ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT’S PEACE COMMISSION

99%: The Struggle for Democratic Equality

While nations across the Middle East and around the world are fighting for political participation, here in the United States we are struggling to reform our own democratic system. The economic and political inequalities that exist among us can limit our ability to have a voice in problems of national importance. Our streets have been filled with those clamoring to be heard and to draw attention to the inequalities that exist in our society. As members of a Catholic, Marianist community, we are called to be a voice for the oppressed: What do we do when it is the majority who are being ignored?

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

9:45 a.m. Invocation
Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M., D.Min., Vice President for Mission and Identity

9:45 to 11 a.m. Dreams, Tea Parties, and Activism: Today’s Social Movements
David Cortez, Coordinator of Texas BlueGreen Apollo Alliance
and Magnet Contact Person of Occupy Austin Bank Action Team
George H. Rodriguez, President of San Antonio Tea Party
Claudia Sanchez, Student Activist, the University of Texas at San Antonio
Moderator: Andre Hampton, J.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

11:10 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. Media and Social Media in Democracy and Recent Social Movements
Bill Israel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Journalism and Political Communication
and Director of Graduate Communication Studies
Robert Rivard, Director of The Rivard Report and Former Editor of the San Antonio Express-News
Moderator: Sarah Mills, Former Editor of The Rattler and Contributor for the San Antonio Express-News

12:35 to 1:50 p.m. Distrusting Government: Participating in Democracy
Sean Bourg, Student
Celina Garcia, Student
Holly Press, Student
Joaquin A. Toranzo Jr., President of Student Government Association
Moderator: Amber Aubone, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Science

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

9:20 to 10:10 a.m. Financial Reform: Why the Debate?
Keith Phillips, Ph.D., Senior Economist for the San Antonio Branch
of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
Belinda Román, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Economics
Moderator: Christian Ekleberry, Graduate Student

10:20 to 11:10 a.m. Resistance Abroad: The Struggle for Political Voice
Mohamed Elkmishi, Student
Mariya Kontsepskaya, Student
Moderator: Mariela Cadena, Student*

11:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Occupy University: Change for the 21st Century?
Charles Cotrell, Ph.D., President of St. Mary's University
Jordan R. Humphrey, Ph.D., Associate Director for Civic Engagement
Moderator: Liv Spilotro, Student*

12:20 to 1:10 p.m. What About Mother Nature? Environmental Stewardship
Travis Krauss, Owner of Parker Creek Ranch, LLC
Evelyn Mitchell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences
Moderator: Clarissa Seifert, Student

1:45 p.m. Art of Peace Award
Recipient: Bryce Milligan, Writer, Musician, and Publisher/Editor of Wings Press
Presenter: Robert Flynn, Professor of English, Trinity University (ret.)
Moderator: Krystina Irvin, Service and Volunteer Coordinator*
Location: Java City Amphitheatre; Rain Location: UC—A

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

9:45 to 11 a.m. The Immorality of Inequality and Catholic Social Teaching
Larry Boudreau, Director of the Maryknoll Mission Education Center at
the Mexican American Catholic College
Bro. Brian Halderman, S.M., University Minister for Social Justice
Tom Keene, Professor of Religious Studies, Our Lady of the Lake University (ret.)
Moderator: James Ball, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology*

11:10 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. Engagement: How Do We Respond?
Antonia Castañeda, Ph.D., Professor of History (ret.)
Krystina Irvin, Service and Volunteer Coordinator*
Taniah Ochoa, Student
Moderator: Bradley Ledford, Student

*Denotes member of the President's Peace Commission
PRESIDENT’S PEACE COMMISSION
MISSION STATEMENT

The President’s Peace Commission fosters an ethical commitment to participate in the establishment of world peace and social justice. The Commission encourages respect for human rights and dignity of all people. The Commission annually hosts symposia that offer opportunities for students, faculty and staff to grow in their active pursuit of peace and justice.

Through the symposia and other activities, the Commission seeks to build within the St. Mary’s University community a greater awareness of the Roman Catholic and Marianist perspectives on peace and justice. The President’s Peace Commission reflects the University community through student, staff and faculty representatives appointed by the University President.

FACULTY
James Ball, Ph.D., Zaida Martinez, Ph.D., Leona Pallansch, Ph.D., Richard S. Pressman, Ph.D.,

STAFF
Holly Harrison, Krystina Irvin, Irene Quesnot, Clare Strockbine

STUDENTS
Mariela Cadena, Jessica Cartillo, Alexia Dabdoub,
Maria Silva, Liv Spilotro, Rachael L. Wood, Anastasia Zavala

ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT’S PEACE COMMISSION

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A Catholic and Marianist Liberal Arts Institution

ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT’S PEACE COMMISSION

Spring 2012 Program

99%: The Struggle for Democratic Equality

Tuesday, March 27–Thursday, March 29, 2012

All events are free and open to the public.

Each session will be held in the University Center, Conference Room A unless otherwise noted.