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Become the Change Newsletter for Summer 2010

Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies

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**The
UNIVERSITY
Of Rhode Island**

International Nonviolence Summer Institute July 6th –16th, 2010

Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies



A TRIBUTE to Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. for his lifelong commitment to nonviolence education and training. Thank you "Doc" for teaching us how to stand up to violence, keep on singin', and create a beloved community for all. Your experiences with Kingian nonviolence take us right into the action. We are grateful to be a part of your legacy to help realize Dr. King's vision to institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence.

9th Annual International Nonviolence Summer Institute Certifies 40 Nonviolence Trainers

They came from Canada, Colombia, France, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ukraine, Japan, Tibet, and from across the U.S., including Rhode Island. There were undergraduate and graduate students, professors, teachers, consultants, community organizers, nonviolence workers, and even a member of the National Guard returned from Afghanistan. Regardless of age, race, culture, or walk-of-life, the 40 participants in the Level I and Advanced Level II certification trainings offered during the 9th Annual International Nonviolence Summer Institute all shared the desire to return home as certified Kingian nonviolence trainers and start spreading the message of nonviolence throughout the global community.

Nonviolence trainers Jonathan Lewis of the Gathering for Justice, an organization founded by activist and singer Harry Belafonte, and Gail Faris, of the URI Women's Center, joined Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, director of URI's Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies and a professor in the psychology department, in conducting the Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation Training that took place at URI's Multicultural Center from July 6 – 16 for Level I. Yet it was Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr., noted civil rights luminary and distinguished visiting scholar, who, returning directly from a current training project in Nigeria, served as the institute's senior trainer for the ninth consecutive year. Dr. Lafayette along with co-trainer Andrew McQuaide (URI '10), facilitated the advanced Level II class focusing on organization and mobilization. Dr. LaFayette, who during the 1960s, played important leadership roles in Nashville sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the Selma movement, and the Poor People's Campaign, personified the message embodied in Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and truly inspired all participants throughout the intensive two weeks of training. An associate of Dr. Martin Luther King from the early days of the civil rights era, Dr. Lafayette, or Doc, as he is fondly called, reflected on his nonviolence experiences and shared insights and wisdom based on his traveling the world leading Kingian nonviolence trainings for the past four decades. On more than one occasion, Doc also could be found leading the group in rousing evening sessions with freedom songs from the movements, joined by Victoria Christgau, and accompanied by Cognitive Dissident trio members, Bueno de Mesquita and Dr. Steve Wood, a URI professor in Communication Studies. International nonviolence activists Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti of INHURED (Nepal), Dr. Seema Rhetra and Dr. Sapna Sangra of the University of Jammu (Kashmir, India), and Sarvodaya Prasad Gollanapalli, General Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Sarvodaya Mandal presented programs on Transitional Justice and Gandhian Principles. Abu Bakr presented on rules for effective presentations and how to always be prepared for Murphy's Law because anything can happen. Linda Palazzo gave a sample presentation of her work in the ACI and how she reaches the prison population with the idea of nonviolence and understanding. On the second week of Level I training, participants had URI professors and advanced

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trainers review their presentations. Reviewers included: Dr. Lynne Derbyshire and Dr. Steve Wood from Communication Studies, Kay Johnson from Education, Clare Sartori, lecturer in Psychology and Robin Wildman, teacher with South Kingstown Schools.

Level I participants earned certification based on successful completion of the intensive Kingian nonviolence training of trainers program. They are prepared to deliver the 2-day core introductory nonviolence workshops. Participants in the Level II advanced training course engaged in a one-week in-depth study of leadership, organization, and mobilization, as well as developing profile papers on significant nonviolence leaders, activists and movements. Provost Don DeHayes and College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Winnie Brownell, congratulated the institute graduates at the concluding certification ceremony on Friday July 17th.

“It was a very moving experience to be involved in this training,” said Priscilla Young, a Communication Studies graduate student at URI. “Despite the differences in culture, age, life experience and the like, everyone shared the common value of peace and nonviolence. We were all strangers to each other, but we quickly connected on a deep level of trust and respect – a universal understanding of our shared humanity.”



Dr. LaFayette shares lessons of nonviolence from his recent work in Nigeria.

Summer Experience of Hope

By Albert Clarence Bulls IV

I am from deep in the heart of Dixie – the state of Alabama, to be precise – although I have lived in many places and visited scores more. I attended the Summer Institute 2010 as Level II student in Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation Training at the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island. It is not an understatement to say that I had the time of my life. Do not get me wrong, it was an intense course, but the camaraderie and unification of diverse people from various backgrounds toward a common and righteous goal gave me so much hope for the world. The philosophy of Kingian Nonviolence (as set forth by the thoughts and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) is a gift the whole world should experience. The training has armed me – one man, one mind, and one voice – with the ability to enlighten others and, maybe, make the world a better and more peaceful place. Thank you URI and the Center for providing the opportunity to learn and grow in the Kingian tradition of nonviolence.



Paul Bueno de Mesquita, Gail Faris and Jonathan Lewis co-facilitated the 2-day core training and the 2-week Level I certification training. Thanks!

Andrew McQuaide holds the attention of Level II trainees.



Linda Palazzo shows the passion for her work within the ACI with Male inmates in Level I training.



Building Bridges Between Boston & Colombia

By Ruth Henry

I live between two homes, an ocean between them. In Boston, my childhood home, I worked during the summer with a group of youth organizers using Hip Hop to spread popular education about the War on Drugs and to build a healthier, more peaceful community. In Colombia, the home where I raise my own children, youth organizers are being targeted as we speak for doing eerily similar work. On August 7, 2010, Marcello Pimienta, a.k.a Chelo, was killed. Chelo was 23, part of a Hip Hop collective called La Red Elite which brings together 17 Hip Hop groups in the bullet-ridden neighborhood of Comuna 13 to create alternatives to violence for neighborhood youth. Over the past year, three of the young leaders from this movement have been brutally assassinated, an attempt to stop their nonviolent protest of the paramilitaries’ takeover of their neighborhood, of their intention to turn the community center into drug trade headquarters, of the 5000 rifles they recently gave out to the street gangs. Some of the collective’s members have received an introductory course in Kingian Nonviolence. All have decided not to give up. In the names of those who have fallen, they have chosen to continue their struggle. We in Boston are collecting signatures, as are many others in other cities, calling on the Mayor of Medellin to protect the lives of these courageous individuals. I urge you to join us. For copies of the petition, please contact me at osashiphop@gmail.com. As Dr. King so rightly said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” and Medellin, which has been an epicenter of nonviolence work over the years, is screaming for justice. We must and we will respond.



Kevin Sudi from Kenya uses nonviolence with Maya.



“The Kingian Nonviolence training exceeded my expectations! I would recommend this training to anyone, be it either for one’s own development or to spread the word of Dr. Martin Luther King. “

— *Doug Shannon, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH.*

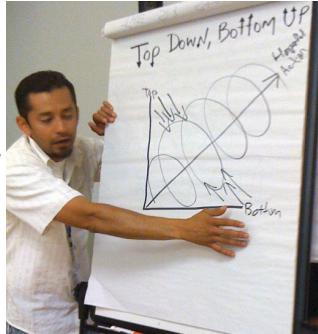


“I am a student at the University of Strasbourg, in France and for a few months I was an intern with the Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies. I was excited to participate in the Level I training. You realize that no matter your country, your religion, your culture, your beliefs or your experience of life, nonviolence and peace are desires shared by people globally. I will never forget this great experience, and hope to attend the Level II training next year.”

— *Gwenaelle Szelka, University of Strasbourg, France.*

“I returned from this year’s Nonviolence Summer Institute inspired to bring my deepened understanding of Dr. King’s legacy into my work at a nonviolence center in Berkeley, California. My time in Rhode Island was packed with challenging activities, and I formed new relationships with the most extraordinary people. We learned as much from one another as we did from the program.”

— *Erika Cristie, Metta Center for Nonviolence, Berkley, CA.*



“I am so very thankful to have experienced Level I training at URI’s 2010 International Nonviolence Summer Institute. Throughout all, I truly felt that “the universe was on the side of justice.” I realized that while my previous work , teaching about “peaceable schools,” mediation, negotiation, provided useful strategies for dealing with conflict, Kingian nonviolence is truly a way of life.”

— *Joan May T. Cordova, Independent Consultant, Philadelphia, PA.*



“There are many things unique about 2010’s Level II Institute that made it unlike any other training I have ever participated in. There was something surreal about the diversity among the group. I can’t wait to hear about the work my fellow classmates will do as time goes on. We have built a beloved community and I look forward to the future.”

— *Michaela Cashman, URI Student Nonviolence Involvement Committee.*



“To be surrounded by a loving community of amazing leaders, I was instilled with a fierce courage and realistic hope for the cause of Nonviolence. I left with a great sense of purpose in knowing how to bring my knowledge to the community.”

— *Ryan Alexander, URI Student Nonviolence Involvement Committee.*

The nonviolence training gave me hope for an alternative in Afghanistan – to resurrect Badshah Khan’s nonviolence, to attack the forces of evil instead of people, to bring forth a positive peace, to undermine violence for the cause of articulation and reconciliation. We have tested war for millennia, and it has failed. The development of nonviolence is humanity’s greatest endeavor, and to be trained by one of its greatest practitioners, Dr. LaFayette, was an honor. I look forward to carrying on the movement.

— *Brock McIntosh, Illinois State University/ Illinois Army National Guard.*



“Level II brought many great experiences! Having had the opportunity to renew friendships with many of last year’s Level I participants, and learning about their great work in the community was uplifting. I also had the great pleasure of meeting individuals from all walks of life who made this experience even more special. Level II left me with a sense of peace and strength.”

— *Juanita Woodland, Research Therapist at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.*





Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti of INHURED, Nepal spoke on Transitional Justice the evening of July 6th. URI's Art Stein, Emeritus professor of Political Science and Melvin Wade, director of URI's Multicultural Center, discuss international and cultural issues.



Authors Dr. Seema Rhometra (*Gandhi Revisited*) & Dr. Sapna Sangra (*Sociological Dimensions of Conflict*) from the University of Jammu, Kashmir, India, participated in the Level I training and were honored guests at a ceremony on July 14th celebrating the publication of their recent books. Their book release talks were hosted at the URI Women's Center, with a delicious meal prepared and served by local mindfulness group Clear Heart Sangha



Doc speaks with Jim Hanon from *Ethnographic Media Productions* before the screening of Hanon's documentary film *Little Town of Bethlehem* on July 12th. This film depicts the viewpoints of a Palestinian Christian, Palestinian Muslim and Israeli Jew in their nonviolent struggle for a greater humanity.



Sarvodaya Prasad Gollanapalli joined Level I participants and Center affiliates after presentation on Gandhi and the Sarvodaya Movement in India on July 8th.

International Guests Headline the 2010 Summer Institute

Exceptional evening programs emphasized the international focus of the Center's nonviolence training mission this year. Special guests from Nepal and India brought the Summer Institute's first keynote speakers and participants from central Asia. Ethnographic Media Director, Jim Hanon brought us up close and personal stories of nonviolence from Palestine and Israel. Also, Bob DiFilippo shared slides and discussed his work with *Engineers Without Borders* for developing water quality and conservation projects in Rwanda, Haiti, El Salvador, and the Philippines. Jonathan Lewis provided stirring examples of nonviolent direct action through current work as National Training Director of *The Gathering for Justice*, as well as sharing his experiences in Nigeria. *Cultural Connections* founders, Risa Gilpin and Dorothy Bocian, shared inspirational results of their arts-based *Raise Your Voice* program. Victoria Christgau from the CT Center visited to lead us through a rousing night of *Music of the Movements* with Doc and Prof. Steve Wood backing on the 12-string. Evenings provided opportunities to dialogue with Doc and to hear his many stories. Overall the two-week institute was filled with understanding, compassion, learning, training, singing and creating connections to have support in our nonviolent endeavors. The 2010 Institute offered all participants the value of living and learning with people from 10 different countries and across the United States. Truly a powerful educational experience for all. See You Next Year!



Martina from Tanzania.



Dorothy and Risa.



Bob from Engineers Without Borders.



Thupten from Tibet and Doc.