

Education for Justice

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Education for Justice

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Ways to get involved:

- ◆ Encourage your students to attend Education for Justice-sponsored events.
- ◆ Incorporate our annual theme of "Torture" into your academic courses. Do you have your students write essays, create videos or posters, draw, paint, or take photos? Why not use "Torture" as the focus of their creative pursuits?
- ◆ Apply for an Education for Justice grant to design your own activity to bring awareness of our annual theme or other ongoing injustice to the campus community.

Education for Justice



April Makrina Gudiel Talk

Welcome back to the University of Scranton! A lot seems to have happened since the end of the school year - ISIS in Iraq, excessive use of force by police in New York and Missouri, war in Gaza, Ebola, and the recognition of failed policies in Central America that have caused tens of thousands of Catholic children and families to make the dangerous exodus for the safety of the United States. And there are other things that seem, unfortunately, not to have changed all that much - the Syrian and Ukrainian conflicts and the US economy.

Annual Theme 2014 - 2015: Torture

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the Education for Justice advisory board selected the theme of "Torture." The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2297) states "Torture which uses physical or moral violence to extract confessions, punish the guilty, frighten opponents, or satisfy

hatred is contrary to respect for the person and for human dignity." Thirty years ago, the international community took a stand against torture when the Convention Against Torture was adopted by the United Nations. One hundred fifty-five states have since ratified the Convention. The

United States became a party to the Convention in 1999.

Unfortunately, many Catholics, Americans, and countries that have signed on to the ban have continued to employ or support torture against their

(Continued on Page 3)

However, there are also signs of hope, such as the ALS ice bucket challenge and Pope Francis' hints that he might make a visit to New York, Philadelphia and Washington next year.

With all that is going on in the world, we are looking forward to supporting your needs and interests as they relate to promoting justice issues. We hope that you will encourage your students to attend the programs that we are (co-) sponsoring (Page 2) and to apply for one of our grants to put on your own program (contact us for an application).

While we already have several events planned, please do not hesitate to contact us about ways in which we can help you incorporate our annual theme into your courses. It is also never too early to start thinking about 2015 - help us to choose next year's theme (Page 4).

We are always looking for interesting ideas that support the University of Scranton's commitment to education and formation of students in order that they may become men and women of faith and of service to their communities.

Mike Allison, Coordinator

Fall 2014 Events

We are sponsoring an exciting lineup that includes films, lectures, and photography for students, staff, and faculty.

September 25th Co-hosting with Office of Multicultural Affairs a lunchtime event on the "unaccompanied minors" crisis on the U.S. border.

October 3rd - November 26th Ongoing exhibit in the Heritage Room of the Weinberg Memorial Library on "Through the Lens: A Compassionate Look Back at Our

Future." Featuring the Photography of Linda Panetta, Founder of Optical Realities.

October 6th Linda Panetta lecture on "Through the Lens: A Compassionate Look Back at Our Future" at 7pm in LSC 133.

October TBA Lecture by economic historian Hector Lindo-Fuentes

November 14th - 16th and 21st—23rd The Theatre Program is putting on several performances of *The Pillowman*, a play about

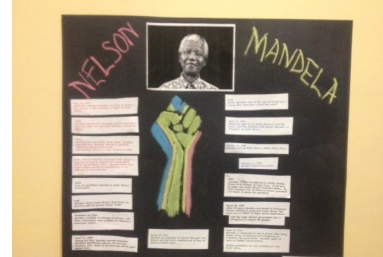
torture in a totalitarian state.

November 18th - 21st Events to commemorate the El Salvador martyrs' events

November 19th *Innocent Voices* screening and Q & A with the film's writer and co-producer, Oscar Torres.

We are also working with Political Science, Communication, Sociology / Criminal Justice, Philosophy and Theology / Religious Studies to develop several other exciting programs.

Check our website for updates!



1st place—Asch's
Linemen

2nd place tie —
Shockers and
Socializers

Essay / Art Competition - Recap

Education for Justice hosted an essay / art competition on May 2nd based on our 2013-2014 annual theme of "Sustainable Memory." Over a dozen individual and group submissions were received including posters, photographs, audio essays and videos essays.

Well over one hundred students stopped by to view their classmates' submissions. The entries were judged by faculty and staff members - MaryBeth Holmes, Eileen Notarianni, and Ashley Cileno.

At the end of the day, the first place cash prize went to the

team of Asch's Linemen comprised of Patrick Montgomery and Matthew Rupert for their public service announcement "The Gulf Oil Spill."

Seeking Justice for Crimes of the Past in Guatemala

Students, staff, and faculty from the University of Scranton and Marywood University listened to a powerful story by Makrina Gudiel. Thousands of Guatemalans lost loved ones during that country's thirty-six year war. For Makrina, it was her brother who was disappeared by state security forces. Her family brought his case to an international commission in 2004, and just days later, her father was murdered. The government never carried out an adequate investigation into either crime.

Makrina then testified before an international court about the case in February 2014. She explained why her family has fought for justice for these crimes, despite ongoing death threats. She also discussed international solidarity with Guatemala over the last 30 years, including the sanctuary movement of the 1980s and the decades-long struggle to end US military support for repressive regimes in Guatemala.

The event was co-sponsored with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and LA/W/S.



Makrina Gudiel

Spring 2014 Recap

We had an exciting spring semester including collaborations with a diverse array of faculty and academic programs. Annie Hounsokou and the Art and Music Program and the African Studies Program hosted a day-long symposium on Africa: Art, Memory, Culture. Jamie Trnka from the Department of World Languages and Cultures hosted a film and speaker on Sustainable Memory in (East) Germany and Namibia.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and the Department of Latin American Studies and Women's Studies invited Makrina Gudiel (see page 2) to share her struggle for justice in her native Guatemala. OMA and Education for Justice also teamed up to pay tribute to the late Nelson Mandela, a South African advocate for non-violence.

The Center for Service and Social Justice, Counseling and Human Services Department, and the Office of Community Relations once again supported dozens of young Lackawanna County students through its SMART Mentoring Program (see spring 2014 issue).

Sharon Meagher and the Philosophy Department, the Department of Latin American Studies and Women's Studies, and the Office of Sustainability hosted a lecture and film screening by documentarian and environmental activist Irene Klaver.

Psychology's Tim Cannon hosted a screening of *Inequality for All* (Inequality happened to be our 2013-2014 annual theme). Our screening was part of a nationwide program to bring public attention to the devastating effects of inequality in the United States.

Pat Vaccaro and the Center for Service and Social Justice brought students' attention to the challenge confronting millions of our fellow citizens through the running of a "Poverty" simulation. The semester culminated with two dozen students participating in our Art / Essay Competition on "Sustainable Memory" (see page 2).

25th Anniversary of the Jesuit Martyrs in El Salvador

On November 16th, 1989, six Jesuit priests and their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered on the grounds of the Jesuit University in El Salvador. After a decade of war, the crimes still shocked the nation of El Salvador and the United States whose government

had supported the military that carried out the massacre. Join Education for Justice and the Jesuit Center as we commemorate the lives and martyrdom of the Jesuits.

While the calendar has not been finalized, writer and producer Oscar Torres will

screen his award winning film *Innocent Voices*, a biographical film about coming of age during the Salvadoran civil war on Wednesday, November 19th at 7pm in Brennan 228. We are also hosting a faculty panel on Friday, November 21st at 11:30am in TDC 401.



Jesuit Martyrs—Champion Hall

Torture (cont'd from page 1)

"For the purposes of this Convention, torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions."

UN Convention Against Torture (1984)

own people and against people of other nations. We ask you to consider: Where do you stand on torture?

Here are some questions we have been considering and that we hope you help us to explore this academic year: What do the different religious traditions say in regards to torture? Is prolonged solitary confinement in U.S. prisons a form of torture? Has the U.S. committed torture in the aftermath of September 11th and, if so, should anyone be held accountable? Are the recent allegations of torture against the U.S. really contrary to our country's values or have we been complicit in torture since our nation's founding? How do we better assist - physically, emotionally, and spiritually - those who have been victims of torture? How so the torturer?

Advisory Board (2014-2015)

Mike Allison (Coordinator) - Political Science
David Dzurec - History (spring sabbatical)
Ann Feeney - Nursing
Anthony Ferzola - Math
Mary Anne Foley - Theology/Religious Studies
Teresa Grettano - English & Theatre
Justine Johnson - Jane Kopas Women's Center
Tata Mbugua - Education
Jessica Nolan - Psychology (fall sabbatical)
Paul Porter - Office of Multicultural Affairs
Anna Rocco - Graduate Assistant
Patricia Vaccaro - Center for Service & Social Justice

Here is your chance to help us select next year's annual theme. Please send your suggestions to Mike Allison at justice-education@scranton.edu. Tell us why we should adopt this theme and how we might educate our students, staff, faculty, and administration on this important topic.

Previous annual themes:

Sustainable Memory (2013)

Inequality (2012)

Finding Justice after 9/11 (2011)

Peace and Reconciliation (2010)

Food (2009)

Immigration (2008)

We're on the Web!

<http://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/education-justice/index.shtml>



The Beginning

In October 2000, a delegation of University of Scranton administrators, faculty and professional staff attended a conference on Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education at Santa Clara University. At that conference, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach challenged all Jesuit colleges and universities in the US to be characterized more and more by "the service of faith and the promotion of justice... in who our students become, in what our faculty does, and how our universities proceed."

This meeting spawned a number of gatherings at the University of Scranton, leading to the creation of

a Task Force on Education for Justice to examine, publicize and promote campus initiatives; to research and propose new ones; and to propose a permanent structure to guarantee that such initiatives would continue to be effective. The Task Force issued its report and made its recommendations at the end of the 2004/2005 academic year, and a Coordinator of Education for Justice was named in the fall of 2007.