PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016-2017
THE PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE AT FAU

The Peace, Justice and Human Rights (PJHR) Initiative at Florida Atlantic University is an interdisciplinary, University-wide effort that brings together scholars, practitioners, students and community leaders to expand the reach and influence of our existing programs by creating an even more robust center of collaboration, community engagement, education and research. PJHR promotes faculty and student research as well as engagement with the local community. Our Speaker Series and programs reflect issues of local and global concern. Recent speakers have included Arun Gandhi, Jane Goodall and the Dalai Lama. PJHR is also the editorial home of the academic journal Human Rights Review.

The Initiative includes the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education which conducts in-service and professional development for K-12 teachers in seven Florida counties (Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Glades and Okeechobee), and the Leon Charney Diplomacy Program which trains student leaders in international relations and diplomacy and each year sends students to major model United Nations conferences. Approximately fifty-five Faculty and Staff are Affiliates of the Initiative representing diverse disciplines.

FAU’s Peace, Justice and Human Rights (PJHR) Certificate is designed to complement a major in any field as well as provide an enriching educational experience to non-degree seeking students. The program has a tailored curriculum which allows students flexibility to design a program which matches their personal interests, academic and professional objectives. Graduates enter fields such as law, international relations, social and community work and education.

An interdisciplinary program, the PJHR Certificate draws its classes from more than twenty departments and six colleges across FAU with some courses developed specifically by PJHR Affiliates to broaden FAU offerings. Students successfully complete the Certificate by taking fifteen credit hours from three categories of classes.
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Year in Review 2016-2017 highlights the breadth and the depth of our activities at FAU and in our community. As one of the platforms within the FAU Strategic Plan, PJHR has a mandate to foster “best practices” and to “promote tolerance of diverse cultures.” In order to accomplish these goals, one of our objectives this year was to develop the organizational structure of the Initiative by integrating existing FAU units into PJHR. We were pleased to welcome the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education (CHHRE) and the Leon Charney Diplomacy Program to the Initiative. In addition, as FAU is multi-campus, another priority for the Initiative was to establish a presence on our Davie and Jupiter campuses. Dr. Doug McGetchin serves as our Associate Director for the Jupiter Campus, and we have established offices for PJHR and the CHHRE on the Davie Campus. Our Faculty and Staff Affiliates come from all three campuses. Finally, we engaged in significant outreach to all colleges in order for PJHR to truly be a University initiative. To that end, our new Affiliates came from six colleges demonstrating the University’s commitment to the themes of the Initiative.

What makes PJHR so distinctive nationally is the breadth and diversity of interests among our faculty. We have Faculty and Staff Affiliates drawn from diverse disciplines including business, education, the humanities, mathematics, social sciences and sciences. Our diversity is our strength, and allows us to focus on important issues to the South Florida community including the environment, immigration, health and wellness and equality.

Our diversity is a mirror reflection of the diversity of South Florida and the FAU student body. Everything that we accomplish is based on our desire to provide a more enriching educational experience for FAU students. As an example, our Certificate program is unique in providing students a flexible curriculum that allows them to design a program which matches their personal and professional interests. We also have scholarship and internship possibilities for FAU students that are interested in the themes of the Initiative.

We could not have accomplished our goals without the support of our wonderful donors. Our programs and events, faculty grant awards and student opportunities have all been funded through the generosity of donors. These donations have a significant impact not only here at FAU but also in our South Florida community.

While we accomplished much during our first year, we have several longer-term goals to make our impact larger and sustainable. There are wonderful opportunities for FAU to become a center of policy-making in the areas of peace, social justice and human rights and to work with our community leaders in designing programs to assist our South Florida community. This work is important, timely and forward-looking which is the hallmark of a great education and University.

Dr. Steven D. Roper
Executive Director
PJHR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Steven D. Roper
Executive Director

Ms. Linda Medvin
Director of the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education

Dr. Jeffrey Morton
Director of the Leon Charney Diplomacy Program

Ms. Laurie Carney
Senior Development Officer
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**JUNE 2016**

**Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education Summer Retreat: Racism and Hate Groups in the US: Implications for Teaching**
June 14-16, 2016

This annual two-day summer retreat brought together over thirty K-12 teachers from Broward and Palm Beach Counties engaged in critical conversations addressing prejudice and racism in schools and society through education. The purpose of the retreat was to provide information that could be used to enhance the teaching of the Holocaust by the promotion of the tolerance of others.

**“We Are One Pulse: A Panel Discussion on the Orlando Tragedy”**
June 17, 2016

PJHR organized a panel discussion on the Orlando Pulse tragedy featuring speakers including, Dr. Jane Caputi, Professor in the Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies; Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins, Senior Pastor at Sunshine Cathedral in Fort Lauderdale; Ms. Romaine Patterson, LGBT Activist and prominent radio personality and Dr. Cristobal Salinas, Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology.

**JULY**

**Human Rights Review Moves to FAU**
July 1, 2016

*Human Rights Review*, the second oldest human rights journal in the U.S., relocates its editorial home to FAU. *Human Rights Review* is an interdisciplinary journal which provides a scholarly forum in which human rights issues and their underlying empirical, theoretical and philosophical foundations are explored. The journal seeks to place human rights practices and policies within a theoretical perspective in order to link empirical research to broader human rights issues. Dr. Steven D. Roper serves as Editor-in-Chief.
AUGUST

“Pure Performance: Secrets to Success”
Co-sponsored with Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life and FAU Department of Athletics
George Mumford
August 21, 2016

PJHR in collaboration with the FAU Department of Athletics and Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life hosted noted psychologist and meditation teacher George Mumford. He has been credited by NBA stars like Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant for transforming their game through groundbreaking techniques. Mumford offered 500 FAU student athletes a talk on how anyone, student or professional, can realize their potential as he shared his secrets to success.

SEPTEMBER

Jose Alvarez: (D.O.P.A.), Krome
Co-sponsored with the Boca Raton Museum of Art
September 21, 2016

As a way of celebrating United Nations Peace Day, PJHR focused on the issue of immigration. To highlight the local and global importance of this issue, PJHR hosted a talk by nationally known artist Jose Alvarez. Jose was convicted of identity theft and charged with immigration violations, eventually leading to his incarceration. During this time, Jose created a series of powerful portraits that capture and depict the unique and emotional stories of his fellow detainees.

“Not in My Town”
Co-sponsored with the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
September 24 and 25, 2016

PJHR, in collaboration with Opera Fusion and the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, presented the world premiere of “Not in My Town” a musical drama of the events surrounding the death of Matthew Shepard, the gay Wyoming college student, who was beaten and left tied to a fence to die. The murder subsequently brought national and international attention to hate crime legislation and resulted in the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.
Annual Professional Learning Opportunity: Heroes of the Holocaust
September 27, 2016

This workshop introduced teachers to two great diplomats: Chiune Sugihara from Japan and Dr. Feng Shan Ho from China who provided safe passage to thousands of Jewish refugees during the Holocaust and saved their lives. Presented to 120 educators in Broward, Palm Beach and St Lucie County and more than 3,000 K-12 students were impacted.

OCTOBER

“Lessons from my Grandfather”
Co-sponsored with Auroras Voice and Gandhi Square in Fort Lauderdale
Arun Gandhi
October 2, 2016

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday, PJHR, along with Auroras Voice and Gandhi Square in Fort Lauderdale, welcomed Arun Gandhi to share his grandfather’s views on nonviolence, forgiveness and peaceful revolution. Arun, who is the fifth grandson of India’s legendary leader, says that through daily lessons he learned about the dangers of violence and anger and that justice is accomplished through the transformation of the opponent with love and sacrifice.

Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education Movie Screening of From Swastika to Jim Crow
October 6, 2016

Before and during the Second World War, Jewish intellectuals and scholars who escaped Nazi Germany and immigrated to the U.S. faced an uncertain future. Confronted with anti-Semitism at major universities and a public distrust of foreigners, a surprising number secured teaching positions at traditionally black colleges in the segregated South. This is a story of two cultures, each sharing a burden of oppression, brought together by the tragic circumstances of war. This event was attended by educators from Broward, Palm Beach and St Lucie County as well as FAU faculty, staff and students and members of the community.
Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education Movie Screening of *Once in a Lifetime*, featuring Ahmed Dramé
October 17, 2016

Ahmed Dramé was a 10th grade student in the 2009 classroom of a dedicated history teacher, who rallied her rebellious class to participate in the competition portrayed in the feature film, *Once in a Lifetime*. Dramé, now an actor, co-wrote the screenplay as he wanted to honor the teacher who changed his life and the lives of other students in the class. In 2015, Dramé was nominated for the Cesar Award for most promising actor for his performance as Malik in the film.

Announcement of New Faculty and Staff Affiliates
October 27, 2016

PJHR announced the selection of twenty-one new Faculty and Staff Affiliates. New Affiliates were drawn from six FAU colleges. Affiliates participate in the governance of PJHR as well as have a voice in the direction of the Initiative. Affiliate status also allows faculty and staff to participate in all internal PJHR grant-making.

**NOVEMBER**

“The Dangers of Political Myth: Past and Present”
PJHR Colloquium Series
Dr. Robert Lieb (FAU Department of Philosophy)
November 3, 2016

Political myth is a seldom recognized, yet highly dangerous adversary. Political myth is largely immune to argument and reason, as it projects a dream for the community and a narrative in a light in which a nation or group orients itself and forms its identity; however, it can also serve to exclude and silence those whom a community rejects. Professor Robert Leib examined the relationship between language and politics in the context of Nazi Germany with an eye toward current and emerging forms of political practice.
“Echoes and Reflections”
November 8, 2016

This multimedia program provided secondary educators with professional development using print and online resources to teach about the Holocaust in today’s classrooms. Ten secondary educators in St Lucie public schools attended this professional learning opportunity as a follow up to the session held during Fall 2016.

National Model United Nations Conference
Washington, DC
November 11-13, 2016

FAU’s Leon Charney Diplomacy Program participated in the National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC. Twenty-one FAU students joined 800 students from eighty-one universities. The FAU delegation received the Overall 2nd Place Award, an Outstanding Delegation Award as well as two Distinguished Delegation Awards.

DECEMBER

Dr. Roper renewed as Editor-in-Chief of Human Rights Review
December 1, 2016

Dr. Roper is renewed for a second five-year term as Editor-in-Chief of Human Rights Review. Upon completion of this term, he will be the longest-serving Editor-in-Chief of the journal since its inception. The Managing Editors of the journal are selected from FAU graduate students.
“Post-Holocaust Jewish Identity in the Third French Generation: A Reflection on Jeremie Dres’ Memoir ‘We Won’t See Auschwitz’”

PJHR Colloquium Series
Dr. Alan Berger (Raddock Family Eminent Scholar Chair for Holocaust Studies)
December 5, 2016

This talk dealt with the meaning of memory and Jewish identity formation in the lingering and ominous shadow of the Holocaust. Jeremie Dres’ pilgrimage to Poland in search of his grandmother’s pre-Holocaust life raises a host of issues. Whether or not one makes a pilgrimage to the death camps, their psychic imprint leaves an indelible mark on the post-testimony generation. The presentation touched on the paradigm shift in Holocaust representation and the complex presence of Polish anti-Semitism as well as the corrosive role of stereotypes in the search for working through trauma.

**JANUARY 2017**

**Hélène Berr: A Stolen Life**
January 2 - February 12, 2017

This traveling exhibition from the Memorial de La Shoah in Paris is based on the journal written by Hélène Berr, a young Jewish French woman, whose promising future was brutally cut short by Vichy Government’s laws and the Nazis’ plans for the Jews of Europe. This exhibit was open to the public and involved a K-12 teacher workshop.

**Rose Gatens Annual Educator Appreciation Dinner**
January 19, 2017

This event celebrated and recognized K-12 teachers’ contributions in the field of Holocaust, genocide and human rights education. The Gutterman Family Holocaust Educator of the Year Award, funded through the generosity Arthur Gutterman and family, was awarded to Wendy Lockard (St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale); Sanford P. Lopater (John I. Leonard High School, Greenacres) and Glenda McIntire (Mirror Lake Elementary School, Plantation).
“Voices from the Camps: Syrian Refugees and Home-Making”
PJHR Colloquium Series
Dr. Yasmine Shamma (FAU Honors College)
January 20, 2017

This talk by Dr. Shamma chronicled narratives of Syrian refugees living amongst the 1.1 million throughout camps and make-shift communities throughout Jordan. Blending her background in space/place theory, eco-criticism and postcolonial literary studies with recent anthropological works on care, kinship and home, Dr. Shamma offered an interdisciplinary account of the resilient achievement of making-home in minimal spaces.

FEBRUARY

Announcement of PJHR Faculty Grant Awardees
February 2, 2017

PJHR announced the recipients of the Spring 2017 internal grant awards for faculty research, workshops and conference travel support. Eight faculty from five colleges were awarded grants.

“Emergency”
Daniel Beatty
Co-sponsored with the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, FAU South Florida Cultural Platform and FAU Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs
February 2, 2017

Daniel Beatty, an award-winning actor, singer, writer, composer and poet, performed “Emergency” an explosive solo tour de force featuring slam poetry, multi-character transformation and song. In “Emergency,” a slave ship emerges in front of the Statue of Liberty sending New York into a whirlwind of emotion and exploration. Beatty portrays a cast of forty characters. Through the characters’ individual responses, “Emergency” weaves a stirring commentary on what it is to be human and the longing to be free.
XI Florida Cervantes Symposium: “Peace, Justice and Human Rights in Cervantes’ Works and World”
Co-sponsored with the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters and FAU Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature
February 10-11, 2017

The Florida Cervantes Symposium is a gathering of Spanish early modern scholars from different universities in the State of Florida. The title of this year’s symposium was “Peace, Justice, and Human Rights in Cervantes’ Works and World.” The symposium had a selected number of graduate student presentations, Florida Cervantes faculty presentations and a reading of El juez de los divorcios (The Divorce Court Judge) a short play by Cervantes with the participation of undergraduate and graduate students of Spanish.

NEXT GENERATIONS Retreat Series: Shot by Shot: The Shoah in the Baltics, Belarus and the Ukraine
February 15, 2017

NEXT GENERATIONS Retreat Series provides Second Generation Survivors and members of the community with historical context and perspective relating to the history of their families in war-ravaged Europe.

Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education Movie Screening of Fanny’s Journey
February 15, 16 and 17, 2017

Real-life Fanny Ben-Ami, whose incredible true story parallels that of today’s refugees as told in the new film Fanny’s Journey, came to South Florida to speak with area high school students and to participate in audience Q&A discussions at theaters. At thirteen years of age, Fanny led a group of Jewish children on a daring escape to safety during WWII.
Operation Reinhart: The Second Phase of the Holocaust
February 21, 2017

NEXT GENERATIONS Retreat Series provides Second Generation Survivors and members of the community with historical context and perspective relating to the history of their families in war-ravaged Europe.

“Exporting Fogo: War on Poverty, Social Crisis and Participatory Culture”
PJHR Colloquium Series
Dr. Stephen Charbonneau (FAU School of Communication & Multimedia Studies)
February 22, 2017

Dr. Stephen Charbonneau discussed rare community development films jointly produced by the National Film Board of Canada and the Office of Economic Opportunity (The Farmersville Project, 1968 and The Hartford Project, 1969) in rural and industrial settings in the late sixties. Featuring testimonies from farm workers, activists and government officials, the films reflect communities in crisis.

PJHR Presents the Social Justice Exchange
February 23, 2017

The Social Justice Exchange featured community organizers, service practitioners and social activists along with FAU organizations. The goal was to provide community partners and University members a meeting place that encourages dialogue, the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to develop mutually beneficial and socially impactful connections and collaborations.
MARCH

Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education Movie Screening of *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War*
March 1, 2017

*Defying the Nazis*” *The Sharps’ War* is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a minister and his wife, who left behind their own young children to help save hundreds of imperiled Jewish dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis across Europe. This event was attended by educators from Broward, Palm Beach and St Lucie County as well as FAU faculty, staff and students and members of the community.

“A Collaborative Project Exploring Health Care Challenges of People Experiencing Homelessness”
PJHR Colloquium Series
Dr. Andra Opalinksi (Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing), Dr. Susan Dyess (Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing), Dr. Nancy Stein (FAU Department of Anthropology) and Dr. Patricia Liehr (Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing)
March 15, 2017

This talk by Drs. Dyess, Opalinski, Stein and Liehr was an introduction to addressing health challenges of people experiencing homelessness through a field to forum approach. The researchers and activist chronicled the process of the field work exposing the health challenges of carrying out simple personal health activities like caring for one’s feet while experiencing homelessness. This research team blended a unique approach to data collection and dissemination of findings. This process of translating research findings from the field through creative expression has the intention of fostering connection for an often misunderstood and vulnerable population.
National Model United Nations Conference
New York, NY
March 19-23, 2017

FAU’s Leon Charney Diplomacy Program participated in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York, NY. Twenty-six FAU undergraduates joined more than 5,500 college students from 350 universities. FAU students won a Distinguished Delegation Award.

Naming Ceremony of the Leon Charney Diplomacy Program
March 28, 2017

In 2017, the FAU Diplomacy Program was generously named by Tuli Charney with a $1 million gift to honor her late husband Leon Charney and create a legacy for his profound impact on world peace. He was a prominent lawyer, author, broadcaster and former advisor to prominent statesmen including President Jimmy Carter, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Ezer Weizman. Charney was called upon by President Jimmy Carter and Ezer Weizman to act as a backdoor channel to assist the parties in putting together a workable document which ultimately led to the Camp David Peace accords and thereafter the historical Camp David Peace Agreement between Israel and Egypt.

“Affect and Social Justice”
philoSOPHIA: Society for Continental Feminism, 11th Annual Meeting
Co-sponsored with the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
March 30-April 2, 2017

Dr. Sara Ahmed, author of groundbreaking books such as Queer Phenomenology and The Promise of Happiness spoke on the conference theme of “Affect and Social Justice.” This year’s theme honors the legacy of Teresa Brennan, who was Dorothy F. Schmidt Distinguished Professor of Humanities at FAU—and founder of a groundbreaking PhD for Public Intellectuals—before her untimely death early in 2003.
APRIL

“Foot Care for the Homeless”
Dr. Andra Opalinksi (Christine E. Lynne College of Nursing), Dr. Susan Dyess (Christine E. Lynne College of Nursing) and Dr. Nancy Stein (FAU Department of Anthropology)
Co-sponsored with the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
April 9, 2017

PJHR provided funding for foot care, socks and shoes for the homeless in a project documenting and photographing homeless individuals’ feet. This funding was a continuation of our support for this group of faculty connecting research with social justice issues in South Florida.

“European Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy”
PJHR Colloquium Series
Markus Theil (Florida International University)
April 19, 2017

Dr. Thiel examined the interaction between the Fundamental Rights Agency and hundreds of transnational European civil society organizations working with and on behalf of vulnerable populations in the European Union (EU) member states and probed the high normative standards of human rights attainment and transnational participatory governance in the EU.

4th Annual Flamingo Film Festival
April 29, 2017

The Flamingo Film Festival is dedicated to exhibiting international short films and videos produced by student filmmakers. PJHR was the sponsor of a Film Prize for “Short Film which Best Promotes Social Justice.”
**MAY**

Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education—Veterans and Survivors: Jewish American History Month Commemoration
May 15, 2017

Survivors of the Holocaust and Linda Medvin, Director of the Center participated in a Jewish American History Month program with U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Weston). The veterans and Holocaust survivors shared stories of courage and endurance in World War II with students from Broward County high schools. Students were moved by the experience and shared how this event contributed to their understanding of the Holocaust and World War II. The event took place to commemorate Memorial Day and to inform the students about the many contributions of Jewish Americans in the history of the United States.

**JUNE**

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Human Trafficking
M1 Zero
June 5, 2017

PJHR concluded a memorandum of understanding with the software company, M1 Zero, to collaborate on software development and training to combat human trafficking. A PJHR Working Group on Human Trafficking has been formed involving faculty from five colleges to collaborate on code refinement to identify and locate traffickers as well as develop training seminars to prevent individuals from becoming victims.

“Equality Rally for Unity + Pride, Pulse One-Year Remembrance”
June 11, 2017

PJHR provided funding for the Equality Rally for Unity + Pride, Pulse One-Year Remembrance in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Our funding assisted in the distribution of flyers and a banner. PJHR also assisted FAU students interested in attending and participating in the event.
The Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education hosted a two-day Summer Institute for thirty teacher-leaders to strengthen their content knowledge and to develop the skills to move beyond the commonly known history of the Holocaust. The Institute focused on the story of the Holocaust in France and the Netherlands and was an introduction of what occurs when a democratic society is compromised and how human behavior changes when democratic values are in danger.
FAU’s Peace, Justice and Human Rights (PJHR) Certificate is designed to complement a major in any field as well as provide an enriching educational experience to non-degree seeking students. The program has a tailored curriculum which allows students flexibility to design a program which matches their personal interests, academic and professional objectives. Graduates enter fields such as law, international relations, social and community work and education.

An interdisciplinary program, the PJHR Certificate draws its classes from more than twenty departments and six colleges across FAU. Students successfully complete the Certificate by taking fifteen credit hours from three categories of classes. Information on the program and courses can be found at: www.fau.edu/pjhr/academics/education-and-curriculum.php.

For those that wish to elect the Certificate as a non-degree seeking student, please see the web page developed by the Registrar’s Office at: www.fau.edu/graduate/applyonline/non-degree-seeking.php.

For more information and to learn how to support the efforts of PJHR, email us at pjhr@fau.edu or visit us at www.fau.edu/pjhr.