



At James Madison University

MSC 2604, Cardinal House
500 Cardinal Drive
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

540.568.6394/4060 • 540.568.7251 fax
GandhiCenter@jmu.edu
www.jmu.edu/gandhicerter/

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The Mahatma Gandhi Global Nonviolence Award for 2007

HARRISONBURG – The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu, recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, will be visiting James Madison University to receive JMU Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence’s top honor, the Mahatma Gandhi Global Nonviolence Award, at 7 p.m. Friday, September 21, 2007, the International Day of Peace, at JMU Convocation Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Archbishop Tutu’s award presentation is entitled “Goodness is Powerful.”

“The visit by Archbishop Tutu to James Madison University will be a historic event for James Madison University, the City of Harrisonburg, and the Commonwealth of Virginia,” said JMU President Dr. Linwood Rose.



The name Desmond Tutu resonates profoundly with people all around the world. While his vigorous anti-apartheid activism in his native South Africa first propelled him into the glare of international news media, today he is revered as a “moral voice” and someone who speaks with gravitas on a range of issues. While he is an Anglican Archbishop emeritus and steadfast in his religious beliefs, Tutu places great value on religious inclusiveness and interfaith dialogue.

Archbishop Tutu will receive the Gandhi Award “for his contributions to peace, encouragement of a nonviolent approach to human relations and world affairs, and efforts to promote reconciliation and forgiveness among people,” said Professor Sushil Mittal, Director of the Gandhi Center.

Desmond Tutu joined the International Advisory Board of JMU Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence in 2005. “His influential endorsement of the Gandhi Center and its activities has been a major contributing factor to its development and success,” said Dr. Myron Augsburger, President Emeritus of Eastern Mennonite University and member of the Board of Trustees of the Gandhi Center. Dr. Augsburger will be offering a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing to Archbishop Tutu at the award ceremony.

Admission is free, and open to all. Seating is on a first come, first seated basis. Convocation doors open at 5 p.m. It is recommended that the audience arrive early to avoid lines and crowds.