to report abuse without fear of retaliation; the right to form participatory health and safety committees; zero tolerance for sexual harassment and modern slavery; and the first real wage increase in over thirty years. But, Publix, Florida's hometown grocer, continues to refuse to be part of this solution.



Members of the Peace and Justice Initiative joined a peaceful protest with the CIW on November 23rd at the Publix in

Downtown Orlando. Protestors chanted in support of the farmworkers, urging Publix to pay a penny more per pound of tomatoes. PJI members Linda Goddard and Krystal Pherai were asked to speak to the Publix managers and share their thoughts on the issue. Following the release of *Food Chains*, Scott Maxwell of the *Orlando Sentinel* also published an article titled *Publix Remains a Holdout in Fair-Wage Farm Debate*, advocating for Publix to join the Fair Food Program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New PJI Office at Winter Park Campus

The Peace and Justice Initiative (PJI) opened a new office on the Winter Park Campus this fall. Thanks to the excitement and commitment of the Winter Park administration, faculty and staff, the PJI hopes to



flourish on the campus through curricular and cocurricular activities and will promote peace and justice for all. The new PJI office will be shared with the Global Peace Film Festival. In its 11th year in Central Florida, the film festival has been a significant partner of the Initiative.

PJI Sponsors an Evening of Original Theatre



An original docudrama written by Valencia College Theater students under the guidance of Program Chair John DiDonna, explores "divisions" of multiple types, and revolves around the incidents in Sanford and Jacksonville that took the lives of two young men.

The Peace and Justice Initiative will sponsor the production on the evening on February 13th with a preperformance reception and talk-back following the play.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of the Peace and Justice Initiative. The Initiative would like to send a special thanks to the Valencia Foundation and the private donors who support our work.

VALENCIA

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Peace and Justice Initiative, please contact the Valencia Foundation at http://www.valencia.org/.

SAVE THE DATES!

Spring 2015

January 24th - 30th

Week-Long Conversation on Justice

February 20th - 21st

Peace and Justice Ambassador Retreat

February 27th - February 28th

Faculty and Staff Annual Peace and Justice Retreat

March 21st

Mayor's Neighborhood Summit

March 23rd

The Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering

March 28th

Spring Fling service project at the Coalition for the Homeless



Conversation on Justice Jan. 24 - 30

Covering many of today's hot-button issues--ranging from violence, immigration and economic inequality to food insecurity, race and sexual orientation--each event, through the power of transformative stories, facilitated discussions, award-winning films, art projects, and more, will delve into critical conversations whose ultimate goal is to promote a culture of peace and understanding and mend the fabric of our humanity. Events will be hosted on all five campuses. Join us! Find the complete schedule at valenciacollege.edu/PJI.

Peace and Justice Advisory Council

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Bickley Wilson



ALL PEOPLE, ALL VOICES, ALL MATTER.

Making a difference by intentionally engaging in practices and principles that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others, and the earth.