



PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

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All People. All Voices. All Matter.

VALENCIACOLLEGE

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COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO CULTURE OF PEACE

By Patricia Ambinder
Peace and Justice Institute, Advisory Council Chair

This is a noteworthy time for the Peace and Justice Initiative as it transitions to the Peace and Justice Institute. This evolution reflects the commitment of Valencia students, faculty, staff and community members guided by the outstanding leadership of Rachel Allen and Dr Stacey Johnson.

By tradition, Valencia College is ideally suited for innovation and change. The Peace and Justice Institute builds on the strong foundation of the Peace and Justice Initiative, fostering a life-long commitment to peace-building, social justice, and conflict transformation.

The Peace and Justice Institute (PJI) offers a peace-building roadmap for students in their triple roles as adult learners, future economic drivers and global citizens. Though conflict is normal in human relationships and can be a motor for change, individuals must learn how to manage low-level disputes in their homes, at school and at their jobs to prevent conflicts from becoming violent in word or action. Future leaders must have the resources to understand the inter-human dimension of life, which is essential for individual dignity, social change and economic development. Through the PJI-based pedagogy, students learn not only from what is taught, but how it is taught.

What does this transition mean for the community?

Challenges will turn into possibilities for many more people. Their stories will be heard and through greater outreach and access to the Principles for How We Treat Each Other, workshops, trainings and conversations, all citizens can contribute to inclusive excellence.

As I begin my second year as Council chair, I remain inspired by the PJI Advisory Council members who live consciously and for whom peace and justice is their life's work. Whether through the power of their individual strengths and creativity or the synergy of shared experiences attending PJI events at Valencia or at other community venues, members are transforming the PJI.

The PJI had a very purposeful and productive fall. As you read through the newsletter, note the countless opportunities to celebrate diversity, promote interfaith openness, and create a safe space for students, faculty and the community to dialogue about racism and inclusion. Many voices and images highlight the impact of the PJI.

The PJI helps us discover the heart and soul of who we are, and learn from multiple perspectives to understand each other and our world better.





FEATURED

Peace and Justice Initiative Changes Name to Reflect Focus and Reach

Valencia's Peace and Justice *Initiative* is now the Peace and Justice *Institute* (PJI).

"This move reflects a move from campus to community," said Rachel Allen, PJI coordinator and professor of humanities. "The programs that have been developed in peace and justice studies for students, faculty and staff have expanded, and we now have the opportunity to bring these teachings and this work into the community. Our efforts are to build the culture of peace."

One way this will be achieved is through [Valencia College Continuing Education](#) via training and workshops offered to business, nonprofits and other groups.

PJI's transformative work, led by faculty and staff across all campuses, has been successful due to strong collaboration between the PJI and groups such as Student Development, student clubs, Organizational Development and Human Resources, the Teaching and Learning Academy and most critically, support from executive leadership. "These partnerships, and others, have lifted up the work," Rachel said.

*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.*

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE MISSION

Consequently, it has spread into the community in like manner through the fostering of vital partnerships that include the Interfaith Council, Planned Parenthood, Second Harvest Food Bank, Zebra Coalition, Islamic Society of Central Florida, City of Orlando, Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida, League of Women Voters and Coalition for the Homeless, among others.

"We don't have to feel impotent when we consider the struggles within our communities. Every day we can become allies through education and the creation of important dialogues," said Allen, who is deeply engaged in identifying additional avenues for community outreach in peace and justice.

"'All People. All Voices. All Matter.' really has become almost a mantra that resonates within me and hopefully within all of us who engage and wish to support our Institute," said Stacey Johnson, president, East and Winter Park Campuses. "The [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#) have now become part of the very induction process of all individuals who become employed at Valencia — how wonderful! It then becomes our duty to continue to model these lessons and the behaviors we learn as best we can for those within Valencia and in the greater community."

To commemorate the new name and sweeping vision, PJI supporters gathered on Saturday, July 18, 2015, at the West Campus Special Events Center for an evening of celebration.

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).

Subhas Rampersaud Shares the Virtues of Peace Work



By Joy S. Jones
Copywriter



"I am proud to be one of the 12 founders of the Peace and Justice Institute some eight years ago. Several of my peers, coordinated by Rachel Allen, professor of humanities and coordinator of the Peace and Justice Institute, felt that we could transform the culture of conflict, violence and intolerance to a culture of peace," said Subhas Rampersaud, West Campus professor of political science.

Initially, the group focused on their students. Some of their peers had already introduced peace courses, which were met by overwhelmingly positive responses from many students.

"I am pleased that this initiative began with faculty and staff, initially endorsed by Dr. Shugart and supported by individuals from the larger community who saw the value of our vision and work. We believed that we could teach conflict resolution skills through insightful and inclusive conversations across the College."

It wasn't long before several staff divisions began expressing interest in the Peace and Justice Initiative, asking to be included in the conversations.

"Again, it was our focus on students who, at the end of their classes, re-enter the larger community and have to confront all its challenges. We were confident that we could teach and equip our students with effective tools to negotiate conflicts and exclusions, whether personal or not. After all, it is about transforming culture and providing alternative visions and choices to our students," Rampersaud explained.

His years of teaching have taught him that in order for

effective teaching and learning to occur, the process and the lessons must extend beyond the scope of the four walls of a classroom. Evidence of this is the huge numbers — upwards of 200 students per session — in the Conversation on Race workshops during Global Peace Week this past September (2015) on West Campus.

"And, this is not a one-off situation. We have been attracting large numbers for several years at these events. These are also important platforms upon which to introduce our culturally rich and diverse student population to peace traditions from other disciplines and cultures such as environmental science, films with social justice messages, Yoga and Ayurveda," he said.

Additionally, these out-of-the classroom learning and teaching sessions afford a rare opportunity for Valencia students to experience collective/team teaching across disciplines.

"Isn't that a powerful message of interdisciplinary partnership to communicate to our students? I firmly believe that there is a hunger for this kind of learning that is not necessarily curriculum-centered. At PJI we strongly believe that each of us must become an ambassador of the culture of peace and therefore embody and model the behavior."

To put some of this into practice, including nurturing the spirit of giving back, PJI has sponsored a Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida visit twice yearly for the past eight years, with students and faculty from East and West Campuses. Students volunteer and engage with the children who reside there in an activity-rich, outdoors event, he said.



Subhas and his wife, Sangeeta at the 2012 Fall Fest at the Coalition for the Homeless

The student club, Human Empathy Rights Organization (HERO), for which Rampersaud serves as club advisor and mentor, also has participated. The club, which focuses its attention on social justice issues, meets weekly and has addressed such intractable issues as minor sex trafficking and poverty. And at each event, the grand finale is a movie with socio-political and human rights themes.

Within the bounds of HERO (which was named by a student) Rampersaud helps the students cultivate the “soft skills” they’ll need as they encounter the twists and turns of life that are inevitable.

“Suppose you make a commitment and you can’t deliver — what is your backup plan? It’s important to learn to network, form partnerships and contribute to teamwork, and that there is value in associating with each other outside the classroom and away from one’s immediate circle of friends,” Rampersaud said. HERO participants learn to navigate these real-world scenarios as they engage in the life of the club.



Rampersaud is also deeply committed to diversity and inclusivity.

“It behooves us to look at how we include students and ask ourselves, ‘Am I aware of my students’ diversity and is my curriculum reflective of the same?’ I’m constantly negotiating mentally and cross-culturally, as there are multiple ways of learning and knowing, and none of us has a monopoly. We must recognize the power that exists in all cultures, because when we don’t practice inclusivity, we diminish the value of other cultures.”

Rampersaud was instrumental in wordsmithing the Principles for How We Treat Each Other, which form the foundation of the Peace and Justice Institute; and the belief that “All voices matter,” is paramount.



Subhas Rampersaud at Orlando Speaks, our community dialogues between the police and citizens in October 2015

“When a student doesn’t feel free to voice his or her truth, or if we are shutting down voices or opinions that make us uncomfortable, we cannot say that we are democratic. Truth telling takes courage and sometimes requires encouragement and even cajoling — my voice is but one of many,” he said.

The work of compassion, and of communicating one’s purpose through mindful and peaceful living, is, for Rampersaud, the antidote to regret.

“The work I am doing is very important to me because I am living my values. Peace work and social justice issues, which are not for cowards, allow me to infuse my passion into what I do; and I have arrived at the place to do what I like and to experience that passion with my students. My spiritual values guide who I am. And when you live, breathe and do your work to the greater purpose —without attaching rewards or values — if it is good work, it has its own payoff. ”

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).



Subhas Rampersaud and members of the HERO club during Global Peace Week 2015



EVENTS

Orlando Speaks August 25, 2016 and October 13, 2015

By Joy S. Jones
Copywriter

One man's observation and the serial testimony of a 12-year-old boy were at the very heart of the matter as members of Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute facilitated [Orlando Speaks](#), a City of Orlando event, billed as an "interactive workshop designed to strengthen relationships and trust between officers and residents." The subject was how race influences resident and police interactions.

In attendance were City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando Chief of Police John Mina, City of Orlando District 3 Commissioner Robert Stuart and 160 members of the community comprised of police officers, residents and Valencia students, faculty and staff.

The two-and-a-half hour evening of dialogue, held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at Edgewater High School, had PJI facilitators asking the 160 participants, who were assembled in small groups, what their early impressions were of the police, to explore their own, sometimes hidden biases and stereotypes and to identify the respective

needs of residents and of police officers.

One man courageously shared that he'd been taught by his father and in school textbooks as he came of age that Blacks were genetically inferior and prone to criminality, and he wondered aloud whether officers had these same thoughts in their minds as they interacted with the Black people they encountered as a matter of course.

A diminutive 12-year-old black boy, a resident of the historic [Parramore district](#), shared that he's often stopped and questioned by police and that he'd been detained and placed in handcuffs at age 11, never told why, and only released when his mother happened to pass by.

Given the state of [mass incarceration](#) — arguably the human rights issue of our times — the interest and hopes were high, as it is the profiling, [stop and frisk](#) policies and hyper-policing of mostly black and poor communities that feed the prison industry.

"It's humbling for the Peace and Justice Institute to partner with the City of Orlando and be given the opportunity to impact the culture and climate on this issue. These community conversations are waking people up to truths that are known to some and invisible to many others," said Rachel Allen, professor of humanities and PJI coordinator.

As a facilitator for the second time, Mollie McLaughlin,

professor of speech, was most struck by how enthusiastic participants continue to be.



Professor Mollie McLaughlin facilitating Orlando Speaks

“People were having the conversations before we even began! For me, this is evidence of how much this conversation matters to our community. The most moving part of the night was listening to the citizen and officer stories. It takes courage to stand up and say ‘this is what happened to me’ or ‘this is what I need’ and so many did just that.”

Lauri Lott, adjunct professor of education and PJI Advisory Council member, was moved by seeing police officers, community members and youth sitting in a room together and sharing their stories.

“It gave me a sense of belonging and real hope. The City was open to listening to the community’s voice. The community was open to listening to the voices of our police officers. And the youth were open to listening to their mentors and protectors share openly to make their world a better and more peaceful place” Lott said.

“Attending Orlando Speaks was an enlightening experience,” said Julie Montione, professor of humanities. “Regardless of the negative encounters we read about, there is so much goodwill in our community to create a more positive environment for citizens and police officers. I left feeling hopeful and with a commitment to be more aware of the power of a single encounter.”

Jyoti Pande, director of Faculty and Instructional Development, found that we all have biases and subtle prejudices we need to confront.

“I learned that serial testimony is a very powerful tool for diversity work. I had not seen it in action before this. I do feel that the environment around us, and particularly the violence, makes us more fearful and entrenched in our biases. If the goal was to open our eyes to reflect upon our biases and how to confront them, the program was a success. If the goal was to move us forward in thinking

about specific strategies about how to contribute to a positive culture, environment and tone, we have more work to do.”

As the needs of both residents and police were discussed, participants learned that respect, being given the benefit of the doubt, a need for humane treatment and “to go home at the end of the day” were the needs that were collectively most verbalized.

Admittedly, Professor of Political Science Subhas Rampersaud was surprised to hear how closely aligned the concerns are for both the Orlando Police and the community.

“I sensed a sincere effort by all present to seek out a healthier relationship between the police and the community. People appeared honest and willing to share and express their opinions; and that while some folks may view the relationship between the Orlando Police and the community as positive, some of the comments and opinions reflect that there is an opportunity for improved relationship.”

Participants milled about at the program’s end as facilitators urged at its closing to keep the dialogue alive by getting to know those with whom they’d interacted.

“The City’s commitment to dialogue and building trust among citizens and the police is critical. As we watch cities across the country struggle with issues of racial equity and police/citizen interactions, it’s heartening to know that Orlando is taking positive steps to make a difference,” shared Allen.

Pande said what remained largely unspoken: “I think I left with a question: What do I do next?”

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).



Professor Hank Van Putten facilitating Orlando Speaks



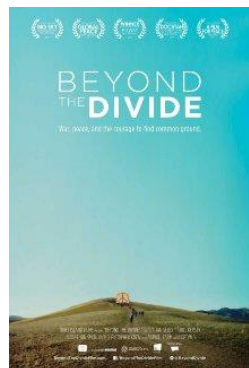
GLOBAL PEACE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2

PJI Celebrates International Day of Peace and Global Peace Week September 21st-October 2nd

The month of September offers a multitude of opportunities for our community to participate in peace activities. With International Peace Day on September 21st, the month With September 21st being Peace Day, the Peace and Justice Institute has taken the opportunity to expand the celebrations throughout the month.

The United Nations sanctioned International Peace Day is September 21st. The mission of International Peace Day is to have at least one 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.



This year's annual peace activities began on September 11th with a community screening, in partnership with the [League of Women Voters of Orange County](#) and the [Global Peace Film Festival](#), of [Beyond the Divide](#), a film about paths to healing old wounds and authentic peacebuilding. In the 50 years since the Vietnam War, deep scars remain among those who served and those who resisted the war. The story inspires us to take courageous first steps to move beyond polarization toward what unites us rather than divides us.

On September 21st, PJI hosted a Peace Day Festival at the East Campus, featuring live performances by the Orlando Drummers, vocalist Daphne Cooper, and spoken word artists Create and Destroy. Don Burlinson took this year's human peace sign photo. At the West Campus, representatives from the Peace Corps visited to share information with the Valencia community. The theme of

this year's Peace Day was "With Whom Will I Make Peace?"



Valencia's 2015 human peace sign, photographed by Don Burlinson

Global Peace Week took place September 28th-October 2nd. A diverse menu of workshops included emotional intelligence, mindfulness, meditation, peace and the arts, nonviolence, nonviolent language, conversations on race, and more. Our guest speaker, Angela King from [Life After Hate](#) captivated audiences as she told her story of transitioning from a life of hate to a life of peace and love.

We are particularly proud of our partnership with Executive Director Nina Streich and the [Global Peace Film Festival](#).

Through the Festival, the community is exposed to international topics of peace that are transformative, inspiring, and provocative. The full day of free screenings on our West Campus is a popular tradition on Thursday during Global Peace Week.



Moments from Peace Day



Orlando Drummers and students having fun making music



Steve Ahsmuhs and Mark Arend from [Words of Peace](http://www.wopg.org)



Members of the [Valencia Earth Studies Association \(VESA\)](#)



Members of the [Gay Straight Alliance \(GSA\)](#)



[Wellness Ambassador](#) Josh McDonald



Jeff and Penny Villegas at the [Amnesty International](#) table.

“Life After Hate” Star Prompts Student Discussion on Race, Hatred

By Joy S. Jones
Copywriter

Today Angela King has a tattoo on her right forearm that reads, “When you know better, do better. Maya Angelou.” And that’s what she’s up to — doing better. A reformed skinhead, she is now a peace activist ... with a Maya Angelou tattoo.



King stars in the documentary, “Life After Hate,” which was screened at West Campus as part of the Global Peace Week activities on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, to a packed audience of students.

She is also deputy director of a nonprofit organization bearing the same name — Life After Hate — which performs research, outreach, and education and consulting on how and why people join and leave extremist groups. Part of Life After Hate’s process is supporting organizations seeking to heal, prevent and counter racism and violent extremism in their communities, according to its [website](#).



Students listened as she shared how she used to put her younger brother, while he was still a toddler, in her combat boots and teach him racial slurs and the ways she would target victims for violence. Their expressions ranged from aghast, to riveted to not surprised at all. Their questions were pointed and revealed the type of critical thinking that occurs once you’ve gained new knowledge whose relevance you immediately see in your own life.

Why, after living with so much hate in your life growing up, was it so easy for you to resort to hate yourself?

How do you handle peoples’ disbelief that you are a changed person?

Are your parents still racist?

How big of a role did religion play in supporting your beliefs?

Do you know of cops who belong to skinhead groups, and

what are you doing to heal them?

How do I object when my girlfriend’s family makes slurs against gays and blacks that make me uncomfortable?

“Hurt people, hurt people,” she answered, “and there are hurts in my past that will always affect me, and I try to share that with others.”

A female social worker, who asked to remain unnamed in the audience, shared that Angela has become a life saver to her as she has “rescued” nearly 30 youth in Central Florida who are now involved in hate groups and gangs. She shared the story of one of her rescues who is tattooed from head to toe with swastikas and the like, the word “hate” in bold letters across his torso — who now wants out, but his body tells another story.

“It’s \$80,000 to have the tattoos removed and that’s at a half price discount,” she said. “But there’s hope. He lifted his shirt and showed me where he’d used a black Sharpie to try and cross it out.”

When asked why she works with this demographic, she explained that many of them were kids who grew up with her own children.

“Any one of them could have easily been the shooter in the South Carolina church massacre,” she said. “*Any one* of them — easily,” she repeated.

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).

Living in Balance: What Does Ayurveda Teach Us?

By Wendy Jo Moyer
Manager of Employee Communications



On Tuesday, September 29, 2015, during Global Peace Week, Subhas Rampersaud, professor of political science and yoga, enlightened us on Ayurveda, the sister science to yoga that focuses holistically on maintaining one’s health and well being. It brings harmony and balance in all areas of life and treats the body, mind and spirit.

Rampersaud started the lecture asking participants to brainstorm a list of all of the words that started with “Di” or “Dis” that denoted or implied stress, strain, tension or imbalance. It was easy for the audience to list word after

word — disease, disaster, discomfort, disbelief. Then, he switched to the positive asking for words of harmony. The audience’s responses were few and far between. Why? We have been taught “to focus more on the disease side of our culture.”

Ayurveda, on the other hand, does not operate from the “disease-model” approach. Instead, it teaches us that we have the power to heal ourselves by living in harmony with oneself, as well as the larger world, and through cultivating that awareness of balance, one achieves physical, mental and spiritual well being.

Ayurveda classifies people in three categories based on the biorhythms of nature, which align with our body, mind and spirit. Referred to as *doshas*, they represent the five elements in us and constitute our basic constitutional make up. The three doshas are:

- Vata** – air and space qualities
- Pitta** – fire and water qualities
- Kapha** – water and earth qualities

Rampersaud introduced attendees to two ways to diagnose our dosha. Through a written quiz, where we were asked to specify physical characteristics, such as body frame, sleep patterns and appetite, as well as emotional characteristics such as temperament, memory and dreams, we were able to determine which of the doshas were dominant. We then practiced a second way to determine our dosha through hands-on pulse reading of ourselves and a partner.

Our doshas help determine why the nature of people is so different. Are you high-stress? Do you prefer to be a couch potato? Why are some people happy, while others are not? By diagnosing dosha, we can better understand our physical, mental and emotional make-up.

To learn more about the three doshas, view this article from [Eat, Taste, Heal](#).

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).



Moments from Global Peace Week



Students enjoyed talking together in the interactive workshops



PJI Member and Global Peace Week Lead, Chris Cuevas sharing during a workshop



Valencia students enjoying a group discussion



Professor of Peace Studies, Paul Chapman introduced Angela King before her keynote presentations at the East Campus



Valencia staff member Stella Ross sharing during a workshop



Following a standing ovation in response to her presentation on Life After Hate, students flocked around Angela King to ask her questions, thank her for the depth of her honesty, and share their own experiences of bullying

Can You Do Well While Doing Good? Presentation by Fr. Oliver Williams October 29, 2015

In partnership with the [Hesburgh Lecture Series](#) and the [Notre Dame Club of Greater Orlando](#), PJI hosted Father Oliver Williams, Professor of Management in the Notre Dame School of Business. Williams declared that indeed it is possible to do well while doing good in business and he supported his thesis with examples from corporations such as Starbucks and Coca-Cola.

Williams spoke at length about the [United Nations Global Compact](#) 2000, which boasts the participation of 300 major corporations and 8000 companies worldwide. He discussed the UN Global Compact's [Ten Principles](#) which derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among other key global documents. The Ten Principles address human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. His talk emphasized the importance of business schools teaching environmental concerns and human rights.



United Nations
Global Compact

Fr. Williams is a fellow with the [Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies](#) and a Global Leader of social entrepreneurship and ethical business practices.



Fr. Oliver Williams speaking on business ethics



**Conversations on Peace:
Race and Privilege
with the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation
November 2-3, 2015**



By Brian Rusch
Executive Director of the
Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation

Nobel Peace laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "Hope is being able to see the light, despite all of the darkness." It seems that in the last month from Paris to Beirut, San Bernadino, Colorado Springs, Syria, Mali, Minneapolis... we are being overwhelmed by a barrage of violence that is unfathomable.

But I still have hope. I have hope because I see that light. The news seems dark but I have seen that light in the students at Valencia College and the work of the Peace and Justice Institute.



Dr. Donna Blackwell of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation and PJI Advisory Council Member, Liz Jusino

In November, we at the [Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation](#) had the very great honor of partnering with the Valencia College Peace and Justice Institute for the launch of our

newest program, [Peace3](#). Peace3 posits that if we teach young people how to develop inner peace, they will then have peace between their family, friends and community and ultimately it will lead to peace among nations. Our goal is to inspire one million peace-makers through our live and online programs.



Robert V. Taylor, Dr. Donna Blackwell, both of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation, and Biso Gxashe, the grandson of Tutu, led a discussion on the Archbishop's legacy

When I was tasked with launching this program, I knew immediately that I wanted to partner with Rachel Allen and her team at the Peace and Justice Institute. Through my work with Archbishop Tutu, as well as my previous work with the Dalai Lama and Project Happiness, I have been able to witness firsthand the inspirational work PJI does. We mutually decided to focus the Peace3 Conversations on Race and Privilege.

Desmond Tutu has a legacy of fighting for the civil rights of the oppressed, specifically for racial minorities, and we decided to add to that legacy by having two of his grandchildren, Xabiso (Biso) Gxashe and Nyaniso (Niso) Tutu-Burris, join us at Valencia to speak to students about their grandfather, race relations in South Africa and the United States, and about privilege and the many forms that it takes.



Professor of Student Life Skills and Advisor of the African American Cultural Society, Anna Saintil listened to Niso's talk



Niso Tutu-Burris, the granddaughter of Desmond Tutu gave a keynote presentation on current student-led movements in South Africa, misperceptions of Africa, and race relations



East Campus SGA Director of Community Relations and Peace and Justice Ambassador, Jefferson Noel shared during Niso Tutu-Burris' keynote presentation

For two days, my team, which included Dr. Donna Blackwell and Robert V. Taylor from the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation Board of Directors and the Archbishop's grandchildren worked with Valencia students and the Peace and Justice Institute to foster a meaningful dialogue about how we in the United States can recognize and embrace our differences to create a more peaceful country. The two-day event culminated with a powerful presentation by Nyaniso, and a panel discussion featuring community and national activists discussing how they each achieve inner peace and use that inner peace to create change in the world.

So despite the darkness - all the tragedy, all of the violence, all of the heartache that we have witnessed – I can see the light. Thanks to the wonderful work of our special guests, the Peace and Justice Institute, and especially the students and faculty at Valencia, I have hope.



Panelists Nico Gumbs of YAYA, Krystal Pherai of the PJI, Robert V. Taylor of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation, and Aminah Hamidullah of Knowledge for Living, Inc.



Valencia students enjoyed Niso's presentation

I think the experience can be summed up by words shared with me by one of Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute Ambassadors, Jefferson Noel:

"We'll be remiss as a society to devalue the deep, sacred meaning of peace...I learned from Peace3 the importance of discovering peace within above all things. All other forms of peace can come in afterwards, but the serenity that warms the soul is primary."



Valencia students, faculty, staff, and community partners with members of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE



Moving Out of My Cocoon

By Haven McLaughlin
Peace and Justice Ambassador



During my time with the Peace and Justice Institute, I have had a plethora of good experiences. This is especially true of the ones that dealt with social justice. One such experience was from the [Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation's Conversations on Race](#) workshop. It has stood out to me as the most interesting and one of the most profound experiences during my tenure as a PJI Ambassador.

When the presentation that declared race as a construction of human design and culture was shown, it was a rather shocking revelation that piqued my interest to actually think about how there truly wasn't much of a real biological alteration that dictated race. We are human after all, but we are also so different and unique at the same time. We were asked to move into small groups of approximately four to five people and urged to have different races in our group. The majority of the event comprised of prompts appearing on the screen with instructions for each member in the small group to discuss their stories and personal experiences.



Participants enjoying lively conversations

You can show people the statistics and provide logic, however, nothing can truly compare to another person's experience firsthand when they regale some of the difficult situations they faced or the injustice they may have seen. After I heard these personal experiences it

was easy for me to empathize with them and I felt like it helped me to better understand this issue that I had removed myself from without being detached or cynical.



Sadie Lizarraga sharing her personal testimony

Everyone in my group seemed to experience a form of prejudice whether it had been explicit or implicit. It wasn't until I heard of times when others have faked indifference to antagonizing situations, did I realize that perhaps I too had witnessed these 'wolves in sheep's clothes' and frivolously ignored it. **Maybe I didn't take notice, or maybe I was afraid I would face backlash from peers, and would rather let another suffer than to take a stand.** It made me think about just how unfair it was that I would never have to face the disparity the person across from me would face, just because they had darker skin pigmentation or had a different cultural background.



Valencia students deeply engaged in the conversations

I am astounded; I believe that conversation has helped me move out of my cocoon of uncomfortable anxiety when it comes to discussions on delicate topics such as racial prejudice. I believe these types of serious conversations are a major way to stop ignorance and vile behavior. Too many are anxious or detached from this situation, and like me, may need a bit of an encouraging push. Overall, I found that the experience made me more thoughtful and less likely to 'stonewall' during conversations on an important topic.

Everyone Has a Right to Enter the Medicine Wheel: The Inner Work of Peace and Justice November 14, 2015

By Crystal Smith
Professor of English

The first words Iron Eagle ever said to me remain ever important in my journey to discover my racial identity to find and understand my father's Native American heritage: "any tribe will accept you; the specific tribe does not matter, but the answers you seek cannot be found in books. They're with the native people and in your heart if you look hard enough. Nature, our Mother Earth, is our greatest teacher. Look within and around yourself, not in a book." As he said these words, he gestured around Mead Gardens in January of 2014. Hearing that answers can't be found in the study of a book is challenging for any scholar, but I have taken this advice, and I have applied this teaching to my practice of peace and justice.



Chris Cuevas, Krystal Pherai, Iron Eagle, and Naomi Chernault

These words to look within compelled me to join Iron Eagle once again in the medicine wheel, this time in the Ocala National Forest, on November 14, 2015. Arriving at the event, the smell of sage and other sweet grasses filled the air, and each person was invited to participate in smudging before formally joining the circle.

After everyone had joined together, Iron Eagle explained the medicine wheel, its significance as a symbol for the four directions: north, south, east, and west, how the medicine wheel parallels the seasons, and thus is also a symbol for communal transformation and healing. To discover our purpose in the circle, each person was asked to hold the medicine wheel drum in their hands, holding an intention for the day and for their own transformation in their heart as they did so, transmitting it to the wheel through our hands. When it was my turn, looking at the wheel, I couldn't help but think of how many other people

had held it before me, and that the drum bore witness to countless intentions before my own. Though some stayed silent, we were invited to share our intentions after this exercise. Once everyone had spoken their intention into being by sharing it with the group, we gathered for a picnic lunch and to learn one another's stories.

After lunch and learning about one another more deeply, we worked together to gather wood for a fire. Iron Eagle explained how the element of fire helps us to release negative emotions or experiences that hinder our growth. In his view, unexpressed feelings, especially negative ones, are the root of illness. We were then given a handful of tobacco, first to cleanse ourselves, and then to offer pinches of this plant to the Great Spirit and Mother Earth while channeling any negativity that was holding us back. We then offered the tobacco to the fire as a symbol of transformation. Finally, there was quiet time for silent reflection with the forest.

After listening to the wind in the oak trees, celebrating silence, we all gathered back at the fire to share what we had released, learned, and how we felt about our healing journey. To close the day, Iron Eagle shared his work with the Emoto Foundation. The Emoto Foundation is a Japanese organization that promotes the ideas of Dr. Masaru Emoto who studied how water absorbs and takes form based on the energy of the words spoken upon it. The more beautiful and peaceful the words, the more beautiful the water molecules are as documented and photographed by Dr. Emoto's team. What Emoto's research truly illustrates is the axiom upon which I've built my career: "words have power."



Iron Eagle leading the fire ceremony

Since human beings are more than 60 percent water, the words that we speak to one another have the power to make us more beautiful and brighter, validating the idea of inner light, or we can speak out of anger and hatred, literally making another person feel smaller and insignificant. We said goodbye to one another with peace in our hearts, whispering "aho."



**Valencia Night at the
Islamic Society of Central Florida
October 9, 2015**



At a time when anti-Islamic rhetoric fuels citizen fears and divides communities, *Valencia Night* at the [Islamic Society of Central Florida \(ISCF\)](#) serves a critical educational role by dispelling misinformation and false beliefs about a religion practiced by over 40,000 citizens in Central Florida.

ISCF, in partnership with PJI hosted the third annual *Valencia Night*, welcoming 75 people from the Valencia community to learn more about Islam. Valencia students, faculty, staff, and family enjoyed a tour of the masjid (mosque), an informational session on the fundamentals of Islam presented by Imam Muhammad Musri, and a delicious Middle Eastern meal.

Imam Musri, popularly known as one of the [Friends Talking Faith](#)—the Three Wise Guys—heard on WMFE weekly on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm serves as President of ISCF and is on the Advisory Council of the Peace and Justice Institute.



Peace and Justice Ambassadors Noor Hashim and Mingli You

The Islamic Society of Central Florida, with its ten mosques, provides numerous programs and services including a full-time daycare, a Muslim Social Services department with food pantry, free health clinic, and much more. The Center for Peace is the heart of their outreach program.

Professor of Peace Studies Paul Chapman noted about *Valencia Night*, "Events like this can break down barriers and in their place build relationships."

PJI deeply values its partnership with ISCF and sees *Valencia Night* as a vital opportunity to build bridges of understanding within our community.



Peace and Justice Ambassadors, Naomi Chernault and Niara Maragh enjoying a tour of the Mosque at ISCF

**Peace Breakfast:
An Interfaith Gathering
November 17, 2015**



PJI members with our Peace Breakfast guests

Valencia United

By Raquel O'Neal

Valencia Student and Supplemental Learning Leader

The Peace and Justice Institute hosted their bi-annual Peace Breakfast as part of [International Education Week](#) in the wake of terrorist attacks on Beirut and Paris. Not even twenty-four hours after the attacks, many were feeling lost, angry, and hurt. Tragedies are usually the times when people need faith the most. Eighty-five students, faculty, and staff members of Valencia College still attended the 2015 Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering with resilient, open hearts and minds.

Participants gathered in an amazing joining of spirits. A typically taboo topic, religion, became easy to discuss amongst each other. Many students struggle with their own personal spiritual paths as new challenges arise. Many questions were answered by well-read and practicing members of most major religions. Faith Leaders Chris Orozco, Rabbi Joshua Neely, Rev. Cynthia Alice Anderson, Aminah Hamidullah, and Dr. Sheri Dressler all represented their faiths with great pride.

Tolerance and unity were beautiful to see as I looked out at totally different faiths being described. This is the kind of environment for peace leaders. This is Valencia College being the "change we wish to see in the world." Under one roof we had Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Baha'i representing unity. In order to change ourselves and society, we must unite as a human race and break down barriers that are meant to divide us.

Some people left with more questions than answers, which lead to enlightening conversations. How do we keep our faith in times of despair? My way of coping may be different than the person sitting next to me, yet we are united in that we still wish to cope and find a resolve. This is what the PJI strives to achieve: unity in our differences and compassion for one another. These thoughts laid heavily on my mind as the tone of the event changed.

With the Breakfast following the terrorist attacks in Beirut and Paris, Professor Lauri Lott, who happens to be Muslim, stood up to share her experience from that morning. Immediately, I felt panic because Professor Lott wears a hijab. I have no issue with her wearing a hijab, however, bigots use religion as an opportunity to fuel hate. As I am a black woman, I understand being a target of negative attention at times. We all have different hidden biases and prejudices to face in our lives; we must strive to move beyond them using non-violent principles.

Professor Lott began to tell her story as hearts were racing. She was here at the event. She did not seem injured or shook up. She went on to say that while pumping her gas that morning, an ominous black car with tinted windows pulled up beside her and rolled down the window. Fear overtook her as she self-identified her escape routes. And then, much to her surprise, the man in the car told her, "Excuse me miss, I don't mean to bother you, but I just wanted to tell you that I really like your outfit." The energy of the room became lighter as we all exhaled sighs of relief. The raw emotion was ever present.

Walking out of this event, I felt great! Why can't all conversations be this easy? The year 2015 has been one of such violence and intolerance. Faith is often hard to find in despair. I have been able to find my voice within the PJI and I hope others begin to do the same in their lives. I am hoping that everybody is able to find something positive to be passionate about and inspire change in society for the better. Change begins with you. In order to work towards peace, people must surround themselves with people who are passionate about achieving peace as well. It only takes one belief in an idea to make a difference in multiple lives and this has become apparent to me through the events of this past year.

Beyond the hatred and ignorance, Professor Lott's story was the one message that resonated with me the most that day. The man who stopped her at the gas station was a spark of hope indicating that slowly, the world is changing into a more peaceful place, but we still have work to do. This is why activists exist. This is why the work of the PJI is so vital. This is one of the reasons why I am proud to be a student at Valencia College.

Moments from the Peace Breakfast



PJI Coordinator Rachel Allen facilitated the Peace Breakfast



Reverend Cynthia Alice from [Christ Church Unity of Orlando](#)



Braham Aggarwal from the [Hindu University of America](#)



Valencia students were highly engaged during the breakfast



Aminah Hamiduallah, Director of [Knowledge for Living, Inc.](#) making the audience laugh



Rabbi Joshua Neely of [Temple Israel](#) sharing about Judaism



INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION WEEK

PJI is proud to host the Peace Breakfast annually as part of International Education Week.

GOING GLOBAL



**“With Whom Will I Make Peace”
Second Annual Conference in Jacmel, Haiti**

Principles of respect and nonviolence, conflict resolution skills, and meditation were highlights of the three day Konferans Lapè Jakmèl, with the goal of supporting a sustainable peace program for the children and citizens of Haiti. [St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church](#) and the Peace and Justice Institute partnered in hosting the second annual Jacmel Peace Conference in August of 2015. Sixty-five leaders from diverse parishes and churches from the Jacmel region and Cite de Soleil’s [Sakala](#) came together for this annual event. The [Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation](#) was also represented at the conference.

As a result of the peace conference, leadership positions in the Peace Commission were established. The Commission has met multiple times since the summer conference and is developing structures for its organization, a Facebook page, and plans to develop new peace groups in other parishes around Jacmel.

Click the image above to view a video of the August peace conference in Jacmel, created by [Willie J. Allen Jr.](#)



Following the peace conference, members of the St. Augustin Chapel work with the Principles for How We Treat Each Other



Writing the Principles on the board

Moments from the Peace Conference



Discussing the peace work done in the mountainous region



Registration for the conference



Peace leaders sharing peace practices together



Planning for the Commission after the conference



Peacebuilder Wilda Mondestin from Sakala in Cite Soleil



2015 Peace Conference logo, designed by Whitley Charles

A participant from the Konferans Lapè Jakmèl, reflects (translated from the original Haitian Creole):
“Before sharing my feedback, I want to first let you know that I am very happy I was able to participate/partake of this information. I want to thank all those who came far to share the information of hope and peace. Thank you. I will apply this information with friends, in my groups, with schoolmates and with all my brothers and sisters. To do this work, I will utilize wisdom, intelligence, moral and self-control. Moreover, I will apply the 13 Principles of peace so I can do the work even better.”

Peace Work in the Rift Valley, Kenya

By Ruth Nalyanya
Professor at RVTTI



Today in Kenya, negative ethnicity has infected all spheres of national life like a virus and is now deeply rooted within institutions of higher learning. This conflict has not spared the [Rift Valley Technical Training Institute \(RVTTI\)](#) where I teach.

The RVTTI is an ISO certified Technical and Vocational Training Institute in Kenya that draws students from across East Africa.

There are many indicators of this vice that my peacebuilding interventions seek to remedy. For example, the recruitment of the non-teaching staff, which is prerogative of the Board of Management, had been heavily skewed in favor of the members of the dominant local community within whose environs the institute is located. The composition of the senior administrative staff and the board of management manifests a similar trend. Other areas of concern have been procurement and award of tenders for the supply of goods and services that lacked transparency and accountability.

Moreover, the process of hostel allocation to students which, again reflected obvious favoritism for certain ethnic groups. Another area that expressed open negative ethnicity was the composition of the student leadership where one ethnic group dominated the entire council. The minority and foreign group were excluded because they could not muster enough votes to win a slot within this council. With this kind of nonrepresentation, students from these marginalized groups lacked a voice to articulate their concerns. The mindset of the dominant ethnic group was fixed on the belief that they deserved this dominant role due to their numerical supremacy.



A peace talk using the peace Principle "Turn to wonder...." by peace club members

My enrollment in the Women's Peacebuilding Leadership Program at the Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Virginia, USA in April 2014 unlocked my mind to see the opportunity I had to do something to mitigate the existing situation at the RVTTI. Whereas I was aware that I had the individual capacity to impact the issues of negative ethnicity nationally, I took cognizance of the fact that if I made the right intervention at this institution by sensitizing these students, the majority of whom are young adults, the impact could spread nationally when they went back to their ethnic groups and spread the message of inclusivity, equity and tolerance.

In my work place the RVTTI, it is tricky to discuss negative ethnicity lest I be seen as engaging in incitement and sabotage against the administration. All this naivety, however, changed when I was at EMU where I met Rachel Allen from the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College. I shared my story with her and she encouraged me and promised to keep in touch. Equipped with knowledge, skills and Rachel's support I gained the confidence to intervene in the sensitive conflict at the RVTTI.

Upon my return from EMU, I was able to engage the administration on the need for the establishment of a Peacebuilding Club at RVTTI. I eventually got formal authority to establish the club but of course with the disclaimer that there would be no funding for my programs. This did not deter me. I am so grateful to Rachel Allen and the Peace and Justice Institute for sending the initial funds to start a Peace Club which has become my platform for addressing negative ethnicity at the RVTTI.



Peace club members reciting a poem on the disadvantages of tribalism during the graduation ceremony at the RVTTI

At the PJI Celebration July 18, 2015, \$750.00 was raised for the RVTTI peace program through the generous contributions of friends of the PJI.
Thank you!



Peace Club members dancing while singing "Amani Nchini" meaning, "We need peace in our nation."

Under the auspices of the Peace Club, I have mounted several successful intervention programs like mass choir, trainings, skits, and film screenings at the RVTTI. The main objective is to inculcate feelings of inclusivity, equity and ethnic appreciation and tolerance amongst all citizens of Kenya. This awareness was to make these youth wary of selfish and unscrupulous politicians who may plan to divide them along ethnic lines for their own selfish ends.

With the help of the peace committee, I was able to form a mass choir whose members were drawn from diverse ethnic groups in the institute. Their songs and poems aim at boosting cohesion and inclusivity as these performances draw their context from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. To sensitize on the need for tolerance and inclusivity, I have shown a documentary entitled, *The Pastor and the Imam* which I received from EMU. The story not only stresses religious tolerance but also cautions against youth radicalization in Kenya today.

With the financial support, I have organized retreats for the Peace Club to discuss matters of equity and inclusivity and thus empowering them to be agents of positive change amongst all students within the institute. We use the 13 PJI Peace Principles in our poems, skits, peace talks and songs to pass across our message.

Apart from these retreats, I've also mounted training on the basic skills required to deal with routine conflict within the institution and even beyond. Of course, I need to hasten to add that those workshops and retreats have to be ongoing to keep abreast with the ever-changing faces of this conflict. The institute's top administration has also granted me permission to train the teachers using the article by Dr. Frank A. Tuit entitled, "INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE" which I received courtesy of Professor Allen.

One other target area was the student body with regard to the election of their leaders. During this year's campaigns for election of a new council, I sensitized the students on the urgent need to ensure that the new team reflected the face of Kenya with regard to ethnic balance. One other program that is planned for the near future is

the production of the RVTTI AMANI (PEACE) newsletter. It is envisaged that the articles to find space in this publication will be well balanced and well researched presentations that logically and authoritatively debase negative ethnicity.

Within the first one year's existence of the Peace Club, indicators of the success of its initial intervention programs are evident. For example, for the first time in the history of the student leaders' elections, members of the minority groups took 6 slots (including that of the CHAIRMAN) out of the available 14. Within the institute there is more openness in the discussion of issues of negative ethnicity. There is more transparency in the procurement of goods and services as advertisements inviting quotations and tenders are now more open as they are placed in newspapers and open notice boards in public places. Allocation of student hostels is also more competitive and fair because it is done online on a "first come first serve" basis. I have been lobbying through the Dean of students for change of election constitution in the institute to give specific slots to minority groups and this change is in process now.



Mass Choir

Despite this obvious success, there are continuing challenges and constraints. Time available for our peace programs is indeed a major challenge because we have not been accommodated in mainstream curriculum and hence are not captured on the formed timetable. This means that we have to find time outside the normal timetable for our activities. This can be quite difficult at times because most of our students do not reside within the institute and if they are delayed by any activity they should be transported home. The other constraint is office space, which we have not been provided with.

I am, however, hopeful that as the benefits of the Peace Club become more evident and clear, the administration will see the need to provide us with an office to make our work more comfortable. Of course issues of finance cannot be ignored. I do believe that we as a Peace Club at RVTTI are on the right track in mitigating negative ethnicity at the RVTTI and even beyond.

SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

PJI Staff Assistant and League Member Meet with Senator to Discuss Campus Carry Bills



On September 4th, Peace and Justice Institute Staff Assistant and member of the [League of Women Voters of Orange County](#), Krystal Pherai and Chair of the Gun Safety Committee for the League of Women Voters of Florida, Patti Brigham met with Senator Darren Soto to discuss the "campus carry bills," which would allow anyone with a concealed weapons permit to carry their gun anywhere on a public college or university campus in Florida.

The League of Women Voters of Florida is dedicated to preventing the passage of such bill and hosted a day long gun safety summit on August 13th. Valencia's Assistant Vice President of Safety and Security, Paul Rooney was a featured panelist that day along with other Florida college presidents and leaders who spoke in opposition to the bill.

For information about these bills and the concerns expressed by citizens, visit [The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus](#).



Krystal Pherai, Senator Darren Soto, and Patti Brigham

The Annual Fall Fest October 24, 2015

By Niara Maragh
Peace and Justice Ambassador

Volunteers from Valencia College hosted a day of fun at the Coalition for the Homeless for the residents and their families—a day that parents can put their stress and everyday worries on hold and allow the family to enjoy the fun activities that are taking place. The Peace and Justice Institute, along with other clubs, come together to make this fun filled day a precious moment for these families.



Peace and Justice Ambassador Co-Coordinator, Chris Cuevas and Peace and Justice Ambassador, Niara Maragh

In the past as a student, I've attended the Spring Fling at Coalition with my class. The emotion that I felt interacting with these children and their families and seeing the smiles on their faces from such small kind gestures made me want to play a more active role in projects like these. The Spring Fling pushed me in the direction to become a Peace and Justice Ambassador; to take a more hands on role within the community. The feeling of returning to the Coalition for the Fall Festival and seeing less children and also different faces was a bittersweet moment knowing that the previous families had left and moved on to a more positive future.



The 2015 Fall Fest volunteers

The quote “It takes a village to raise a child” has always had special meaning to me. But going to the Coalition for the Homeless really allowed me to put this powerful idea into perspective. The Coalition is a village in its own way where its main goal is to keep families together during times of crisis. We as the community come together to bring compassion, love and kindness to these families. We become part of the “village.”



Fun fall-themed decorations surrounded the Fest

The small acts of giving, like providing each child with a nametag, in a sense let them know they matter and they have an identity to express. The costumes they chose, such as pirate eye patches, tiaras, mustaches and colorful glasses, along with the games and activities, gave them a carefree time and the freedom to express themselves as children



A Fall Fest welcome poster

At the Spring Fling, I remember participating in a jump rope competition when a little girl and I were last in the game. The little girl was getting tired and was ready to give up when I was able to encourage her by letting her know she shouldn't give up so quickly and that she has the strength to continue. **I feel privileged to say that I've had the opportunity to help others.**



PJI Staff Assistant Krystal Pherai being decorated in fall decor



Peace and Justice Ambassador Alice Ngamije setting up an arts and crafts activity for the party



Bi-annually, PJI partners with classes and clubs across Valencia 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, 70 volunteers from Valencia participated, including the Gay Straight Alliance, HERO Club, Peace and Justice Ambassadors, Phi Beta Lambda, Phi Theta Kappa, Seneff Honors College students, Valencia Future Educators, African American Cultural Society, Valencia Volunteers, and the East Campus SGA.

Thank you to Peace and Justice Ambassador Terrance Coakley for photographing the event.

PEACE AND JUSTICE AMBASSADORS

Reflections from an Ambassador



The fall 2015 Peace and Justice Ambassadors: Haven McLaughlin, Aziza Afzal, Naomi Chernault, Niara Maragh, and Santiago Zapata-Quintero

By Aziza Afzal
Peace and Justice Ambassador

When I first emailed Krystal Pherai about my interest in the Peace and Justice Institute, I was not sure what to expect. I just knew that it was my second semester at Valencia and I wanted to get more involved in a campus organization. I had first met Krystal at a Hot Topics event for the League of Women Voters and remembered that she mentioned the Institute, so I thought it was a fitting place to start.

I can now say that I am so happy I became a Peace and Justice Ambassador. In just a few months, I have learned and done so much for my community and have helped plan and participate in events that I would not have otherwise. I have also met and heard from so many people in the area, like faith leaders of the Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i, Christian, and Jewish religions during our Peace Breakfast. I had the opportunity to hear Desmond Meade from [Faith in Florida](#) tell his inspiring story firsthand about turning his life around after being a convicted felon when he spoke to us and other Peace Studies students. Angela King from [Life After Hate](#) told her powerful story of her time as a white extremist when she spoke to a large number of students, faculty, and staff

members during Global Peace Week. The list goes on and on.

It is hard to pick my favorite event that I've experienced with the Peace and Justice Institute, so I asked other Ambassadors about theirs.

"I went with the Peace and Justice Institute to the Ocala National Forest for a retreat with Apache Medicine Man, Iron Eagle. After this retreat, which was filled with music and meditation, I was excited to come home and share my experience of inner peace with others," says Naomi, who will move on to being a PJI Intern next semester.

Niara, who will also be an Intern, says that "one of my favorite events was the Peace Breakfast in late November. It was a morning filled with knowledge, diversity, and insight on different religions in our community."

Santiago really enjoyed Peace Day in September, saying, "It was my first activity that I was involved in here at Valencia. Being part of the organizational team helped me to learn about things I didn't even know before. It also gave me the chance to meet staff and influential people in the Valencia and Orlando community."



Peace and Justice Ambassador Santiago Zapata-Quintero serving pizza to students during the Peace Day Festival

Of course, being both students and Ambassadors, it can be hard to attend every event. This is where our weekly meetings are beneficial, when we get to reflect on the past week's event, and the Ambassadors who were not able to attend can reflect and stay up to date on what the Institute is doing.

Being an Ambassador is special because you learn through attending events, listening to speakers, spreading information to your community, and even petitioning. It is a different type of learning environment,

and a refreshing change from regular classes of listening to lectures and reading from textbooks. “I value my times with the PJI and can’t wait to go to more events next semester,” says Naomi. Haven feels strongly about his role as an Ambassador, saying that, “this work helps make the general populace aware of social justice and peace, which is something of penultimate importance.” Santiago can offer some advice to anyone interested in the program, saying, “This Institute offers a great learning experience, filled with great people and great ideas. If you really want to learn and be part of a good cause, as well as be a part of your community, you should join PJI. It will help you to grow as a person, as well as make you a better college student.”

The Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia is something that everyone should know about. **As a student Ambassador, I am happy to know that there is a program on campus that is so easy to get involved in, and that allows me to participate in things bigger than myself. It is an organization that not every school may have, so I am glad that I’ve gotten the opportunity to take advantage of it.**



Ambassadors Aziza Afzal and Niara Maragh

The Peace and Justice Ambassadors give back to the Valencia and greater Orlando community by assisting PJI with events, projects and activities, with a mission, “*To cultivate student empowerment through activism and outreach that promotes nonviolence, compassion, and dignity for all creatures of the earth, while upholding and embodying the core principles of the Peace and Justice Institute.*”

Ambassador News

The League of Women Voters invite Ambassadors to the Hot Topics luncheon and panel discussion on Capital Punishment in October.



Rachel Allen, Krystal Pherai, Niara Maragh, Sue Foreman, Naomi Chernault, and Santiago Zapata-Quintero



Ambassadors visited classrooms to share their experience with the PJI Ambassador Program. In Professor AJ Quackenbush’s Peace Studies class, the students were enthusiastic to hear about the Ambassador program and how they could get involved. In Susan Dauer’s classes, Ambassadors emphasized the Principles for How We Treat Each Other and how students can get involved.



On December 3rd, the East Campus Student Government Association hosted Sustainability Day to encourage social, economic, and environmental ways to live sustainably. Ambassadors participated by collecting signatures for the petition to restore rights for nonviolent felons in Florida, one of three States nationwide that does not already grant this right.



“Peace and justice means more than just an institute. It is the opportunity to grow as a person that cares about the community, the people, and the world. The Peace and Justice Institute offers a great experience where you face real problems within the community and you get to be actually part of the solution for some of these problems. This institute gives you the chance to open your eyes to new perspectives.”

-Santiago Zapata-Quintero



Ambassadors Aziza and Niara talking with students about the petition for restoration of felons’ rights

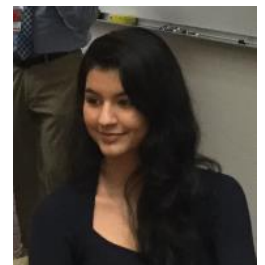
New Program “Brings Life to Knowledge” and Creates a Pathway for PJI Students

As an outgrowth of the New Student Experience, a first-year course for incoming Valencia students, a program titled, “Co-Curricular Distinctions: Bringing Life to Knowledge” engages students beyond the classroom to create strong ties to campus life.

The program offers students an opportunity to earn a “Distinction in Peace and Justice,” among three other programs, by participating in PJI events on and off campus and engaging with the Peace and Justice Ambassadors through service. The unique opportunity creates an entry point for students into PJI. With their “Distinction” in hand they are poised to become Ambassadors and from Ambassadors they may apply to be PJI Interns.

Two students completed the “Distinction” this fall: Sang Van and Sadie Lizarraga.

In Sadie’s words: “I personally believe that I benefited from attending events coordinated by the Peace and Justice Institute by becoming more aware of the issues and injustices that we face as a society. I have grown to be more compassionate towards the struggles of others and been further influenced to break or challenge common stereotypes thanks to the interactive workshops such as *Conversations on Race*.”



We are proud to offer students points of growth and opportunity in their engagement with the PJI.

Become a Peace and Justice Ambassador



Join the Peace and Justice Ambassadors
Service Learning | Spring 2016

Peace and Justice Ambassadors complete 60 hours of service (3 credit hours) in collaboration with the Peace and Justice Institute.

The mission of the Peace and Justice Ambassadors is to cultivate student empowerment through activism and outreach promoting nonviolence, compassion, and dignity for all earthlings, while earthlings, while upholding and embodying the core principles of the Peace and Justice Institute.

PRE: SLS | COURSE: 2940 | CRN: 30051

Peace Ambassadors meet Thursdays at the East Campus from 2:30-3:45 PM in room 1-340 beginning January 14th

Contact Rachel Allen for more details at Rallen33@valenciacollege.edu, or call 407-582-2709

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

VALENCIA COLLEGE

The Ambassadors are PJI student leaders who meet weekly to practice the principles and skills of peace, justice, and nonviolence, work closely with faculty, staff and fellow students, and assist with events and activities.

This coming spring, the Ambassador program is being offered as a Service Learning course for 3 credits and will meet on Thursdays at the East Campus from 2:30-3:45 pm.



Teaching Peace Studies: One Professor's Reflection



Peace and Justice Ambassadors with Professor Quackenbush's Introduction to Peace Studies class

By A.J. Quackenbush
Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies

We live in a world that at times is consumed by violence. Interstate war, terror attacks, gun violence, poverty, human rights violations, and environmental destruction are many of the issues that dominate the media. Violence is all around us. However, with challenge comes opportunity; an opportunity to create a more peaceful world. Such a world will not occur on its own but will be created by those that understand conflict and develop ways to prevent and resolve it.

Over the past several years I have been involved with Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute and recently I was asked to teach an Introduction to Peace Studies (PAX1000) class during the fall semester. Of course there was a nervous excitement because it was my first time teaching the course and peace studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that draws on political science, sociology, history, anthropology, theology, psychology, philosophy, and other disciplines. My background is in Political Science, so I knew that help was required. I felt very comfortable covering topics like

civil rights, civil liberties, political participation, interest groups, causes and theories of war and peace, and the role of intergovernmental and nongovernmental agencies in world politics. However, I was unsure as to how I would cover several of the other topics for the course.

To round out the curriculum, I decided to incorporate a plethora of guest speakers so students would get exposure to a variety of topics and perspectives in peace studies. Throughout the semester, over a dozen speakers discussed a range of topics, including nonviolence, religion, genocide, sustainable development and the environment, the United Nations, climate change, restorative justice, the Peace Corps, yoga and meditation, racism, and the role of the Peace and Justice Institute. The end result was a class that had depth and variety but perhaps more importantly was fresh and exciting for the students and myself.


Personally, I found the experience of this class to be extremely fulfilling. I feel honored to have gotten to know this group of students and I know that they will make an indelible mark on the world. The class truly understands what it means to "create the culture of peace" and has a passion to bring about change. During the semester nearly all of the students joined local organizations that are working to make a positive difference in our community. Many joined and are doing volunteer work with animal rights groups, environmental groups, and groups that help the homeless and others in poverty. Others are pursuing internships through the college and two students are getting applications ready to join the Peace Corps. To see young adults with such passion and desire to make the world a better place is truly uplifting.

In the spring semester, I look forward to my next Introduction to Peace Studies class and I'm excited about the future of Peace Studies at Valencia. Additionally, the college offers a variety of peace and justice related classes including Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace, Positive Psychology, and Freshman Composition II: Perspectives on War, Philosophies of Peace, among others. The future of Peace Studies is bright and the promise of a different world is imminent.

We have reason to possess an optimism that should not be drowned out by the constant media noise and violence. There is hope for the future. In closing, I would like to express how grateful I am for our students, faculty, and the Peace and Justice Institute who are dedicated to resolving conflict and making a more peaceful world.

Peace Studies will be offered at the East, Osceola, and Winter Park Campuses and online during the spring 2016 semester.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
- Nelson Mandela



PEACE STUDIES

Study the great men and women of peace, learn the practices of nonviolence, and become a more powerful member of our world.

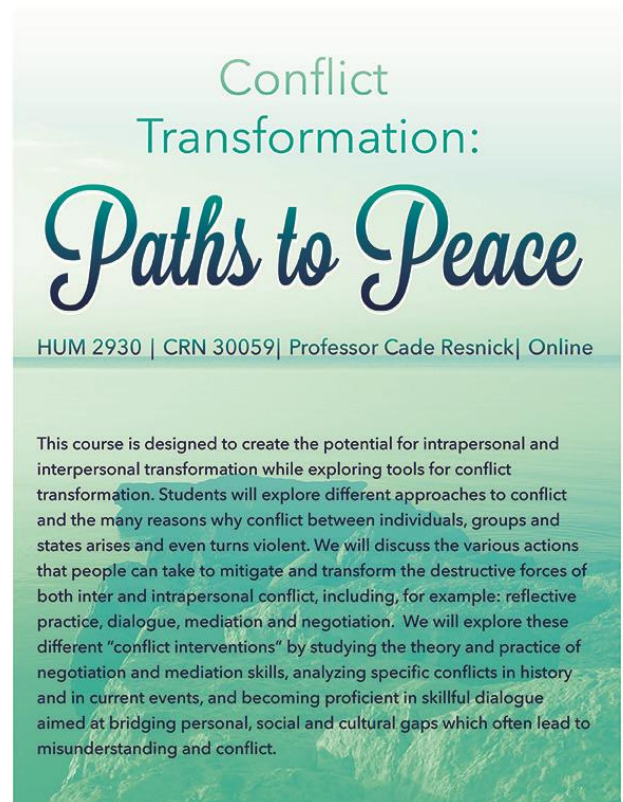
**REGISTER FOR INTRODUCTION TO PEACE STUDIES
PAX 1000 FOR SPRING 2016**

EAST	T/R	10:00 - 11:15 AM	CRN 26347
OSCEOLA	M/W	10:30 - 11:45 AM	CRN 25223
OSCEOLA	T/R	12:00 - 1:15 AM	CRN 26923
WINTER PARK	M/W	2:30 - 3:45 PM	CRN 27831
ONLINE			CRN 27817

For more information, contact the **PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE** at 407-582-2291 or send an email to PEACEANDJUSTICE@VALENCIACOLLEGE.EDU

Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace

Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace, instructed by Professor Cade Resnick, is being offered online during the spring 2016 semester.



**Conflict Transformation:
Paths to Peace**

HUM 2930 | CRN 30059 | Professor Cade Resnick | Online

This course is designed to create the potential for intrapersonal and interpersonal transformation while exploring tools for conflict transformation. Students will explore different approaches to conflict and the many reasons why conflict between individuals, groups and states arises and even turns violent. We will discuss the various actions that people can take to mitigate and transform the destructive forces of both inter and intrapersonal conflict, including, for example: reflective practice, dialogue, mediation and negotiation. We will explore these different "conflict interventions" by studying the theory and practice of negotiation and mediation skills, analyzing specific conflicts in history and in current events, and becoming proficient in skillful dialogue aimed at bridging personal, social and cultural gaps which often lead to misunderstanding and conflict.

Courses in Peace and Justice Studies at Valencia College

- 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
- HUM 2930: Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace
- LIT 2174: Multimedia Literature and the Holocaust
- PAX 1000: Introduction to Peace Studies
- PSY 2930: Psychology of Peace
- PSY 2930: Positive Psychology
- SLS 2940: Peace and Justice Ambassadors: Service Learning
- SLS 2940: PJI Service Learning Internship
- WOH 2003: A History of Genocide

For course descriptions, please visit this [link](#).

With a Community Focus, a Partnership is Born

As a means of extending peace and justice education to the Central Florida community, [Continuing Education \(CE\)](#) and the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia will work together to provide education and workshops to our business, nonprofit, corporate, education, and citizen partners.

In addition to [Orlando Speaks](#), the City of Orlando has contracted PJI to facilitate workshops for upwards of 2500 city employees in diversity and inclusion.

Further, education for police officers from across the state in procedurally just policing practices launched in December under the leadership of Dr. James McDonald. This work will continue throughout 2016 and beyond. The partnership with CE, School of Public Safety, and PJI of Valencia promises to benefit our criminal justice system throughout Florida.

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 Institute 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 building as central to the work
- 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)
- 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 sustaining peace without justice for all

Faculty Course Offerings for the spring 2016:

- **INDV 2151 Inclusion and Diversity**
- **INDV 7310 Working with Conflict**
- **INDV 7312 Cultivating the Contemplative Mind in Education Through Research, Practice and Personal Insight**
- **Peace and Justice Faculty and Staff Retreat (two-day, off campus, February 26-27)**
- **SEED 1 and 2(Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Seminar (annually)**
- **INDV 7315 Danger of A Single Story**
- **Lee Mun Wah Faculty and Staff Workshop**
- **Sustainable Education with Susan Ledlow**

FACULTY AND STAFF FOCUS

PJI Coordinator Presents at Florida Council of Independent Schools' 2015 Convention



Valencia College and the Peace and Justice Institute were well represented at the [Florida Council of Independent School's 2015 Convention](#) on November 5th with Cindy Moon, Head of Park Maitland School and Peace and Justice Institute Advisory Council Member, Dr. Sandy Shugart, President of Valencia College and Keynote Speaker at the Convention, and Rachel Allen, Peace and Justice Institute Coordinator (pictured above).

While Dr. Shugart gave the lunchtime keynote presentation, Allen gave a presentation titled, *Whiteness Matters: Waking Up to Make a Difference!* Through Allen's presentation, participants considered how a deep exploration of identity, be it through the lenses of race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or socio-economic class, might transform classrooms and schools into more meaningful spaces for deep learning and honest dialogue.



West Campus Announces New PJI Coordinator



With the significant growth of PJI on West Campus, Michele Lima, Professor of Speech becomes PJI Campus Coordinator with the support of the Campus President, Dr. Falecia Williams, her dean, Dr. Beth Renn, and a group of over 20 faculty.

In this position Lima will establish an office, coordinate co-curricular programming, and lead the faculty development offerings collegewide for the Peace and Justice Institute. Congratulations, Michele!

PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

One Supervisor's Response to Using the Principles

By Tara Rains

Manager of the East Campus Academic Success Center



The Principles for How We Treat Each Other have been instrumental in helping the employees of the Academic Success Center (ASC) perform as an effective unit. Because the Principles are a guidepost for

professionalism, I've seen improvements in open and honest communication amongst employees and, inherently, trust within the department. For the Principles to work, adoption and practice is an everyday commitment to them. Part of this commitment is providing employees with opportunities to learn and practice the Principles. Outlined below are a few examples of how the Academic Success Center has introduced and embedded the Principles within the culture of our department:

- New Staff Orientation - every new employee is required to attend an orientation that introduces them to the Learning Support division and ASC department. The Peace & Justice Principles are included in the orientation as a method for maintaining professionalism, communicating effectively, and building a team environment. By including the Principles in the orientation, employees learn them at the very beginning of their employment at Valencia.
- Welcome Back Training - before each semester begins, the ASC holds a Welcome Back training for employees on a wide array of topics. The Principles are frequently included in the options of breakout sessions that employees have to choose from and are presented in different ways so as to build awareness and allow employees to practice them in varying ways.
- Standard Operating Procedures - the Principles are included in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the ASC. They are included

as part of our practice for working with one another, further solidifying the Principles as the bedrock of our culture. All new employees are required to read the SOP within the first 30 days of employment and are referred to it for clarification of processes and procedures.

- Employee Professional Development Tool - the Principles are also embedded in the professional development tool that each of our employees uses to assess their talents and areas for improvement. Employees review their professional skills with this tool three times a year and have frequent discussions with their area leaders on how to continue their improvement.
- Practice with others - when working in such a diverse environment that values collaboration like Valencia, conflict is bound to happen. I frequently refer to the Principles when conflict arises to help maintain my own awareness while also encouraging others to be aware of how the Principles can help guide their own actions during difficult times.

I've never encountered a situation when the Principles couldn't help. I believe that they have created the type of inclusive, safe culture found in the Academic Success Center and without them, we wouldn't be a productive, collaborative department. This is not to say that we don't have our disagreements; the difference, however, is that we have the Principles as a guide for finding solutions.

Academic Success Center

Discover. Connect. Grow.

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.

For classroom sets of the [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#), 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.

Follow this [link](#) for printable versions of the Principles for How We Treat Each Other found in English, Spanish and Creole.

Reflections on the Orlando Speaks Series, Using Serial Testimony with Your Team



By Rachel Luce-Hitt
Coordinator, Inclusive Excellence

Picture it: There is a room full of people ... all with different backgrounds, experiences, values and opinions. They are all part of the same community, but sometimes it feels like there are walls built up. There is an unspoken tension, yet they are all expected to work together toward common goals.



Sound familiar? Whether from reading prior Juice articles or maybe seeing it on the local news, some of you may realize that I am referring to our latest [Orlando Speaks](#) event held at Edgewater High School on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Orlando Speaks is a series of dialogues hosted by Mayor Buddy Dyer's Office and the Orlando Police Department (OPD), facilitated by Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute, with an aim to proactively build trust and open communication between OPD and the citizens of Orlando. In the beginning, people enter the event timid, skeptical, maybe even angry, but many leave with a sense of connectedness and an increased understanding of one another.

The interesting thing is that with the description above, I could have just as easily been referring to many of our teams at Valencia, right? It is pretty common to have people with various backgrounds and experiences working together. In fact, at Valencia, we hope that is the case; there is true value in it! This is not to say that there aren't challenges along the way, though.

After co-facilitating the last Orlando Speaks, this was actually running through my head. There are many instances when groups do not reach their full potential because of a lack of communication, understanding and

trust. Can you think of any examples you have experienced here at Valencia?

With Orlando Speaks, we utilize serial testimony, a structured way of making sure that everyone's voice is heard and experiences valued, to approach the Peace and Justice Institute's [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#), Principle #9 – Speak Your Truth:

You are invited to say what is in your heart, trusting that your voice will be heard and your contributions respected. Own your truth by remembering to speak only for yourself. Using the first person "I" rather than "you" or "everyone" clearly communicates the personal nature of your expression.

Why not do something similar with your teams? The old belief that one should leave his or her personal identity and experiences at the door because at work, only getting the job done matters, is not always the best approach to building a cohesive team. Even if we wanted to, it is impossible; our identity and our experiences in the world directly impact how we interact with it. Finding ways for your team to get to know each other on a more personal, human level, can do wonders for building relationships that are able to work through personal and professional challenges, as opposed to shutting down because of them.

Serial testimony is just one way to approach this. Employee Development also offers team workshops, by request, regarding the value and nuances of different perspectives. The [Leadership Library](#) also offers myriad resources with prompts and activities to get you started. Regardless of the approach you choose to bring your team together to learn more about one another, do make sure that you utilize the Principles for How We Treat Each Other to set the tone for having this kind of dialogue.

For more information on utilizing serial testimony, Employee Development workshops, or the Leadership Library, please contact me at rluce@valenciacollege.edu.

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).

Rachel Luce-Hitt recently announced that she has accepted the position of Coordinator, Educational/Training Programs, at the University of Central Florida in their office of Diversity and Inclusion. Congratulations!

Rachel has been an integral part of the PJI during her four years at Valencia College, specifically with the introduction and growth of the SEED program, among other important contributions to the College. Rachel will be greatly missed.

PEACE AND THE ARTS

Global Peace Week Videos

In an interactive workshop titled, Peace Poetry, facilitated by Aby Boumarate and Ashley Miller, Professors of English, students were challenged to write poetry on the spot and spontaneously share their creations in front of the audience of 80 participants.

Click on the images to enjoy a reading of the two poems found below.



All voices have value.

Look at me.
What do you see?
An African American black woman.

No.

I'm a human being, just like you.
I eat, I drink, I sleep, and I have feelings.
Yet you still don't accept me.

Walking the halls, hearing the names, seeing the looks,
feeling the judgment, almost makes me want to fight,
cry, and just give up.

But do I?

No.

Instead, I just use all that negative act and I conquer it
with positive acts.
For if God is for me, who can be against me?

So I speak peace, peace in the society, peace in the
schools, peace in the house, and peace in this world.

Peace be still and listen deeply for listening can only
help you understand why a person is a certain way.
Give space to unpopular answers because only God is
the judge.

Respect silence because silence soothes the soul,
breaks down the barriers and makes room for you to
accept being who you are, how you look, and who you
want to be.

Truly we are like kings and queens so suspend
judgment, speak the truth because all voices have value.

Straunge Nelson



Rain, rain, go away.
Come again another century.
At least not in my lifetime.

The constant drip drop of water reminds me of the drip
drop of tears.

The amount of years we struggle,
The decades of pain.

Then I think to myself, rain, rain, come again.
Because the constant drip drop of rain reminds me of the
drip drop of sweat.

The hardworking martyrs, revolutionists, and
peacemakers who came before me that paved the road,
that didn't fit the mold.

Thank you for the sweat from your brow which quenched
my thirsty soul.

Jefferson Noel



The Crossing

Far and deep into holy grounds,
Somewhere away from these sunny hills,
The frail dreamer began his march.
Called by many names:
A fugitive, a migrant, a rebel,
Some would say.
A refugee, a survivor, a dreamer,
Some would say.
Crossing villages and towns,
Marching upward through valleys and plains,
Beyond the saltpans and the crusted earth,
Heading to the water's edge.
Rocks and pebbles paving the way
Like zebras roaming the savanna,
In the distance, the narrow strait,
With its two towering pillars,
Marking the gate of transformation,
From Timbuktu to Granada
Death onto life,
Misery into hope.
The travelers reached the curling of the earth,
Awaiting the crossing.
Firmly, they stood and camped on the rocky hills,
Sleeping with eyes open in makeshift tents,
Dreaming of growing wings by night,
Like Moses parting the sea.
The awakening at dawn,
The still water across the mountain terrain,
The scars and open wounds still oozing,
Hope still alive,

Somewhere beyond the barbwire,
Somewhere amid the screams of hunger
And the silence of the moon.
Somewhere far away from the drought of the earth,
One son, one brother, one father;
One daughter, one sister, one mother,
In the darkness of night,
Took to the rafts
One final time,
The very last breath,
A sigh,
A rebirth,
The calm,
The twisted fate.
Shadows in the bleak crossing
Clinging and tilting
Up and down with every wave,
High and low with every blow
Of cool breeze and sudden currents.
The early hours of dawn greeting
The dazed survivors kissing the sand,
Cleansed of all sins in the receding tide.
Misery lifted,
Some clinging to the charity of men;
Others, bodies floating by the broken rafts,
Raised beyond the Sun.
Claim deserted,
For hunger, like thirst, is no more
In the land across the shore.

-Aby Boumarate

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Conversation on Justice Jan. 25-29

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 humanity. Events will be hosted on all five Valencia College campuses. Join us! Find the complete schedule at valenciacollege.edu/PJI.

Join the PJI Faculty and Staff Retreat **Save the Date: February 26-27, 2016**



The heart of our work with the Peace and Justice Institute is the annual faculty and staff retreat, facilitated by Elaine Sullivan from the [Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education](#).

If you have considered participating in in the past, this is the year to give yourself the gift of this two day retreat, during which you will have reflective time, meaningful dialogue with colleagues, and an opportunity to deeply explore the Principles for How We Treat Each Other and how they serve us in the classroom, at work, and in our lives.

To find out how to register, email the [Peace and Justice Office](#).

Internationally Renowned Filmmaker, Diversity Trainer Comes to Valencia



Lee Mun Wah March 30th

Internationally renowned Chinese American filmmaker and master diversity trainer, Lee Mun Wah comes to Valencia March 30, 2016 to work with students, faculty, staff, and larger community with a focus on creating an inclusive community.

Mun Wah's visit to the college is a continuation of work done over the last several years to create inclusive classrooms and campus culture that has included conversations on race and privilege, SEED and two visits from Dr. Peggy McIntosh. As we explore the idea of Inclusive Excellence at the college and deepen our commitment to diversity, Lee Mun Wah promises to take our work to the next level of understanding.

"When one person listens to another's story, something magical happens. Our presence and our willingness to learn weaves into their journey. And if we earn their trust, we become a part of their story. So that in the end, we are all witnesses and we are all a part of the cure."

-Lee Mun Wah

This special event is made possible through partnership between Valencia Human Resources, Teaching and Learning Academy, Peace and Justice Institute, and Academic Affairs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring 2016

Tuesday, January 19th

Be the Change – PJI Student Orientation
Winter Park Campus, Room 1-114, 10:00-11:00 am

Tuesday, January 19th

Be the Change - PJI Student Orientation
West Campus, Room 11-106, 1:00-2:00 pm

Wednesday, January 20th

Be the Change – PJI Student Orientation
Osceola Campus, Room 2-172, 10:00-11:00 am

Thursday, January 21st

Free Screening and Discussion of *Selma*
Visit www.wppj.org for more information
Winter Park Library, 6:00-8:00 pm

Friday, January 22nd

Danger of A Single Story: Racial Identity Development
Faculty Development Course (CRN 3300)
West Campus, 1:00-4:00 pm

Monday, January 25th - Friday, January 29th

Week-Long Conversation on Justice
Check the PJI website for the full schedule for events

Thursday, January 28th

Cultivating the Contemplative Mind in Education through
Research, Practice, and Personal Insight
Faculty Development Course (CRN 2914)
East Campus, 1:00-5:00 pm

Friday, January 29th

Cultivating the Contemplative Mind in Education through
Research, Practice, and Personal Insight
Faculty Development Course (CRN 2915)
West Campus, 1:00-5:00 pm

Sunday, February 7th

Prayers for Peace: An Interfaith Service
West Campus, Special Events Center, 4:00-5:30 pm

Tuesday, February 16th

Orlando Speaks with the City of Orlando and the
Orlando Police Department
Visit [Orlando Speaks](#) for details

Thursday, February 18th

Inclusion and Diversity
Faculty Development Course (CRN 2956)
East Campus, 2:00-4:00 pm

Friday, February 19th

Inclusion and Diversity
Faculty Development Course (CRN 2958)
West Campus, 2:00-4:00 pm

Friday, February 19th - Saturday, February 20th

Peace and Justice Ambassador Student Retreat

Friday, February 26th - Saturday, February 27th

Faculty and Staff Annual Peace and Justice Retreat
Location TBA, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday, March 2nd

Be the Change - PJI Student Orientation
East Campus, Room 3-113, 1:00-2:00 pm

Friday, March 4th

Danger of A Single Story Wrap Up
Faculty Development Course (CRN 3300)
West Campus, 1:00-4:00 pm

Friday, March 18th

Working with Conflict
Faculty Development Course (CRN 3086)
West Campus, 1:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 22nd

Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering
East Campus, Room 8-101, 8:00-10:00 am

Saturday, March 26th

Spring Fling Service Project
Coalition for the Homeless
8:30 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday, March 30th

Lee Mun Wah
Filmmaker and Diversity Trainer
Find the full day's schedule on the PJI website
West Campus Special Events Center

Visit valenciacollege.edu/pji for event details.



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.



BE A PART OF THE PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE.

Visit us online facebook.com/valenciaceandjustice
valenciacollege.edu/pji

