



# PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

All People. All Voices. All Matter.

**VALENCIA COLLEGE**

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# CONSCIOUS CONVERSATION

By Patricia Ambinder  
Peace and Justice Institute, Advisory Council Chair

It is with a heavy heart that I reveal the PJI spring newsletter was ready to go online when the horrific tragedy at Pulse, an LGBT nightclub occurred. Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured and the deceased and their families. The PJI mission is more vital than ever as the struggle for inclusive excellence must endure if we want the destiny of our community to be in peaceful hands and just hearts, and not through violence, ignorance, and hate. At vigils throughout our community, people are turning to one another and starting conversations to help understand why and restore hope to the future.

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about, says Margaret Wheatley.\* This happens through "...truthful conversations where we each have a chance to speak...feel heard...and listen well."

In its inaugural year as an Institute, PJI expanded its relationship-centered conversations at Valencia and in the community. As you read the newsletter, it's clear PJI nurtures the conditions for socially inclusive change through its peace curriculum, staff trainings, co-curricular programs, civic partnerships, continuing education and community engagement.

PJI derives its foundation from the values of Valencia College and its strength from the tireless leadership of Rachel Allen; constant support from Dr. Stacey Johnson; and the passionate commitment of the PJI staff and faculty, Peace and Justice Ambassadors, and Valencia students. Thank you to the Advisory Council members who bring vitality to their role as dedicated PJI allies.

Turning once again to the words of Margaret Wheatley, may they inspire imagination and courageous conversations as we work together to honor the PJI vision, All People. All Voices. All Matter., as our community heals and grows stronger.

Ask, "what's possible?" not "what's wrong?" Keep asking.

Notice what you care about. Assume that others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.  
Speak to people you know.  
Speak to people you don't know.  
Speak to people you never talk to.

Listen to someone, not advising or coaching, but silently and fully listening.

Be intrigued by the differences you hear.  
Expect to be surprised.  
Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible.  
Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know.  
Real listening always brings people closer together.

Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.

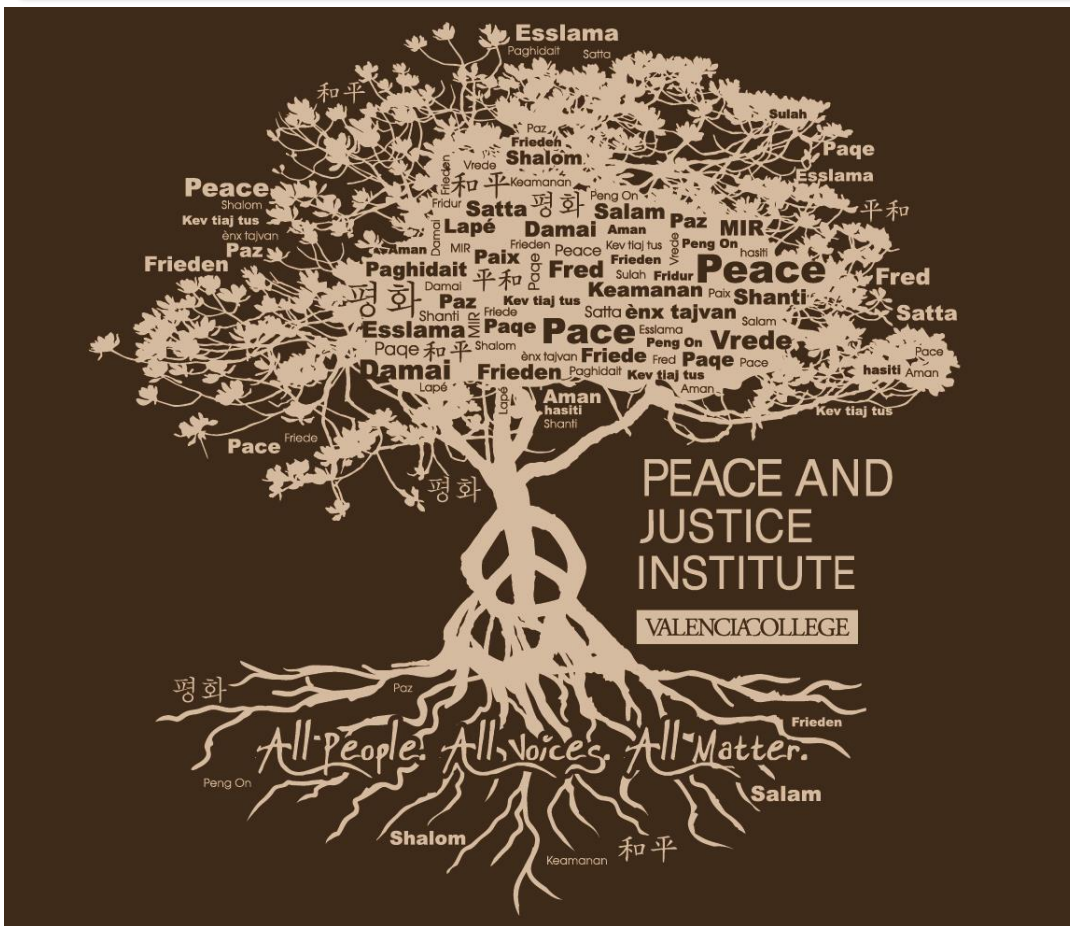
\*<http://margaretwheatley.com/>

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PJI Mission:  
 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.



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# PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

All People. All Voices. All Matter.

## FEATURED

### Launching an Institute

Throughout this year, we have been asked about the difference between the Peace and Justice “Initiative” and the Peace and Justice “Institute” that launched July 18, 2015. Moving from campus to community is our initial response. And reflecting on this response, I am moved to consider more deeply the nature of the transition from Initiative to Institute.

What is the goal of the [Peace and Justice Institute](#)? Is it to create a building – a physical space for us to enter and learn? Clearly the answer is “no.” The purpose of the Institute is to invite each one of us, within our own humanity, to become agents of peace and social change. This Institute takes root within the individual who begins to recognize that he or she can be the change we wish to see on the world and serve as a powerful agent of peacebuilding and social justice.

Through the growth and transformation of individuals from the inside out, the Peace and Justice Institute is essentially a movement model for social change. PJI is not a physical building that one enters, but is embodied within the individuals who enter the buildings of Valencia, as well as the homes and structures of our community. Through the heart space of the individuals, PJI transforms from within to create change throughout.

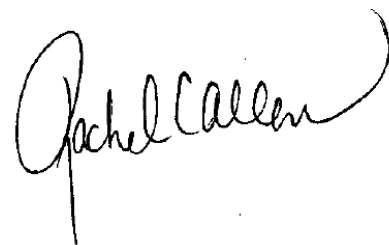
PJI instills a strong sense of civic responsibility in people, inviting us to think critically and with imagination, confront our own assumptions and biases, and engage fully in a world that often tries to lull us into complacency. PJI is not complacent. PJI teaches each one of us that we can make a difference in the world.

Witnessing the transformation within our students through their engagement with Peace Studies, Global Peace Week, the Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering, Service Learning, Conversation on Justice, the Distinction, Peace and Justice Ambassador and Leadership Fellow programs is heartening. These students are invited to explore the complex issues we face and, through practicing the Principles for How We Treat Each Other, learn to skillfully communicate and navigate conflict.

With “All People. All Voices. All Matter.” as our vision, PJI aims to raise the consciousness of each individual to recognize the inherent value and deep interconnectedness of all of humanity.

To say that our mission is a lofty one is an understatement. What compels us to make this commitment to social justice and the culture of peace? The answer to that question is unique - both personal and profound - for every individual who embarks on this collective journey.

What is beautiful is to witness the manifestation of that commitment which is the Peace and Justice Institute. The pages within this newsletter are testament to the power of purpose and commitment toward a shared vision. You will read about campus and community programs that transform us individually and collectively. Let’s celebrate the work, knowing that together, we can and do make a difference!



Peace and Justice Institute, Coordinator

## Creating a Common Language of Peace and Justice

PJI has a vision to create a common language for peace and conflict transformation on our campuses and within the community. With the launch of the Institute, we moved closer to that vision by exposing over 25,000 people to the Principles for How We Treat Each Other since July 18, 2015.

At the College, all students in the New Student Experience, some 13,225 students during the 2015-2016 academic year, were introduced to the Principles in the first week of class. Additionally, faculty across disciplines including peace studies, interpersonal communication, composition, history, humanities, speech, math, sociology, engineering and psychology introduce the Principles in their courses as a means of creating peaceable classrooms with the safe space necessary for deep learning and authentic dialogue.

Through the co-curricular experiences on campus, including Global Peace Week in the fall and Conversation on Justice in the spring, thousands of students, faculty and staff work with the Principles in workshop setting to facilitate effective communication through often difficult subject matter.

In addition to the classroom, the [Teaching and Learning Academy](#) introduces the Principles to all incoming tenure-track faculty, furthering the opportunity to build the culture of peace on our campuses and within the classroom setting.

Through Valencia's Human Resources, the Principles are integrated into the Supervisor Check-in Process with all staff, and are introduced in the Pivot Leadership Programs.

Within the community, partnership with the City of Orlando created the opportunity for close to 3600 citizens to be introduced to the Principles.

The City of Orlando, through a workshop titled Conversations in Inclusiveness, facilitated by the Peace and Justice Institute, exposed close to 3000 people to the Principles for How We Treat Each Other.

Through this process, in 98 workshops, every city employee worked with the Principles and was invited to bring these practices into their professional and personal lives.

Additionally through three Orlando Speaks events, community dialogues with police and citizens, along with the [Mayor's Neighborhood and Community Summit](#), upwards of 600 more citizens worked with the Principles for How We Treat Each Other as practices of respect and community building.

Spring boarding from these experiences are the citizens who have taken the Principles to their places of worship, homeowner's associations, schools, non-profits, and more. [ArtReach Orlando](#), a local non-profit, uses the Principles with students to create a safe place for exploring art as creative and healing expression. [Park Maitland School](#) works with an "elementary" set of the Principles to build the culture of peace among teachers, parents and students. More and more, organizations are finding the value in introducing a shared set of practices that invite us all to build the culture of peace.

Imagine the impact of 25,000 citizens practicing slowing down, suspending judgment, checking our assumptions and biases and turning to wonder. Imagine the possibility of the Principles integrated into our children's classroom experience starting as young as kindergarten. Imagine what we can do together.....

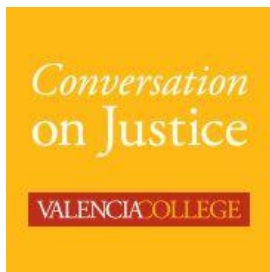
# PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

## Our Practice of Respect and Community Building



**EVENTS**

**Conversation on Justice  
January 25-29, 2016**



This past spring semester, nearly 3000 students, faculty, staff, and administrators across Valencia College experienced the annual Conversation on Justice! 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, delves into critical conversations whose goal is to promote a culture of peace and justice and mend the fabric of our humanity.

To view the schedule of events from the January 2016 Conversation on Justice, [click here](#).



*A student shares personal testimony during a workshop*

**The Importance of Justice Week:  
An Ambassador Reflection**



*A standing room only audience at West Campus*

By Aziza Afzal  
Peace and Justice Ambassador

The Peace and Justice Institute's Conversation on Justice opened my eyes to what seems like the endless challenges in society today. Through Professor Crystal Smith's *Nonviolent Protest and the Disability Rights Movement* workshop, I learned that prior to Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, people were heavily discriminated against because of their disabilities. After sitting in on the Student Veterans of America (SVA) panel discussion during the *Understanding the Veteran's Experience* workshop, I realized that veterans face a difficult transition when they go from having rigorous, scheduled days in the military to adjusting to the less regimented student life; unless you're a veteran yourself, it's tough to understand how difficult that change can be. Through the *Democracy in Action: Being an Engaged Citizen* workshop facilitated by Professor AJ Quackenbush, I realized the importance of being an informed and educated citizen. Millions of people will be voting in the presidential election this year, and yet so many don't even know the basic history of our country. These are just a few of the many significant topics that Justice Week touched upon.

Spending the week going to numerous workshops and learning about so many issues (some of which I had never heard about) started to become overwhelming. As just one person, I felt like there was really nothing I could do. However, I've realized that beginning to solve these issues begins with awareness. I think PJI does a wonderful job in covering such heavy, complex topics, and educating both staff and students on the dilemmas that humans face globally, and what they can do to help. It's important that every student and staff member come to as many workshops as they can, because there are topics that resonate with every single person. PJI educates people about important, current topics that aren't necessarily covered in classrooms, but still affect millions of people every single day.

PJI's mission is "Making a difference by intentionally engaging in practices and principles that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others, and the Earth." And in my experience, I think Justice Week did exactly that.

### Moments from the Conversation on Justice



*Resham Shirsat, Director of Sustainability at Valencia College facilitates a workshop on speciesism*



*Students with Dr. Falecia Williams, President of Valencia West Campus*



*A student excitedly speaks her truth*



*Students enjoying the personal testimony sharing process*



*Charles Davis and Penny Villegas of the [League of Women Voters of Orange County](#) registered voters everyday throughout Justice week*



Yelitza Zamora of the [Harbor House of Central Florida](#) tells students about the shelter's important work in the community



Peace and Justice Ambassador and Senator of Community Relations for SGA, Jeff Noel energizes students during our Community Outreach: Get Engaged! session at East Campus



PJI members acting silly after a day of engaging workshops



The Conversation on Justice was sponsored by the Peace and Justice Institute with funding support from Student Development.

### World Affairs Council of Central Florida January 22, 2016



In partnership with Valencia College's School of Public Safety, the Peace and Justice Institute provided a two hour presentation to an international delegation of emerging leaders from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Venezuela to explore community policing in the United States. The [World Affairs Council of Central Florida](#) hosted the delegation.

This program, out of the U.S. State Department consisted of eight senior leaders from the political, police, and education disciplines. They were supported by a team of liaisons and translators.



WORLD  
AFFAIRS  
COUNCIL of  
CENTRAL FLORIDA





## Orlando Speaks February 16, 2016

By Haven McLaughlin  
Peace and Justice Ambassador

Allow me to start by saying [Orlando Speaks](#) truly gave me hope for our community. It was better coordinated and more organized than I anticipated. There have been two other Orlando Speaks events in the past and Orlando's Mayor Buddy Dyer and the police force have participated since the beginning. This Orlando Speaks took place at a middle school in downtown Orlando. When we were taking our seats, we were asked to have one officer, a millennial, and two adults along with people from different ethnic and racial backgrounds at our table.

This general group set up allowed for a diverse expression of age, race, and ethnicity. The officer at my table was a gregarious man who expressed his opinion on the work at hand; he told me that he felt it was something that was necessary and important but that we should also consider the officers views as well. I was happy to have been able to speak with him and the other members at the table who all seemed to have important knowledge and valuable input to our group.

The coordinator running the event did well to keep everyone focused and engaged in the discussion which I believe is the most important aspect in order to allow everyone to get the most out of the event.

I think the most profound moment was when individuals were asked to volunteer to stand and give a brief speech on some of their experiences which ranged greatly and each of them had an impact on the speaker's life in one way or another. I heard one recount of an officer who stopped an African-American because he didn't have a reflector on his bike which was a city ordinance. When the man got resistant and angry the officer decidedly responded with apprehending the man. The officer has said that he realized it was probably because the man had been stopped before and was defensive due to perceived racial prejudice. This shows the importance of really turning to wonder what the other person is thinking and why before we make snap judgments.

We were later asked to draft a T-chart that depicted the needs of the community and the needs of the officers in order to find a perfect balance in an idealistic community between the two groups. In the end, what we found out, based on our group's final result, was that the needs were practically one in the same and the same respect and needs required by the general community were also required by the officers as they are in of themselves members of the community.

Overall, I was thrilled to see that the mayor and the local police force adopted this workshop, tried to bring everyone together, and made a good-hearted attempt to cease the unnecessary tension. It is important that we not only encourage fellowship within our own community but that we make sure we lay a solid foundation for future generations to be able to trust and build relations with the police force.

### Moments from Orlando Speaks



*Peace and Justice Ambassador Haven McLaughlin listens to community member Kisha Williams Ohana share her personal testimony*



*PJI Coordinator Rachel Allen speaks with City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and District 4 Commissioner Patty Sheehan before Orlando Speaks*



*Peace and Justice Ambassador Yazan Saleh makes Orlando Speaks facilitator Rudy Darden and participants laugh*



*Orlando Speaks facilitator and PJI West Campus Coordinator, Michele Lima speaks to the audience on hidden biases*



*Orlando Speaks participants listen to an Orlando Police Officer during the personal testimony process*



**Click the image above to view a video of Orlando Speaks.**

## Mayor Buddy Dyer's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Neighborhood and Community Summit March 12, 2016



*Marcia Hope Goodwin, Mayor Buddy Dyer, and Susan Harris  
with PJI facilitators*

The Peace and Justice Institute was honored to develop and facilitate the opening session of [Mayor Buddy Dyer's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Neighborhood and Community Summit](#). Working with close to 300 community leaders representing non-profits, the arts, our faith community, government, law enforcement, neighborhood associations and more, the opening session provided an opportunity for a diverse representation of our citizenry to intentionally explore the idea of Inclusive Excellence and building a culture of inclusion.

Beginning with PJI's Principles for How We Treat Each Other, participants at the opening session were encouraged to sit with people they did not know who represented groups different from their own. Through one-on-one conversation and group dialogue, the session explored what it means to be truly inclusive of our rich diversity. Recognizing that we are the leaders we have been waiting for, we came together to learn from one another and share our collective wisdom.

A powerful moment in the session came when participants were invited to watch a short video about stereotypes, and asked to consider the "simple stories" that have been told about themselves and their family, as well as the "simple stories" that they tell about others. The feelings in the room were palpable when many realized that although we work together for unity, bias and stereotypes still impact the way so many of us are treated within our culture.

Recognizing that we can be intentional about creating a culture of inclusion, and that the fabric of our community is

mended and strengthened when people feel valued and heard, participants reflected individually on how they can create a more inclusive neighborhood, organization and community, in which each of us feels a greater sense of belonging.

Knowing that there is much work to be done, and that we, the citizens, are responsible for the health of our community, each person reflected on what he or she can do personally to make a difference toward building a more inclusive community.

Suggestions were provided to:

- Sign up for a workshop to learn how to integrate the Principles For How We Treat Each Other within ones' organization
- Look for a daylong community workshop to deepen this work
- Attend the next Orlando Speaks event
- Attend courses, events and programs throughout the year offered by PJI
- Visit the PJI website to find out more opportunities for participation
- Sign up for the PJI community mailing list to receive notifications about events and programs



*PJI Facilitator Hank Van Putten at the Mayor's Summit Opening Session*



Moments from the Neighborhood and Community Summit

College of Central Florida  
April 1, 2016



PJI Coordinator Rachel Allen addresses the audience



PJI Coordinator Rachel Allen poses with student leaders at the College of Central Florida



PJI Facilitator Mollie McLaughlin leads a session on the Principles for How We Treat Each Other at the Summit



OPD Officer Kevlon Kirkpatrick engages in the Summit sessions

The Office of Student Life at the [College of Central Florida](#) invited Rachel Allen, Peace and Justice Institute Coordinator to be the keynote speaker for their annual Leadership Symposium on April 1, 2016 in the Ewers Century Center. This year's theme centered on Kindness with workshops on kindness, leadership and community. In addition to her keynote address, Rachel facilitated an engaging workshop on the Principles for How We Treat Each Other. Pictured above are the students who attended the workshop. The Leadership Symposium gives students the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills to become a more effective leader.



## An Unfinished Conversation with Lee Mun Wah March 30, 2016



By Laura Brito  
Peace and Justice Distinction Student

Lee Mun Wah is an internationally renowned Chinese American documentary filmmaker, author, poet, and Asian folk teller. Mun Wah is also an educator, community therapist and master diversity trainer. For more than 25 years he was a resource specialist and counselor in the San Francisco Unified School District. He later became a consultant to private schools, working with students that had severe learning and behavioral issues. Mun Wah is now the Executive Director of [Stirfry Seminars & Consulting](#), a diversity training company that provides educational tools and workshops on issues pertaining to cross-cultural communication and awareness, mindful facilitation, and conflict meditation techniques.

I had the honor of attending one of Mun Wah's seminars held at Valencia's West Campus. At the beginning of the seminar, *A Cross Gender/Race Conversation*, Mun Wah seemed peculiar. He stared blankly in silence at the attendees as he walked through the rows, cautiously observing each and every individual there. Finally, he walked to the front of the room and questioned, "Can anyone tell me what I was doing?" He motioned over to a few men, handing them the microphone as they answered. Mun Wah then asked, "How did everyone feel about my actions?" again handing the mic to the male students. I noticed he was only asking the men their opinions, their names, and giving them the mic. After a few moments he asked some women how they felt. He didn't offer them the mic, didn't ask their name, nor did he give them much of a chance to speak.

Mun Wah walked up to me and asked me the same question, "How did you feel?" and I answered, "It made me

feel anx-", he walked away before I could finish saying my sentence. I gave him a puzzled look because I felt like my voice was taken away from me; I felt rejected.

Mun Wah noticed my disturbed look—he ignored it. He then posed a new question, "Did anyone notice the act I committed?" I was puzzled by this question. A student then answered, "You were being sexist" to which Mun Wah replied, "Yes! And why didn't you say anything?" Everyone remained quiet, unwilling to face the fact that they did not speak up. He then looked at me and said "Young lady stand up. Why didn't you say anything to me? I saw the look you gave me." I simply answered, "I did not want to cause a scene." He replied, "You have a voice; no matter where you are, no matter who you are with, I want you to use it. You are a strong woman and it does not matter whether you cause a scene or if people take your statement and misinterpret it. Let your voice be heard." His words spoke to me, providing me with a feeling of comfort.



*Lee Mun Wah tells his powerful stories to the audience*

Mun Wah later began to speak about race and diversity. He shared a story about an African American child who was repeatedly misbehaving in school. The faculty members decided to kick him out of the school. The child begged and begged to be kept in the school, but the principal and faculty members made their final decision. Mun Wah always wondered what would have happened if that child was allowed to stay in the school. Sadly enough, a few years later, the child broke into a house, robbed the home of its goods, grabbed the woman of the home, took her to the laundry room, and he killed her. Again, Mun Wah wondered what could have been made of this child if he had only been given a chance to stay at the school. The woman who was murdered that day was Mun Wah's mother. This story saddened me.

I grew up in a very poor neighborhood. The teachers at my school didn't really care about our wellbeing nor did they attempt to empower the students. A simple act of kindness

can change a person, and when a child grows up with love from any adult figure, they grow up to be a better person. In the case presented by Mun Wah, I was able to see how the child's race had an impact on how the school handled the child's behavior. Instead of helping the child and trying to understand why he misbehaved, they separated him from his friends and changed his school. This can do a lot of damage to a person and a lot of people may not realize that.

Overall, I loved the message that Mun Wah stands for. His experiences are what drove him to speak to the public, to inform us on what we see but do not act upon. His words touch the heart. That day changed me. It helped me open my heart, mind, and mouth to what's right. I hold Lee Mun Wah's words dear, and will never let my voice or skin color allow me to be put down by anyone.



Laura Brito and Lee Mun Wah



Dr. Sandy Shugart, President of Valencia College and Pat Lewis, West Campus student share a laugh during Lee Mun Wah's presentation

In written reflection, students, faculty, staff, and community members used the following words to describe the day-long events with Lee Mun Wah:



Under the leadership of Celine Kavalec, Director, Teaching and Learning Academy, the events with Lee Mun Wah were made possible through partnership between Valencia Human Resources, the [Teaching and Learning Academy](#), the Peace and Justice Institute, and Academic Affairs.





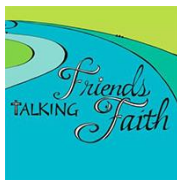
**Friends Talking Faith:  
Making Sense of Turbulent Times  
February 2, 2016**



Valencia College was honored to host [WMFE 90.7's](#) first Speaker Series of 2016 with the popular [Three Wise Guys](#) of "Friends Talking Faith."

Rachel Allen, Coordinator of the Peace and Justice Institute joined the faith leaders to discuss the topic: *Making Sense of Turbulent Times*. Additionally, to a packed audience at the East Campus PAC, Valencia graduate Omar Abdul-Hafiz and current Valencia student Lora Abdulhak shared personal stories about life today as Muslims in America.

PJI is grateful to partner with the Three Wise Guys and WMFE 90.7 in facilitating this very important and continuing interfaith dialogue in our community.



*LaFontaine Oliver, Imam Muhammad Musri, Reverend Bryan Fulwider, Rabbi Steve Engel, and Rachel Allen*

**Interfaith Council and PJI Host  
Interfaith Service  
February 7, 2016**

By Jim Coffin  
Interfaith Council of Central Florida, Executive Director

Eight faith traditions participated in a Prayers for Peace Service on the West Campus of Valencia College on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The event, co-sponsored by the [Interfaith Council of Central Florida](#) (which organized the program) and the Peace and Justice Institute (which arranged the venue), highlighted the theme of peace—through scripture readings, prayers, chants and music from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and Unitarian Universalist faith traditions. Many of those present said the program should be repeated at a time more conducive to attendance by students as well as the general public. We're exploring the possibility of a rerun during Global Peace Week in September. Watch for announcements once plans are finalized.



*faith • friendship • community*

**Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering  
March 22, 2016**



*PJI members with our Interfaith leaders*

By Naomi Chernault  
Peace and Justice Institute Intern

Starting this semester as PJI's new intern, I was excited to see what events I would be helping with. When I was asked to help with the Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering, I was ecstatic, as it was my favorite event we hosted the previous semester. The Peace Breakfast is a gathering of different faiths for the purpose of discussing views on compassion, peace, and the way we treat each other. It provides an opportunity to slow down and pause for fellowship and prayer, while celebrating and honoring religious and cultural diversity.

From designing and creating the programs, contacting guest speakers, to ordering the breakfast food, I helped get everything ready to go! With the event just around the corner, PJI Staff Assistant, Krystal Pherai and I were informed that we would be facilitating the event. As nervous as facilitating can be, we were ready to host this beautiful breakfast.

The room was filled with close to 100 people from different backgrounds, religions, and races. This was the best attended Peace Breakfast hosted by PJI at Valencia yet! We had nine different faiths or traditions represented, some of which I had never heard of. Our guests included Dr. Sheri Dressler representing Baha'i, Rachel Siu representing Buddhism, Rita Lucey representing Catholicism, Jim Coffin representing Christianity, Dr. Abhinav Dwivedi representing Hinduism, Jocelyn and David Williamson representing Humanism, Aminah

Hamidullah representing Islam, Rabbi Joshua Neely representing Judaism, and Nav Khalsa representing Sikhism. Each guest shared with the group how their religion practices and promotes peace locally and throughout the world.

It was so exciting to see everyone peacefully gathered under one roof! When asked if anyone had thoughts to share, Nuren Haider, a women running for office in Central Florida, stood up proudly and explained how if we were in any other country, we would not have the opportunity to see such a diverse group of people sit and talk about religion. Just looking at the people attending this event, it was evident that no two people looked the same. For me, that's what made this event so beautiful.

Listening to what every religion was about, I realized that each one had a common goal. While some may call it "The Golden Rule," every religion sought to be kind to one another and treat others the way you would like to be treated (also described as Namaste, peace be with you, etc.). Every religion, while diverse in nature, still has the one Golden Rule, and that is simply to be kind to one another.

As the Peace Breakfast came to a close, we were so happy with the work and message that it brought. PJI's Peace Breakfast won East Campus Student Development's Program of the Year Award! Earning that award was affirmation that the work we are doing is important! I can't wait to see how the Peace Breakfast continues to grow throughout the years.



**"Peace among religions is a precondition for world peace." -Swami Agnivesh**





## Peace Education Thriving in Jacmel, Haiti

For the third year in a row, the Peace and Justice Institute will partner with [Saint Margaret Mary Church in Winter Park](#) to provide peace education in Jacmel, Haiti.

The Peace Program in Haiti held its first Konferans Lape Jacmel (Jacmel Peace Conference) facilitated by the Peace and Justice Institute under the invitation of Saint Margaret Mary Church in August 2014. That year, forty-four participants from throughout Jacmel, along with two leaders from Pax Christi Cite de Soleil in Port Au Prince traveled to attend the conference, which presented interactive sessions on peacebuilding and conflict engagement skills. The Haitian participants eagerly absorbed the concepts, had fun with the learning activities, and formed discussion groups to plan future activities in their respective schools, parishes and chapels. The group learned and sang, ate and laughed together. Peace was tangible.

As a result of that initial three-day conference in 2014, a Peace Commission was established to oversee the action plans of the Jacmel Peace Program. Following the [August 2015 conference](#), Jeanne Claude Doirin, Professor at the California English School in Jacmel, became the first paid Director of the Jacmel Peace Commission.

This year, Konferans Lape Jacmel 2016 takes place August 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. The conference is designed as a facilitator-training program, with co-leaders coming from various parishes and organizations from throughout Jacmel and Port Au Prince's Pax Christi. The co-leaders, having attended the conferences over the last two years, will be further trained

in group facilitation and peace and conflict transformation skills. They will then commit to lead a monthly peace group in their hometown over the course of the 2016-2017 academic year. Together, the co-leaders, with support from the Peace Commission, will build an online repository of lessons and activities in peace and conflict education. Co-leaders will write bi-annual reports about their individual peace groups with the goal of sharing ideas, best practices and progress among them.

PJI conference facilitators Paul Chapman and Rachel Allen would like to thank Saint Margaret Mary Church's generous community, including Sister Rosemary Finnegan, Angela Alban, and Ken Firling, Brian Rusch and the [Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation](#), Valencia College's Word Processing Center on East Campus, photojournalist [Willie J. Allen Jr.](#), and our Haitian partners Colin Augustnor, Ecutio Alphonse, Bernard Eguy and Jean Claude Doirin for collaboration in support of peace education in Haiti.



## Konferans Lapé Jacmel 2015

**Ak ki moun mwen pral fè lapè?**

St. Margaret Mary  
Catholic Church

DIOCÈSE  
DE JACMEL

VALENCIA COLLEGE

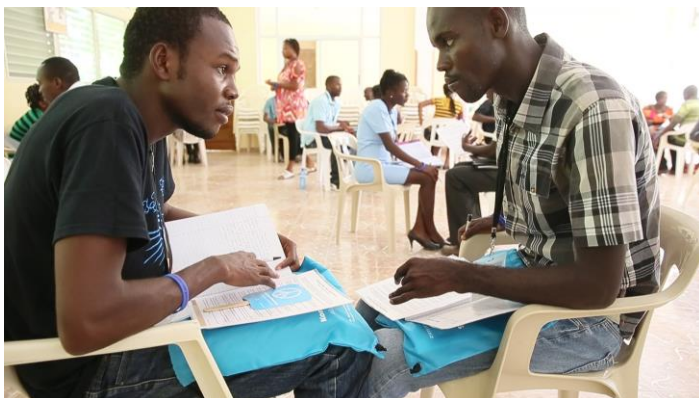
**Moments from the Konferans Lape Jacmel 2015**



*A Peace Conference participant speaks aloud to the group*



*Participants share in small groups*



*Two conference participants reflect on each other's stories*

[Click here](#) to view a video of the August 2015 peace conference in Jacmel, created by Willie J. Allen Jr.

**Vatican to host first-ever conference to reevaluate just war theory, justifications for violence**



By Joshua J. McElwee | Apr. 5, 2016

Rome -- The Vatican will be hosting a first of its kind conference next week to reexamine the Catholic church's long-held teachings on just war theory, bringing some 80 experts engaged in global nonviolent struggles to Rome with the aim of developing a new moral framework that rejects ethical justifications for war.

Participants say the conference -- to be cohosted by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the global Catholic peace network Pax Christi International April 11-13 -- may recommend displacing the centuries-old just war theory as the main Catholic response to violence.

They also express hope that Pope Francis might take up their conversations by deciding to focus his next encyclical letter, the highest form of teaching for a pontiff, on issues of Catholic peacemaking.

Terrence Rynne, a U.S. theologian who will be attending the event, said he considers it "phenomenally important."

"Coming out of it, Pope Francis might see his way clear to articulate a fresh vision of peacemaking to the church," said Rynne, who helped found Marquette University's Center for Peacemaking. "That would be wonderful."

Just war theory is a tradition that uses a series of criteria to evaluate whether use of violence can be considered morally justifiable. First referred to by fourth century bishop St. Augustine of Hippo, it was later articulated in depth by 13th century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas and is today outlined by four conditions in the formal [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#). [1]

A number of theologians have criticized continued use of

the theory in modern times, due to the powerful capabilities of modern weapons and evidence of the effectiveness of nonviolent campaigns in response to unjust aggression.

The *Catechism* currently outlines as one criteria for moral justification of war that "the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated" and notes that "the power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition."

Conference organizers say in a note to participants about the April event that just war teaching "can no longer claim center stage as *the* Christian approach to war and peace."

"After more than 1,500 years and repeated use of the just war criteria to sanction war rather than to prevent war, the Catholic Church, like many other Christian communities, is rereading the text of Jesus' life and re-appropriating the Christian vocation of pro-active peacemaking," they state.

"Emphasizing the need to work for a just peace, the Church is moving away from the acceptability of calling war 'just,'" they continue. "While clear ethical criteria are necessary for addressing egregious attacks or threats in a violent world, moral theologians and ethicists should no longer refer to such criteria as the 'just war theory,' because that language undermines the moral imperative to develop tools and capacity for nonviolent conflict."

As part of their goals for the conference, organizers state they seek a "new articulation of Catholic teaching on war and peace, including explicit rejection of 'just war' language."

They state that they want "an alternative ethical framework for engaging acute conflict and atrocities by developing the themes and practices of nonviolent conflict transformation and just peace."

April's conference will be the first to be cohosted by the Vatican's pontifical council and Pax Christi, an international Catholic coalition akin to Amnesty International that maintains separate national groups in many countries.

Started in 1945 by a French laywoman and a French bishop in the aftermath of the Second World War, Pax Christi has long sought to address the root causes of conflict and advocate for nonviolent solutions.

The conference is being organized around four sessions allowing participants to dialogue and share experiences with one another. The only scheduled talk at the event is to be given by Cardinal Peter Turkson, the head of the

pontifical council.

The four sessions are given the themes: Experiences of Nonviolence, Jesus' Way of Nonviolence, Nonviolence and Just Peace, and Moving Beyond Unending War.

Each of the sessions is being led by experts in the separate topic areas, including: Rose Marie Berger, an editor at *Sojourners* magazine and social justice activist;

Fr. John Dear, a former Jesuit known internationally for his writings and civil disobedience actions; Maria Stephan, a senior policy fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace; and Lisa Sowle Cahill, a theologian at Boston College.

Rynne said that the participants are hoping their discussions will allow them to draft some sort of document summarizing their sessions. The organizers' note to participants says they hope to create an "action plan for promotion of Catholic teaching on war and peace, violence and nonviolence."

Rynne said that participants are coming from many places, including: Chile, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Palestine and Burundi.

"It's a dream that I've had for a long time that the church would embrace peacemaking as its central manta, and not have the just war theory be settled teaching the way it has been for so many centuries," said the theologian.

"If people understood they had this powerful method of non-violent action that has been demonstrably proven again and again, we would begin to move away" from just war theory, he said.

[Joshua J. McElwee is NCR Vatican correspondent. His email address is [jmcelwee@ncronline.org](mailto:jmcelwee@ncronline.org) [2]. Follow him on Twitter: [@joshimac](https://twitter.com/@joshimac) [3].]

This article first appeared in the [National Catholic Reporter](#).



# PEACE NEWS

*Celebrating peace news locally, nationally, and internationally*



In April 2016, “Duke Energy and Walt Disney World officials announced details of the Mickey-shaped solar farm near Epcot.” This solar farm is estimated to produce enough energy to power 1,000 homes.

**Orlando Sentinel**



Feeding Children Everywhere, a local charity that mobilizes people to assemble and distribute healthy meals for hungry children, to date has worked with over 354K volunteers to pack and distribute over 52 million meals.

**Feeding Children Everywhere**

In Mexico, the “rates of violent crime, homicide and organized [are] down by almost 30% for the period from 2011 and 2015. This means that for an estimated 85% of Mexicans, where they live is more peaceful than four years ago.”

**Vision of Humanity**



In March 2016, the International Justice Mission (IJM) successfully rescued 564 children, men, and women from forced labor in Chennai, India. IJM will spend the next two years helping these individuals rebuild their lives.

**The International Justice Mission**

“...because optimism has lost its standing in American public opinion, past reforms — among them environmental protection, anti-discrimination initiatives, income security for seniors, auto and aviation safety, interconnected global economics, improved policing and yes, Obamacare — don’t get credit for the good they have accomplished. In almost every case, reform has made America a better place, with fewer unintended consequences and lower transaction costs than expected.”

**New York Times**



The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), which fights for better pay for Florida tomato pickers, has “won agreements with 14 major food retailers, including Whole Foods, Walmart, McDonald’s and Subway.” These agreements stipulate that

food retailers “only work with tomato suppliers who participate in and meet the requirements outlined” the CIW’s Fair Food Program. The Fair Food Program provides better pay for tomato pickers and protects against forced labor, child labor, sexual assault, and more.

**The Huffington Post**



## SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### The Annual Spring Fling at the Coalition for the Homeless March 26, 2016



By Laura Marcela Agudelo  
Peace and Justice Ambassador  
and PJI Distinction Recipient

As an Ambassador for the Peace and Justice Institute, I had the opportunity to lead a service project that aids the population in residence at the [Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida](#). This project is held bi-annually to promote civic engagement and service. This spring, I was honored to be the lead organizer of the event, the Spring Fling, which encourages students from Valencia College to become servant leaders within their community. The Spring Fling focuses on giving kids and families in residence at the homeless shelter a day of relaxation, games, music, family, networking, and laughs. The volunteers come from the different clubs of Valencia and each one of them has an activity to share with the kids of the shelter.

This year, I was participating in the diverse activities, but one specific moment at Spring Fling moved my heart. As I was painting faces of little kids, one of them said: "One day I will study like you." Then, I realized the impact that this project has on the lives of those children who struggle every day to survive and thrive.

The change that we want to see in the world starts with us and our decisions. Buddha said, "If you knew what I know about the power of giving, you would not let a single meal pass without sharing it in some way." At the Spring Fling, the power of giving was reflected by all the volunteers that assisted and also by the kids that participated in the event.

The "meal" that we shared between each other had an appetizer of excitement, a salad of commitment, an entrée of love and a dessert of service accompanied by humanity.

The smiles and faces of the parents and children were so radiant that I personally felt peace in my heart. If you have never assisted in these kinds of events, I encourage you to do so because it is the perfect meal for your soul. It is my hope that interacting with the families empowers them to feel hopeful and want to keep going to achieve more than what the statistics predict for their future. Playing with the children and talking to them helps them to see the world from a more positive perspective. I should know, I, too was once was homeless myself, and I know that the people who empowered me to become a graduate who will transfer to the University of Florida are those that never gave up on me—people such as the Peace and Justice Ambassadors that are full of strength and courage to change the world.



*Spring Fling 2016 organizers Marcela Agudelo and Krystal Pherai*



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. This spring, 70 volunteers from Valencia participated in the event, including representatives from the Gay Straight Alliance, HERO Club, Peace and Justice Ambassadors, Phi Beta Lambda, Phi Theta Kappa, Seneff Honors College, Valencia Future Educators, African American Cultural Society, Valencia Volunteers, LASO, and the East Campus SGA.

Moments from the Spring Fling



*PJI Distinction student Maryann Dool claps during announcements*



*A member of Phi Theta Kappa poses in front of the beautiful spring themed backdrop where residents of the Coalition take family portraits*



*Chris Cuevas, co-advisor of the Ambassadors has fun during setup*



*Members of the East Campus LASO club play a game of dominos*



*PJI Intern Niara Maragh participates in a hula hooping contest*



*Spring Fling volunteers get pizza ready for the Coalition residents*

## Light It Up Blue: Autism Awareness April 2, 2016

Each year on World Autism Awareness Day, [Autism Speaks](#), a national advocacy group, celebrates its international “Light It Up Blue” campaign. Thousands of iconic landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses, and homes across the globe unite by shining bright blue lights in honor of millions of individuals and families affected by autism. This year, the Peace and Justice Ambassadors made the pledge of support for everyone with autism by Lighting It Up Blue!



*Peace and Justice Ambassadors and program coordinators pledge support for World Autism Day*

## Supply Drive for Refugees

By Juliette Szabo  
Peace and Justice Ambassador



A supply drive for refugees was supported by efforts from the Peace and Justice Institute in conjunction with the Muslim Ambassadors for Peace, Valencia clubs, and faculty and staff from Valencia’s East Campus throughout the spring 2016 semester.

One thing I’ve learned is that you never know what people are going through until you walk in their shoes. I am not a refugee, but I mentally stepped into the shoes of the refugees from Europe and felt their need for care and compassion. On March 31, 2016, as a Peace and Justice Ambassador for the Peace and Justice Institute, I volunteered at the Refugee Supply Drive table in order to aid those in need of simple things like food and deodorant. I never realized how much I take hygiene products for granted until I thought about how refugees are often forced to flee their homes without having the necessary items to take care of themselves. Knowing that the life of a refugee is not easy, I wanted to help by volunteering to run the Refugee Supply Drive table with PJI.

Participating in the supply drive, the other volunteers and I called on our peers and Valencia faculty and staff to help support the refugees by donating hygiene products, packaged food, and financial aid. I was thrilled to see just how compassionate other people are and how willing they are to support this cause! In fact, a few refugees from Syria came to the table and expressed their appreciation for what we are doing to support them. Hearing them thank us was incredibly heartwarming and it makes being a part of PJI so fulfilling.

While volunteering, I had other conversations with students who are interested in donating to the refugees and I made new friends by getting to know the different peers around me. I realized that the world is full of people who deserve love and kindness, especially in their time of need. While there are various cultures among people, we all have one thing in common: we are all human, and therefore, all of our lives matter.



*Professor of English and PJI East Campus Coordinator, Nicole Valentino provides information about PJI, refugees, and the refugee supply drive*

## PJI Attends Holocaust Center’s Annual Dinner of Tribute April 7, 2016

PJI is proud to partner with the [Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida](#). The Holocaust Center hosted their Annual Dinner of Tribute this year in honor of Valeria and Jim Shapiro for their years of community service. PJI members representing the Advisory Council, faculty, staff, and student Ambassadors were happy to attend the Dinner of Tribute.



## PEACE AND JUSTICE AMBASSADORS

## Ambassador Retreat February 21, 2016



Members of the Peace and Justice Ambassador program and the Muslim Ambassadors for Peace gathered for a day-long retreat facilitated by PJI Ambassador Coordinators Chris Cuevas and Krystal Pherai.

The day consisted of activities designed to practice self-reflection, enhance communication, work closely with the Principles for How We Treat Each Other and engage in conflict transformation exercises. Pictured below, participants worked together to complete the helium stick challenge, a demonstration that shows that through the power of teamwork and communication, all challenges can be overcome.



*Retreat participants complete the helium stick challenge*

The Peace and Justice Ambassadors give back to Valencia and the 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.”*

### Become a Peace and Justice Ambassador

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.

In fall 2016, the Ambassador program is offered as a Service Learning course for 3 credits and meets on Thursdays at East



*Retreat participants- Top row: Miguel Rodriguez, Tim Kaufman, Santiago Zapata, Naomi Chernault, Elena Zolnowski, Gerardo Egusquiza, Shahad T Abuawf, and Sara Fikri; Bottom row: Laura Brito, Krystal Pherai, Niara Maragh, and Chris Cuevas*

Campus from 2:30-3:45 pm. Click the flyer above for more information.



**PJI Intern Reflection**

By Niara Maragh, Class of 2016  
Peace and Justice Institute Intern

When starting something new it can be nerve wracking even though the situation might be the push in the right direction. When I decided to become an intern for the Peace and Justice Institute, I wanted to continue the work to help make a difference even after completing the Service Learning Ambassador course. The Institute has allowed me to see peace and justice subjects at face value. The event that stood out to me this semester was Orlando Speaks, which is designed to strengthen the relationship between residents and police officers. Discussing my needs and wants as a resident and hearing the feedback from an officer was truly eye opening. It showed me that I have the capability as a resident to make a difference that can impact my entire community.

When I first heard about PJI in Rachel Allen’s Introduction to Humanities course, I never would have imagined that PJI would have such an impact on my life. It has helped shape my character and shown me how important it is to stay connected to your community. I feel lucky to have been a part of this work and also to be selected for the Matador Spirit Award. The Institute has taught me that it’s okay to take charge in order to get exceptional results that may influence others around you. *“Leadership is the capacity to translate visions into reality.”-Warren Bennis*



Niara Maragh shares during a Conversation on Justice workshop

*I started working with PJI not knowing too much or caring little about the social problems that my community had. Even though I was aware of some of the problems, I never had the opportunity to be a part of the change. Becoming an Ambassador was an experience that improved my mind to think in the way of PJI: All People. All Voices. All Matter.*

-Santiago Zapata, Class of 2016  
Peace and Justice Ambassador

**Ambassadors Attend League of Women Voters’ Hot Topics Luncheon  
March 15, 2016**



PJI Ambassadors and Advisory Council members

Members of the Peace and Justice Ambassadors and Advisory Council attended the [League of Women Voters](#) of Orange County’s March Hot Topics Luncheon, which focused on Florida’s school to prison pipeline. PJI is grateful for our strong partnership with the League.



Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings and Peace and Justice Ambassador Terrance Coakley shake hands after the League’s Hot Topics luncheon



**Ambassadors Participate in the East Campus Earth Day Celebration  
April 7, 2016**



*PJI Distinction students, Ambassadors, faculty and staff helped run the PJI tables during the Earth Day event*

By Lucy Carrizales  
Peace and Justice Distinction Recipient

On April 22, 1970, twenty-two million Americans gathered to demonstrate their public support for environmentalism. As a result, the environmental movement surged and the United States celebrated its first Earth Day. Legislation such as the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act were passed and the Environmental Protection Agency was formed. Forty-six years later, over a billion people worldwide celebrate this day, and recognize this as a day of action that changes human behavior, provokes policy change, and serves as the largest civic demonstration of environmentalism and sustainability in the world. Over the past few decades the movement has grown stronger and public awareness deeper. However, we still have a long way to go.

This year, members of the Peace and Justice Institute were given the awesome opportunity to participate in Valencia East Campus' annual Earth Day event hosted by our very own [Valencia Earth Studies Association](#). This event has grown in the past few years and is one of the school's most highly attended events. Its purpose is to raise awareness about climate change and the status of endangered species. The event aims to encourage students to have a fun time while learning about current issues and becoming aware of opportunities to get involved locally to help the community and positively impact the environment.



PJI chose to discuss the topic of water quality in the states. We informed students about our current water quality status and about the effects poor water quality can have on our lives as well as wildlife populations. We also discussed the differences in the absorbance and filtration of runoff from roads and paved areas to runoff from undeveloped areas, such as parks and grass areas, noting that areas that were less developed had better filtration and better absorbency. Our exhibit proved to be very educational and fun for students.



I can still hear the rumble of student chatter as I walked through the courtyard that afternoon. I was overjoyed to see the student turnout. It was enthralling to watch as my peers enjoyed the event, walked around and exposed themselves to new experiences like holding the guest boa constrictor and learning about the different climate issues. As they eagerly watched presentations and interacted with the different tabling activities, I could see that these events are the type that make a difference in student perspective and their global interests.



*Lucy Carrizales discusses water quality with a fellow student*



## Becoming Practitioners of Peace and Justice

By Cade Resnick, PhD

Professor of Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation

Often times, when people first arrive at my Peace Studies course, they have the perception that the only way to achieve peace is to eliminate warfare. While this is a great philosophy, in reality, it takes so much more to achieve peace than to simply eliminate violence.

The world we live in today is filled with so many variables that it is important to teach that true peace is more than the absence of warfare. Instead of solely focusing on eliminating violence, we first need to understand why people do what they do. We need to understand that everything around us influences who we are, what we are and why we are. Thus, my vision when teaching Peace and Justice is to deconstruct the social environment around us by studying the different ways people approach and arrive at conflict. Only after understanding what influences people towards conflict, can we finally begin to study ways to eliminate violence.

Considering the world around us, the violence directed at us is just as evident as the violence we see through the news, newspapers, articles, social media and other visual outlets. With all of the violence that is around us, there has to be an alternate to it. Thus, the role that the Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace course plays is to teach students how to become a practitioner of Peace and Justice and make a difference in the world around them.

A little bit about my background: my journey began many years ago as a young man growing up in South Africa. As I came to understand the world around me, I learned that there was a significant difference between my life and the lives of many others. South Africa was experiencing a cultural change. The racial tensions continued to boil and the solution for this was to have the Caucasian National Party release the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress in the hopes of unification. This was a hopeful

opportunity that many people called a travesty. Although I was too young at the time to understand, I now realize that sometimes people will need to give up their power in order to bring a country together. This was one of the most powerful sentiments of Peace and Justice that could have been done for a country. It was this very message that marked the beginning of my journey as a Practitioner of Peace and Justice.

Moving forward with my life, I have spent time working with people of all ages, cultures, and genders. What I have learned from people is far more than I alone can teach them. As a professor, my goal is to always listen first, learn from what I hear, and to deconstruct what is going on so that I see the best in everyone. This is not always easy to do in a world that prefers violence. Yet, it is a role that is important for us all, which is why I am so passionate about the Peace and Justice Institute and its academic courses.

My courses are taught online and integrate readings, videos, discussion and analysis to help students become Practitioners of Peace and Justice. Since there is never enough time for me to reach everyone as deep down as I possibly can, I not only teach the Introduction to Peace Studies course, but I also teach a Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace course. Both of these courses are designed in a similar fashion, purposed to help people who truly want to learn to be a Practitioner of Peace and Justice. My classes help students to see that in every conflict, there is an opportunity to make a switch toward peace.

It is my goal that by the time students finish my courses, they are able to better understand conflict, why conflict occurs, and how to combat negative situations.

There is so much that the Peace and Justice practitioner can do for positive change and I am excited to see each and every Valencia student join us in the Peace and Justice institute to become the change that this world needs.

To sign up for a Peace and Justice Studies course, see the offerings on the following page.

# PEACE AND JUSTICE COURSES

FALL 2016



## Freshman Composition II: Perspectives on War, Philosophies of Peace

ENC 1102 | East Campus

### Prerequisite: Freshman Composition I

Through documentaries, photography, poetry, art, literature, philosophy, and non-fiction works, this online course explores multiple perspectives of warfare and introduces philosophies of peace to build pathways of healing. Application of skills learned in ENC 1101 is expected, while there is an emphasis on style; use of library; reading and evaluating available sources, along with planning, writing, and documenting a short research paper. This is a Gordon Rule course in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments.

## Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace

HUM 2930 | 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.

## Peace and Justice Ambassadors Service Learning

SLS 2940 | East Campus | (3 credit hours)

This is a planned service-learning experience that focuses on three hallmarks: service, leadership and scholarship. Students in this course will complete 60 hours of Service Learning. Students serve as Peace and Justice Ambassadors in Service to the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College.

## Social Justice Hangs on *The Wire*

HUM 2930 | West Campus | SPRING 2017

### Prerequisite: Freshman Composition I

Social Justice hangs on "The Wire". This class is based on the popular HBO Series The Wire. Topics include: social justice, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, and the workings of inner city Baltimore.

## Introduction to Peace Studies

PAX 1000 | East Campus, Osceola Campus, Online

This course studies peace in its philosophical, religious, literary, historical and other cultural contexts. It investigates the causes of violence on the global and personal levels. There is an emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of peace and the peace movement in historical and contemporary views. It also teaches the application of conflict resolution, nonviolence, and other practices necessary to become more powerful and peaceful members of our world.

## Positive Psychology

PSY 2930 | East Campus

This course is designed to introduce a strength-based psychology that scientifically studies positive human functioning, specifically, the strengths and virtues that enable individuals and communities to thrive. Emphasis will be placed on studying and applying topics such as; happiness, gratitude, flow, optimism and hope, wisdom and courage, positive affect, resilience, coping, friendship, and positive development across the lifespan.

## Psychology of Peace

PSY 2930 | East Campus

### Prerequisite: PSY 2012 or PAX 100

Using data from developmental, personality, social, learning, and biological psychologies, this course will investigate the causes and consequences of violence and non-violence. Students will understand how conflict is caused and healed on interpersonal and intergroup levels. Analysis from many areas of psychology will focus on personality variables, developmental sequelae, social inequalities, peace-making, peace-building, and social justice.

## A History of Genocide

WOH 2003 | West Campus

The primary focus of this course is to define and discuss genocide in all of its forms, expose the flaws in current pedagogy and reappraise in order to address the complexities of the topic. It will address bureaucratic mechanized genocides as well as the more spontaneous and the pre-industrial types. This course is a mix of theoretical considerations alongside the history of genocide ranging back to antiquity and various case studies.

## Multimedia Literature and the Holocaust

LIT 2174 | East Campus

### Prerequisite: ENC 1101, ENC 1101H or IDH 1110

This course explores literacy characteristics inherent in various media including (but not limited to) Holocaust-related historical text, documentary film, comics (graphic narrative), survivor narratives, pre- and post-Nazi art and contemporary major motion pictures. The examination includes critical analyses of textual, visual, syntactical, mechanical and thematic conventional similarities found in traditional textual "literature" and in the structure, syntax and language of visual media. Gordon Rule course in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

For more information please contact the  
Peace and Justice Institute at  
[peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu)

## Peace and Justice Distinction Sees Growth

As an outgrowth of the New Student Experience, Valencia's course for first-year students, a program of "Distinctions: Bringing Life to Knowledge" was developed to engage students beyond the classroom and create strong ties to campus life.

The Peace and Justice Distinction is one of a number of opportunities for a co-curricular focus in a specific area to advance a student's personal and academic development in one particular field. Through the Distinction program, the student gains awareness, garners interest, and seeks additional learning opportunities in Peace and Justice.

The PJI Distinction offers an entry into the work of the Peace and Justice Institute. Upon completion of the PJI Distinction, the student becomes eligible to be a Peace and Justice Ambassador and/or apply to become a Leadership Fellow with the Institute.

The Distinction offers a certificate and chord upon graduation, an honorable mention in the Peace and Justice bi-annual newsletter, and recognition at the annual Student Awards Ceremony.

### Congratulations to the spring 2016 Peace and Justice Distinction Recipients:

Aziza Afzal  
 Laura Marcela Agudelo  
 Lucy Carrizales  
 Naomi Chernault  
 Gerardo Egusquiza  
 Sara Fikri  
 Timothy Kaufman  
 Niara Maragh  
 Noni R. Mitchell  
 Josue Rodriguez  
 Elena Zolnowski

## Peace and Justice Education for Our Community

Through a new partnership with [Professional Continuing Education at Valencia College](#), the Peace and Justice Institute is able to bring peace and justice education to the community.

It was the vision of Patricia Ambinder, Chair of the PJI Advisory Council, to share with our citizenry the opportunities for learning and growth made available to our students, faculty and staff through PJI. It has been Patti's vision to see courses such as "Working with Conflict," Mindfulness and the Reflective Practitioner," and "Conversations in Inclusiveness" made available to those working in our business, public safety, government, faith, arts, education and independent sectors.

The vision came to life this year with the launch of the Institute. The City of Orlando, local law enforcement and public safety agencies, the Association of Florida Tax Collectors, Florida Independent Schools Association, and local faith communities sought peace and justice education for their employees and constituents. The Institute is off to a promising start.

More opportunities are coming for the community as the Peace and Justice Practitioner Program is set to launch in spring 2017. This program consists of a small cohort of professionals coming together over an extended period of time to build community, strengthen relationships through skillful conflict engagement, raise awareness and consciousness by awakening to the work of peace and justice, and gain the knowledge, skills and resources needed to become peacebuilders and leaders of social change in our community.

### Featured Course

#### Respectful and Assertive Policing (RAP)

Aimed at addressing some of the recommendations of the [President's Task Force for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing](#), RAP engages our policing community in a study of procedural justice and community policing.

Contact the Peace and Justice Institute at [peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu) at 407-582-2291 for more information.

## FACULTY AND STAFF FOCUS

### The Principles of a Peace and Justice Practitioner

- Places collaborative relationship building as central to the work, focusing on the culture of collaboration
- Encourages a reflective practice to support self-awareness, 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 peaceful communication while practicing the Principles for How We Treat Each Other
- Supports a community of 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

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 and staff members who wish to integrate practices promoting these values into their professional lives are encouraged to engage in development courses with the Peace and Justice Institute.

### PJI Practitioner Certification for Staff

The PJI Practitioner cohort program is coming this fall 2016, with session topics including:

- How We Treat Each Other
- Working with Conflict
- Inclusive Excellence
- Safe Space and Dialogue
- Reflective Practice
- Danger of a Single Story

Look for registration information in [The Grove](#) this

### Faculty Course Offerings for Fall 2016

- INDV 2151 Inclusion and Diversity
- INDV 2255 Multiple Perspectives
- INDV 7310 Working with Conflict
- INDV 7311 Creating Safe Space for Dialogue
- INDV 7315 Danger of A Single Story
- INDV 7312 Mindfulness Tools for Education
- SEED 1 and 2 (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Seminar (annually)

“Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.” –Parker J. Palmer

## PEACE AND JUSTICE SPRING FACULTY AND STAFF RETREAT



### Keeping the Fire in my Heart Alive: Living with Radical Amazement Peace and Justice Annual Faculty and Staff Retreat February 26-27, 2016

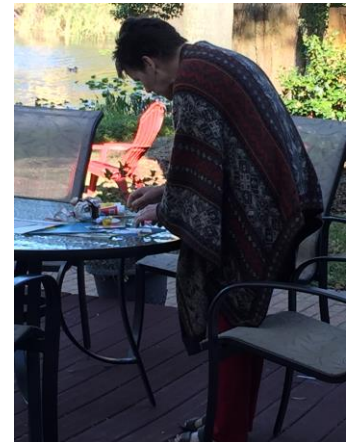
The annual Faculty and Staff Spring Retreat highlights a core value of PJI: reflective practice. Guided by the belief that, “We teach who we are,” (Parker Palmer) and recognizing that every employee at Valencia acts as a teacher in some capacity, the value of coming together in retreat to do the “interior work” is critical to our mission. This year, Elaine Sullivan from the [Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education](#) returned for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row to guide our work. The retreat was a beautiful and meaningful experience for everyone involved, creating lasting bonds and meaningful insights into our personal and professional lives.



*PJI Retreat participants*

By Marcia A. Roman  
Osceola Campus, Counselor

Earlier this year I was pleasantly surprised, even intrigued, by the college-wide email inviting participation in the Spring Faculty and Staff Peace and Justice Retreat. Surprised because it was open to virtually anyone interested and it was also for a two day retreat. Intrigued because the agenda spoke of things that have long drawn to me – as a student in Theology programs, as someone formerly engaged in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and more recently as one reading the literature on contemplative practices in higher education, and partaking in a formation program in spiritual direction. I wondered who else would be drawn there, and what the retreat might entail.



The Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia has been of interest to me ever since I joined the faculty last year. The Principles of How We Treat Each Other resonate deeply for me, perhaps echoing some of what C.S. Lewis, and surely others, have written about how we cannot do for others, or we cannot give to others, what we do not have ourselves. I believe this is especially true in higher education where the quality of the culture sets the tone for conditions that matter to the development, nourishment and flourishing of students as well as faculty and staff. I was drawn, too, by

the description of the invited facilitator, Elaine Sullivan, who is with the Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education and was trained by Parker Palmer. "What did I have to lose?" I thought. Surely, this was worth risking two days of my life - including a Saturday - to dip my toes into the waters to see!

What I experienced was an adeptly-facilitated, heartwarming conversation that revealed a depth and beauty in the hearts, minds and souls of those who participated. Being there, I was reassured of a fundamental goodness in colleagues across the college who desire and work for the common good in their classrooms and communities. It gave me time to pause to see and experience how matters of the human spirit were deftly broached, shared and allowed to make their mark without forcing a uniform, demonstrable outcome. When I consider how higher education might appropriately address spirituality, this struck me as a case study of how it can be done well.

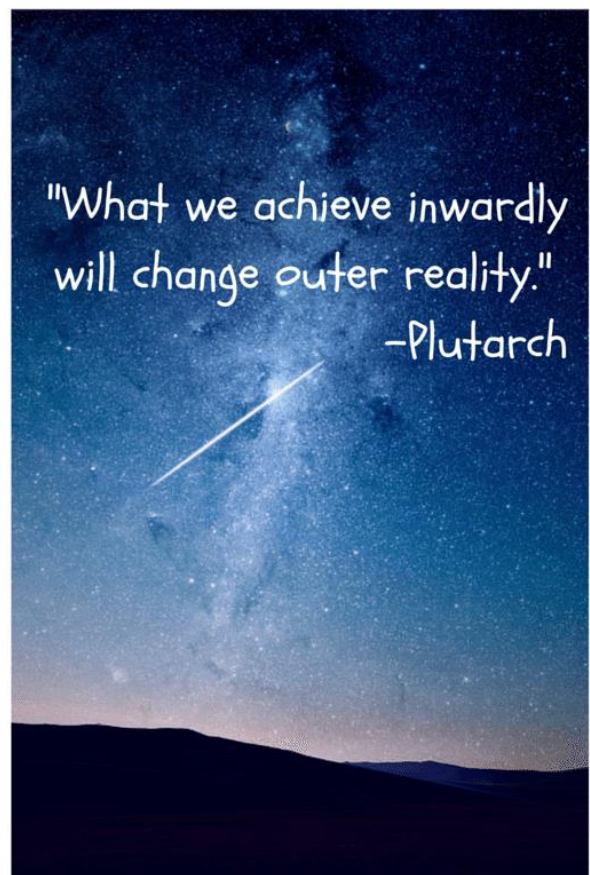
While our planet may or may not be on some imminently cataclysmic course, we do seem to be in uncertain and troubling times. The evolving gestalt of disease over the past several of decades, where our general optimism has been blunted at least by unrest, threats of war, individual suffering, alienation, greed, consumerism, and a disconnect between our advances in technology and our neurobiology's ability to keep pace, leave so many with a wistful if not gnawing desire for peace. There is little wonder why so many seek relief through prescription and non-prescription avenues, nor how the World Health Organization has identified depression as the major global health issue. The stressors or dissatisfiers - are costly - not only in real economic terms, but to the very quality of life. One's spirit, or passion, can redress this sense of disquiet, or depression, according to Sir Ken Robinson in a recent keynote. The rising tide of spirituality found by the Pew Research Center in its Religious Landscape Study, and perhaps in the popularity of the Mindfulness movement, for me point to a deep need for peace, and its requisite of justice in our fragile, volatile world.

Each of us enters the dialectic of Peace and Justice at different points. Regardless of how, when, why or where we enter into it, the more we engage the inner work, the more we have to offer in building small havens of peace that connect, like - in the metaphors of author Judy Cannato, - honeycombs, or even fields of compassion. I think what I was most surprised, pleased, and satisfied with, and hopeful about, from the Peace and Justice Institute's Spring Retreat, was to see, and experience, how it clearly fosters the inner work that can propel all that is called upon for peace and justice.

## PJI Retreat Inspires Poem

By Kate O'Neal  
Professor of Speech

When weakened and weary,  
Broken and teary,  
Shattered and rough,  
Never enough.  
When damp with pain,  
Crowded with thoughts not my own,  
The fire groans,  
Kept alive by God's bellows.  
Frozen by fear,  
I now feel warmth,  
and turning in see  
It isn't me...  
That I can rest, my fire kept,  
Kept alive by God's bellows.



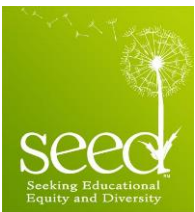


**Register for the 2016-2017  
Valencia Seeking Educational Equity  
and Diversity (SEED) Cohort**



Apply now to secure your place in the upcoming 2016 – 2017 Valencia SEED 1 and 2 cohorts. The application deadline is Wednesday, August 24, 2016.

SEED, an acronym for [Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity](#), is an international project, founded 30 years ago by Dr. Peggy McIntosh of Wellesley College. SEED utilizes a cohort-based, monthly seminar model with the intention of creating gender fair, multiculturally equitable, and globally informed educational spaces and workplaces.



SEED values all voices and experiences and recognizes diversity in its many forms including, but not limited to, the traditionally thought of categories such as race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation or ability, to the sometimes less thought of categories such as military service, position classification, primary campus, introversion/extroversion, length of service at Valencia, family structure or political affiliation. All forms of diversity matter and are welcomed in SEED.

SEED differs from other diversity programs in that its leaders do not lecture. Instead, they lead their own colleagues in experiential, interactive exercises and conversation often stimulated by films and readings. The monthly seminars deepen participants’ understanding of themselves, expand their knowledge of the world and point the way to making schools more inclusive. Professional/faculty development credit will be awarded hour for hour, resulting in 24 hours for the entire program.

Through the SEED program, you will learn to:

1. Understand how one’s personal and community history affects one’s self-esteem and sense of safety.
2. Explore, experience and learn how to converse

from a diverse perspective.

3. Listen and respond to personal experiences from a cultural perspective.
4. Notice the impact and intent of our communication.
5. Appreciate and respond compassionately and openly about diversity issues.
6. Examine how personal stories can affect our perceptions and attitudes.
7. Create a sense of community through dialogue and stories.
8. Work with conflict and hurt when diversity issues are involved.
9. Employ techniques on how to listen and respond to intercultural communications.

This year’s program facilitators will be Shari Koopman, professor, English; Rudy Darden, professor, English; Jeannie Rodriguez, library office systems manager; and Stanton Reed, professor, business/accounting.

Click the button below for additional details, including meeting dates, and to apply:



For more information, visit the [National SEED Project website](#).

If you have any questions about SEED at Valencia, please contact Jenny Charriez, director, employee development and inclusion, at [jnevarez@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:jnevarez@valenciacollege.edu) or extension 8250.

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



## PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

### Our Practice of Respect and Community Building

1. Create a hospitable and accountable community.
2. Listen deeply.
3. Create an advice free zone.
4. Practice asking honest and open questions.
5. Give space for unpopular answers.
6. Respect silence.
7. Suspend judgment.
8. Identify assumptions.
9. Speak your truth.
10. When things get difficult, turn to wonder.
11. Practice slowing down.
12. All voices have value.
13. Maintain confidentiality.

### A Reflection on the Principles

By Chris Cuevas

Student Disability Services, Assistive Tech Specialist  
Peace and Justice Ambassador, Co-Coordinator

To be a leader, one must learn to listen deeply and develop the necessary skills of navigating conflict in order to create a community in which all ideas and individuals can flourish. Leaders should invite others to speak openly and honestly, while doing so themselves, and apply the practices of kindness and compassion in such conversations so that all feel a sense of ease when speaking on topics that can provoke feelings of discomfort or anxiety. For leaders, deconstructing bias and identifying assumptions in order to lead us away from discriminating or alienating those around us are necessary skills for establishing an inclusive culture in any area of personal or professional life.

Beyond the technical skills that may help to get our foot in the doors of future employers, it is becoming even more important that we put into practice these soft skills of leadership. In my work with the Peace and Justice Institute, helping to coordinate the work of our Peace and Justice Ambassador Program, I have put these skills into practice and have watched our students, the leaders of tomorrow,

grow and commit themselves to service and the care of others. Our thirteen guiding practices of respect and community building, our Principles for How We Treat Each Other, have taught me the importance of reflecting on difficult situations and then addressing the existing conflict, looking at it as an opportunity for growth and transformation. I've seen first-hand how instrumental these practices can be when addressing conflict, building community and understanding self.

Working in tandem with members of the PJI, I've helped to impress upon our Ambassadors the value these practices have as our ever evolving interpersonal dynamic requires that we practice the acts of listening, resolving conflict, building and maintaining relationships and fostering an open and honest environment. We're led to assume that these skills are universally taught, when in fact much more emphasis is placed on hard skills. Many of our Ambassadors have said that they were never taught how to have difficult conversations with people of opposing views without the conversation leading toward an argument. I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with these students and be able to present them these Principles to help guide our work and further aide them in their development as future leaders and global citizens.

Since I've begun working with the Principles, I've noticed a change in the way I work with my peers and colleagues. I've found that by implementing the Principles I've become more empathetic towards others and more understanding of differences in opinion and am better equipped to manage conflict as it arises. I appreciate having been introduced to the Principles for How We Treat Each Other and am excited to continue to work with students as they work to put these practices into place in their own lives.

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.

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

## PEACE AND THE ARTS

### Poem Reveals Employee and Student Sentiments from Lee Mun Wah Visit



On Wednesday, March 30, 2016, master Lee Mun Wah, an internationally renowned Chinese American documentary filmmaker, author, poet, Asian folk teller, educator, community therapist and master diversity trainer, visited the Valencia West Campus Special Events Center and presented to faculty, staff and students a series of workshops. Lee is the executive director of [Stirfry Seminars](#) and Consulting, a diversity training company that provides educational tools and workshops on issues pertaining to cross-cultural communication and awareness, mindful facilitation and conflict mediation techniques.

Below is a corporate poem that captures our audience members' reactions to Lee's message of mindful awareness as a path to creating a more inclusive culture. The poem is made up of sentences, phrases and clauses from workshop surveys completed by faculty, staff and students.

*The seeds of change start with a few who were here  
 We can come together and fight against racism  
 Break racial barriers  
 Come closer together  
 Pay more attention to discrimination  
 Be more observant  
 Speak up and stand up for yourself and others  
 Notice sexism  
 Stop sexism  
 Speak to people before judging them  
 See what others think and feel  
 Be more aware of each person's heritage and respect it!  
 Sometimes what you don't say has a bigger impact than  
 what you do say  
 We have to be kind to one another  
 People experience things differently  
 People are a lot more similar than we assume  
 Paying attention can make all the difference*

*We avoid important issues just because we don't want to  
 feel uncomfortable*

*If we take the time to talk with others  
 we could really find out some great things about people*

*Just giving effort and attention can change anything*

*Just how white our faculty is*

*How being in the United States can strip an individual's  
 culture*

*People who criticize without noticing*

*People who make assumptions no matter what*

*When someone comes into a group who is different*

*think about this as a gift to learn new things*

*Be aware*

*The power of story*

*The vulnerability needed to say how you feel different*

*The courage that takes*

*Mindfulness is a responsibility*

*The art of mindful inquiry helps us understand others and  
 helps communication*

*It helps people be friendlier, inviting, accepting and  
 understanding of other people in general, not just toward  
 one culture*

*Awareness breeds solutions*

*This event makes me want to take action on racism and  
 racial barriers*

*It inspired me to know myself and others, and not to  
 stereotype individuals*

*Be more open-minded*

*Create more opportunities for my students to express their  
 priorities*

*I have more of a voice now for other people*

*I will open my eyes to all of the wrong I see*

*I will try to stand up for what I believe in*

*I will take action toward change*

*If I see sexism, I'll stand up and do what's right!*

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



Lee Mun Wah and a Valencia student hug after his presentation

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Student Activities Awards**

We are proud to announce that the Peace and Justice Institute won the East Campus Student Activities' 2015-2016 Program of the Year Award for our Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering! We could not have done this without the support of many great campus and community partners! Thank you!

Niara Maragh (below), one of PJI's interns during the spring 2016 semester was also awarded the Matador Spirit Award by East Student Activities! The Matador Spirit Award is presented to an individual who has assisted in the development of campus life above and beyond the call of duty. This individual works successfully behind the scenes and does not work for recognition. Congratulations, Niara!



*PJI's spring 2016 interns Niara Maragh and Naomi Chernault happily accept the Program of the Year Award*

**PJI Wins Teacher Education Award**



*Professor Lauri Lott, Professor Yasmeen Qadri, and Valencia student Mila Marin accept the Exemplary Teaching and Learning Center Award*

PJI and the East Campus Teacher Education Program were awarded the Jack A. Chambers Exemplary Teaching and Learning Center Award at the 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on College Teaching and Learning paying tribute to outstanding teaching and learning centers that inspire and advance teaching and learning. Thank you for this honor!

**PJI Welcomes New Staff Assistant**



*The PJI Office: Rachel Allen, Mary Beth Bensey, and Krystal Pherai*

The Peace and Justice Institute is happy to welcome Mary Beth Bensey in her new position as Staff Assistant for PJI!

Mary Beth is a graduate of the University of Central Florida with a degree in Political Science with a focus in International Relations. She studied history and leadership as a minor. She is currently in a Master's Program in the School of Education working toward a degree in Educational Leadership with a focus in Higher Education and Community Colleges.

Mary Beth is excited to be working with PJI and brings a wealth of experience and positive energy to our share vision.

**Peace and Justice Distinction Student is PJI's Summer Leadership Fellow**



Our summer 2016 Leadership Fellow ("Intern," formerly) is a Peace and Justice Distinction recipient, Lucy Carrizales.

Lucy joined PJI as an Ambassador in fall 2015 and completed the Peace and Justice Distinction during spring 2016. Lucy is also a member of the Valencia Earth Science Association and is pursuing a major in Biology and Environmental Science. We are excited to have her working more closely in the PJI office.

## Save the Dates: Global Peace Week 2016 September 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>



Join us September 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> for Global Peace Week with celebrations and events including peace education, music, arts and crafts, guest speakers, and free film screenings in partnership with the [Global Peace Film Festival](#).



This year's Global Peace Week features Apache Medicine Man Iron Eagle. Iron Eagle is a traditional Sun dancer who studied under Bear Paw (Apache Medicine Man) and Two Tree (Lakota Medicine Man). His grandfather and mother, both Chiricahua Apaches, taught him the traditional and spiritual ways of the Native American. Through beautiful Native American music, dance, and teachings, Iron Eagle has left a positive impact at Valencia each time he visits.



*Apache Medicine Man Iron Eagle*

The United Nations sanctioned International Peace Day is September 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 Peace Day came into being and for more information on what you can do to help accomplish a global change.

## Leonard Pitts Visits Valencia November 10, 2016



We are excited to announce that in partnership with the UCF [Global Perspectives](#) office, Leonard Pitts will visit Valencia College this fall.

In a career spanning 40 years, [Leonard Pitts, Jr.](#) has been a columnist, a college professor, a radio producer and a lecturer. But if you ask him to define himself, he will invariably choose one word. He is a writer, period, author of one of the most popular newspaper columns in the country and of a series of critically-acclaimed books, including his latest, a novel called Freeman. And his lifelong devotion to the art and craft of words has yielded stellar results, chief among them the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

Pitts' work has made him an in-demand lecturer. He maintains a rigorous speaking schedule that has taken him to colleges, civic groups and professional associations all over the country. He has also been invited to teach at a number of prestigious institutions of higher learning, including Hampton University, Ohio University, the University of Maryland and Virginia Commonwealth University. In the fall of 2011, he was a visiting professor at Princeton University, teaching a course in writing about race. In 2013, he taught at George Washington University.

Leonard Pitts was born and raised in Southern California. He was awarded a degree in English from the University of Southern California at the age of 19, having entered school at 15 on a special honors program. Since 1995, he has lived in Bowie, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC with his wife and family.

The events with Leonard Pitts' are a part of UCF's contributions to the [Pulitzer Centennial Campfires Initiative](#) in 2016.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

**To learn more about PJI and how to become involved, looked for Orientation sessions to be held college-wide throughout the year.**

#### Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

Global Peace Film Festival Community Screening with the League of Women Voters  
Winter Park Campus, Room 225, 6:00-9:00 pm

#### Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>- Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

Restorative Practices:  
Two full days of training for faculty, staff, students, and community facilitated by Miguel Telo  
East Campus, Room and Time TBA  
Spaced limited to 20 participants

### Global Peace Week

Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>-Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
College-wide, Check online schedule for events

#### INDV 7311 Creating a Safe Space (for faculty)

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, EC 3-3113, 1:00-5:00 pm  
Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, WC 11-106 2:00-4:00 pm

#### Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Valencia Night at the Islamic Society of Central Florida  
1586 N. Goldenrod Road, Orlando, 5:30-8:00 pm

#### Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fall Fest Service Project  
Coalition for the Homeless, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

#### Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>-Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Conversations on Race and Privilege  
College-wide, Check online schedule for events

#### Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Centennial Celebration of the Pulitzer Prize  
Keynote Speaker Leonard Pitts, Writer  
Details to be announced

#### Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Healing Retreat with Iron Eagle  
Ocala, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

#### INDV 2151 Inclusion and Diversity (for faculty)

Thursday, December 1 EC -113 2:00 – 4:30  
Friday, December 2 WC 11-106 2:00 – 4:30

### Conversation on Justice

Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>-Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
College-wide; Check online schedule for events

#### INDV 7313 Danger of a Single Story (for faculty)

Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, WC 11-106, 1:00-4:00 pm  
Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, WC 11-106, 1:00-4:00 pm

#### INDV 7312 Mindfulness Tools for Education (for faculty)

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, EC 3-113, 1:00-4:00 pm  
Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, WC 4-236, 1:00-4:00 pm

#### INDV 2255 Multiple Perspectives (for faculty)

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, OC 4-105, 2:00-4:00 pm  
Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, EC 3-113, 2:00-4:00 pm

#### Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Peace and Justice Ambassador Student Retreat  
Location and Time TBA

### Faculty and Staff Peace and Justice Retreat

Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Location TBA, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

#### INDV 7310 Working with Conflict (for faculty)

Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, WC 11-106, 1:00-5:00 pm

#### Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

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

#### Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

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

Visit [valenciacollege.edu/pji](http://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.

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[valenciacollege.edu/pji](http://valenciacollege.edu/pji)

