



Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence





Gandhi Center Newsletter

Fall 2021

We acknowledge and thank friends and partners for support through an active and highly successful semester, and to meet our mission and core values.

The Gandhi Center & Department of Justice Studies honors and celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Terry D Beitzel, Professor of Justice Studies and Director (since 2014) of the Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence at JMU.

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Center Updates



Location Reveal: The Gandhi Center Suite

[Darcus Johnson Hall 1005](#)

After initial delays due to the pandemic, the Department of Justice Studies and the Gandhi Center officially moved into the newly renamed building—Darcus Johnson Hall (estab. 1909). Darcus Johnson Hall was the first dining and residence hall at the university. The renovated building was renamed in honor of Dr. Sheary Darcus Johnson ('70, '74M)—JMU's first Black student and graduate—during a ceremony in Fall 2021.

The Gandhi Center suite in 1005 enjoys a privileged location on the first floor with gorgeous views of the Bluestone quad in all seasons. The larger suite contains a reading/sitting area, the Redekop Peace & Justice library, and a student intern desk.

There are two offices in the suite. The Director's office is in 1005B. The second office is the new home of the Nonviolence Research Lab.

Nonviolence Research Lab

JMU's recent Carnegie reclassification as an R2 university brings a renewed focus on the scholarship goal of academic centers, including the Gandhi Center. To this end, we have established a permanent Nonviolence Research Lab in the Gandhi Center suite. The Lab has already yielded two major research projects:

AY 2020-21: Dr. Yvan Ilunga

Race, Protest, and Democracy

AY 2021-22: Dr. Samiullah Nuristani

*Exploring the Corrosive Effects of Government
Corruption on Social Capital in Afghanistan*

Gratitude for funding for these projects is owed to the Redekop Family Trust. Cal Redekop is a dear friend of former Director Dr. Terry Beitzel and Sylvia Whitney Beitzel. Cal donated generously to support Terry's research ambitions and the journal.

International Journal of Responsibility

The [International Journal on Responsibility \(IJR\)](#) our international, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary forum for theoretical, practical, and methodological explorations into the various and complex issues of responsibility published Volume 4, Issue 1 on *Disability and the Pandemic*, co-edited by Daisy L. Breneman and Susan Ghiaciu from JMU.

Associate Editor Howard Carrier created a senior editorial board (Dr. Taimi Castle, Dr. Glenn Hastedt, Dr. Traci Zimmerman from JMU and Dr. Fred Redekop from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania) in 2021 to help steer the journal after the passing of Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Terry Beitzel. The journal received editorial support this semester from graduate assistant, Courtney Hassan.

Beitzel Lecture Series

We established The Beitzel Lecture Series, which brings distinguished scholars and practitioners of nonviolence to the James Madison University campus for public lectures, seminars, panel discussions and a variety of related interactions with faculty, students, and the larger community. The inaugural Beitzel Lecture in Spring of 2022 will be a presentation from Dr. Samiullah Nuristani on the research project on corruption in Afghanistan.

Gandhi Center Book Launch

With our global partners, we hosted a virtual book launch for the books *Reflections on Mahatma Gandhi: The Global Perspectives* and *Rethinking Mahatma Gandhi: The Global Appraisal*, co-edited by Dr. Terry Beitzel and Dr. Chandrakant Langare (Kolhapur, India). The virtual launch, which featured excerpts from Dr. Terry D. Beitzel's keynote presentation at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, March 04-05 of 2020 took place over Zoom on October 1. It was attended by over 100 guests from around the world.

Joining the panel of guests were distinguished Gandhian scholars and family members including Professor Emeritus and Lord Bhikhu Parekh (University of Hull, England) and Mr. Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Prominent Social and Human Rights Activist (Mumbai, India).

Dr. Terry D Beitzel Scholarship

The [Beitzel Memorial fund](#) has been established and we welcome your continued support. The Beitzel Scholarship will be given to first-generation students who major in Justice Studies and have a passion for nonviolence and social justice. Thanks to the generosity of colleagues, family, and friends, the scholarship received funding needed to become an endowed scholarship offered in perpetuity.

The first award will be distributed in Fall 2022, thanks to the donation of expendable funds from Sylvia & Myra Beitzel. They, along with the Beitzel and Whitney families, would like to thank donors for their generosity in donating to the scholarship. They also wanted to state that they are very grateful for the kind words and gestures during this difficult time.

Advisory Board and Staff

Dr. Taimi Castle, Professor of Justice Studies, began serving as Interim Director of the Gandhi Center in Spring 2021.

The Gandhi Center also receives administrative support from Dianne Fulk, Program Support Technician.

During the AY 2021-22, the Gandhi Center employs one Graduate Assistant, Courtney Hassan, and two student interns (Evan Munsey and Audrey Billiard). Evan worked with Director Dr. Terry Beitzel previously.

The Center is also hosting the Gandhi Center Research Associate (AY 2021-22), Dr. Sami Nuristani

External Advisory Board:

- o Keith May, owner of Kline-May Realty
- o Ron Yoder, retired Health Care Consultant
- o Alicia Horst, Executive Director, Mid-South Immigration Advocates (Memphis, TN)
- o Sylvia Whitney Beitzel, Community Representative

Internal Advisory Board:

- o Dr. Smita Mathur, Associate Professor, College of Education
- o Dr. Abe Goldberg, Professor, Political Science (College of Arts and Letters)
- o Dr. Edward Brantmeier, Assistant Director of Scholarship Programs for the Center for Faculty Innovation and Professor in the College of Education

Other News:

- ✚ Gandhi Center is sponsoring/supporting initiatives across the university, including the AAAD conference, the new Global Citizens Scholarship, and Holocaust Remembrance Day events
- ✚ In spring, the Gandhi Center will host a nonviolent training/workshop by Hollaback! and the DC Peace Teams
- ✚ The inaugural Beitzel lecture will take place in Feb/March, as well as a memorial symposium featuring papers from the International Journal of Responsibility
- ✚ Other programs are on hold due to the ongoing pandemic

If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Dr. Castle by email (castletl@jmu.edu) or phone (540-568-5929).

Support our work!

As a nonprofit organization, you can make a tax-deductible donation to support the work of nonviolence and peace through the Gandhi Center.

Click "*Search for Other Giving Areas*", then scroll down to "*Centers and Institutes*" and check "*Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence*".

<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1591/19give/interior.aspx?sid=1591&qid=2&pgid=510&cid=1526&bledit=1&appealcode=71128>