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
Jessica Cohen, Ph.D.
Zaida L. Martinez, Ph.D.
Richard S. Pressman, Ph.D.
Brian St. John, M.F.A.

Staff
Clare Acosta Matos
Holly Harrison
Marcy LaBossiere

Students
Mariela Cadena
Crystal Castañeda
Miles Lilly
Cheyenne Palmer
Jaci Toranzo
Jorgina Villegas

The West Versus the Rest, or, Are Western Institutions Right for Everyone?
President’s Peace Commission

The West Versus the Rest, or, Are Western Institutions Right for Everyone?

Since World War II, the United States has led the process of globalization, but despite the world’s becoming increasingly connected, we are still largely divided. While wealth increases, the poverty gap grows, education remains a luxury in many areas, and warring ideals lead to bitter polarization.

Is America’s dominant ideology of fierce individualism helping or hindering global human development and social justice? Can that ideology meet the world’s common good — the flourishing of societies — or should we adopt different global perspectives?

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

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

9:45 to 11 a.m.  The Move Toward Globalization: Is There a New Global (Social) Order?
   Mark A. Lokensgard, Ph.D., Professor of Portuguese and Spanish
   Ian Tippets, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics
   Belinda Roman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics
   Moderator: Thomas Mengler, J.D., St. Mary’s University President

11:10 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.
If It’s Not a Christian World, What Is It? Are the World’s Religions Compatible? Where Is There Common Ground?
   Abdullah Alburzani, Engineering Systems Management Student
   Deepak Ahluwalia, Law Student and Advocate at the Sikh Coalition
   Aaron Moreno, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History
   Moderator: Maricela Cadena, Portuguese and International Relations Student

12:35 to 1:50 p.m.
Is Free Trade a Route to Social Justice? Are There Other Means to Healthy and Just International Trade?
   Jeffrey Johnson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of International Business
   John M. Drabier, M.B.A., Visiting Professor of Finance
   Hollye Smith Schwartz, Owner, All’s Fair World Gifts
   Moderator: Crystal Castaneda, International Business Student

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

9:20 to 10:10 a.m.
Immigration: 21st Century Face-Lift
   Sonia R. Garcia, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science
   The Rev. Robert Wright, O.M.I., Ph.D., Director of Master of Divinity Program, Oblate School of Theology
   Moderator: Laura Moreno, International Business Student

10:20 to 11:10 a.m.
Is “Welfare” a Dirty Word? How Do We Take Care of Our People?
   Fred Campbell, M.D., Internist, Health Disparities, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
   Stephanie S. Smith, Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, San Antonio Food Bank
   Moderator: Chamilyn Palmer, Criminology Student

11:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.
Is Anyone Really Listening? Is the United Nations Just a Cacophony of Voices or Is It the Way for All to Be Heard?
   Amber Aubone, Ph.D., Director of Undergraduate International Relations, and Assistant Professor of Political Science
   Larry Hufford, Ph.D., Professor of International Relations
   Moderator: Kim Cruz, International Relations Student

12:20 to 1:35 p.m.
Are Social Media Tools for Change or Just another Form of Entertainment?
   Travis Bowles, English–Communication Arts Student
   Sara Cabrera, English Literature Student
   Nicholas Canedo, English–Communication Arts Student
   William Gilbert, English–Communication Arts Student
   Stela Khury, English–Communication Arts Student
   Benita Velizm, 2006 Alumni with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
   Moderator: Bill Israel, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Communications Studies

Thursday, March 21, 2013

9:45 to 11 a.m.
Education: Does Society Owe It to the Individual or Does the Individual Owe It to Society?
   Carolyn Heath, Executive Director, Each One Teach One Adult and Family Literacy Program of San Antonio
   The Rev. Timothy Eden, S.M., Ed.D., University Chaplain
   Moderator: Katie Neumeier, Education Student

11:10 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.
Who’s Responsible for the Individual? — The Individual or Society? What Would Chaminade Say?
   Chris Cantu, Coordinator, Marianist Leadership and Service Programs
   Terri Boggess, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Exercise and Sport Science
   Moderator: Mariela Cadena, Portuguese and International Relations Student

12:35 to 1:50 p.m.
Who Has the Right to Medical Care? Does One Earn the Right by Paying for It, or Is One Born With the Right?
   How Does the World Respond?
   Richard G. Holt, M.D., Bioethics Professor Emeritus, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
   Andrew T. Brei, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
   Moderator: Jorgina Villegas, Biology Student

2 to 3:15 p.m.
Art of Peace Award
   Brian St. John, Chair and Associate Professor of Art