VOLUNTEERS 

KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you). So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!

FOOD: KIPCOR is known for the quality of food provided during our trainings & events. Do you enjoy cooking and baking? Volunteer to help and we’ll contact you to see if it would be convenient for you to provide baked goods, or perhaps a full meal (cooking duties can be shared with another volunteer).

MAILINGS: We have a large mailing list and our mass mailings (newsletters, for instance) need many hands to help with folding, sealing, and labeling. Volunteer and we will add your name to the contact list so you will know when we need help.

ROLE-PLAYERS: KIPCOR trains student mediators throughout the year, and part of that training can include rigorous role-play practice...which requires help from volunteer thespians. Do you long for the stage every now and then? Volunteer and play the part of a parent fighting for more parenting time, a landlord or tenant, a consumer or business owner, or an unhappy neighbor.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We are associated with Bethel College, but almost entirely self-funded. Since money does NOT grow on trees, we need to find it somewhere else. Without the generous support of friends and corporate/foundation sponsors, our work simply cannot continue.

If you can help us in our mission of peacemaking, please contact our Office Manager, Doug Langel, at 316-284-5217 or dlangel@bethelks.edu. He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.

www.kipcor.org
www.facebook.com/kipcorks
twitter.com/kipcorsocial

The inaugural Restorative Kansas Conference on restorative justice, hosted by KIPCOR, was held in 2018, at Bethel College. Themed “A Vision for Justice,” the conference had over 100 attendees in attendance and brought educators, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, and many others who have an interest in restorative justice to the Bethel campus. Presentations covered a range of topics including implementing restorative justice in schools, how the restorative justice movement is addressing the #metoo movement, and restorative justice in correctional facilities.

The keynote panel featured Jon Gering and Gary Florio.

The opening keynote panel was comprised of restorative justice practitioners from around the country. Jon Gering, a criminal justice professor, called restorative justice “revolutionary.” Florio, a winning author and newspaper columnist, treated the audience to a thoughtful talk about the power of “storytelling.” Florio served as KIPCOR’s Director for 19 years and retired in July 2017.

The following morning, a session on restorative justice as a part of transforming law enforcement featured Joanne Katz, a retired legal studies and criminal justice professor who came to learn about restorative justice through her association with Florio, then Director of KIPCOR.

Conference attendees were ushered in by the soulful drumming of Wichita restorative justice practitioner Rob Simon. The beginning of the conference included a rousing welcome from Bethel President Jon Gering. In his expression of appreciation for the conference, he proclaimed that “Bethel College is an appropriate host institution for this conference,” as peace and social justice are core values of the college. Also included in the conference opening was a recognition of former KIPCOR Director, Gary Florio, who received Emeritus status from Bethel College from President Jon Gering and Dean of Academic Affairs, Bob Milliman.

Restorative Kansas Conference: A Vision for Justice Realized

Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

KIPCOR newsletter, please contact us as

www.bethelks.edu
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To ensure that you continue to receive the

Other professionals on the panel included Rafe Martin, a retired children’s author and master storyteller Rafe Martin. The author of more than 20 children’s books, who also serves as a Zen Buddhist guide in his hometown of Rochester, NY, treated local audiences to a series of performances that were expertly-tailored to attendees of all ages.

Martin’s exhausting schedule covered 3 1/2 days and included a kick-off performance at Memorial Hall at Bethel College, featuring a performance from storyteller extraordinare Leroy Hershberger and music from the in-comparable Arthur Marks.

And many of you, no doubt, can still hear the stirring words delivered September 12, 2017 by Pulitzer Prize winning author and newspaper columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr. Pitts treated a near-capacity crowd at Memorial Hall with his answer to the question, What Now? America in the Age of Trump.

KIPCOR capped its 30th Anniversary celebration in April with a visit from children’s author and master storyteller Rafe Martin. The author of more than 20 children’s books, who also serves as a Zen Buddhist guide in his hometown of Rochester, NY, treated local audiences to a series of performances that were expertly-tailored to attendees of all ages.

Martin’s exhausting schedule covered 3 1/2 days and included a kick-off performance at Memorial Hall at Bethel College. Martin had the crowd literally jumping out of their seats on several occasions as he talked about the creative process and extemporaneous delivered passages from a few of his books. Audience members also had a chance to view creative artwork from area elementary school students inspired by Martin’s books. The bulk of the artwork was on display at the Kaufmann Museum as part of the Newton Kids Create: Storytelling Through Art exhibit.

Martin also appeared at a Bethel College Convocation, and performed no less than eight times at Newton area elementary and middle schools. He also graciously gave up one of his

Rafe Martin leads community celebration of KIPCOR’s 30th Anniversary

Rafe Martin Photo by Vada Stolter

“Restorative justice is a chance for us to deal with some difficult and uncomfortable topics, like racism, trauma, and classism,” he stated. Jasmyln Stotler, a subject matter expert on restorative practices in learning institutions, proclaimed that restorative justice is equivalent to nourishment and that “crime is the absence of nourishment.”

Others on the keynote panel included Jon Gering, a retired legal studies and criminal justice professor who came to learn about restorative justice through her association with Florio, then Director of KIPCOR.

(continued on page 2)
Restorative KS Conference

KIPCOR, who encouraged her to think about a new way to see justice. At first glance, Katz dismissed Flory and said that law enforcement officers will call this, "hug-a-thug." After gaining greater understanding of restorative justice, however, she mentioned that she "began to see that this is about accountability... fairness, listening, and values that we all share."

Keynote panelist Edward Valandra, a Native American and professor of social work, explained that the restorative justice movement by stating that "every great movement has a good press," referring to the media coverage that the movement has received, which is a large producer of restorative justice publications. Valandra currently serves as a senior editor on the Colorizing Restorative Justice Project, an upcoming book that shares the stories of restorative justice practitioners of color and the hurdles they face.

"I don’t call this a movement yet," key-note panelist Raj Sethuraj said, "It is still a moment. It won’t be a movement until we truly address issues of trauma, racism and sexism." Sethuraj is a law enforcement and criminal justice professor and address-es issues of victimology, restorative justice and diversity for law enforcement officers. The panel was moderated by Greg Paul, a professor of communication stud-ies at Kansas State University who looks at restorative justice through the lens of language. Paul worked with co-moderator, KIPCOR director Sheryl Wilson, to craft thoughtful questions about restorative jus-tice as a practice and as a movement.

On the second day the conference focused on “Three Prima-ry Applications of Restorative Justice: Schools, Community, and Criminal Justice.”

Restorative Justice in Schools

The KIPCOR Restorative Schools team organized a morning session focusing on “What’s Happening in Our Schools” hearing from school leaders and administrators at different stages of imple-mentation. The session also spent time that everyone feels welcome, district-wide implementation across the state, and an end to the “School-to-Prison Pipeline!”

Joel Friesz, a restorative justice trainer for schools in North Dakota, and Jasmin Story, a restorative justice facilitator in schools, led a second session on “National Trends and Practices” identifying common practices emerging across the nation and highlighting areas for improvement where values and practice sometimes diverge, for example in non-teaching staff being trained and seen as key implementers for restorative practices.

Skidmore Sociology professor David Karp and human rights activist Jasmin Story, national experts on restorative jus-tice on college campuses, spoke in a mod-erated discussion during convocation at Bethel College on how the restorative jus-tice movement is informing the #metoo and #timesup movements. The two spoke candidly about sexual violence on college campuses and universities, including personal experiences and structural needs for change. KIPCOR Director, Sheryl Wilson moderated the discussion.

In a separate breakout session, Karp and Story led a discussion on the imple-mentation of restorative justice in student affairs on college and university campuses. Similarly modeled from K-12 imple-mentation efforts, college campuses provide unique opportunities for restora-tive justice questions about restorative jus-tice due to the residential na-ture of many colleges and the older student popula-tion.

Restorative Justice in Communities

Edward Valandra, a Sicangu Lakota, born and raised on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, pre-sented on restorative jus-tice in Native American communities. As he began his presentation, Valandra stated that for true restorative justice to take place, American society has to recognize its “first harm,” referring to the erasure of the history of Native Americans by Europe-an settlers.

National restorative justice leader Ted Lewis and Kansas State University profes-sor Greg Paul co-facilitated a session on the application of restorative justice in faith communities and workplaces. While many are more familiar with restorative justice in schools or the criminal justice system, the values are applicable in every sphere. More faith communities are beginning to ask what it would look like to become a Restorative Church and workplaces are recognizing the significance of a work cul-ture based on a solid foundation of relation-ships which can prevent as well as repair harm when it occurs.

Mark Umbreit, an early facilitator in formalized restorative justice applications in the United States, led a session recog-nizing restorative justice as a trauma-informed approach and explored the role of mindfulness within restorative justice applications. Understanding the impact of trauma has quickly become an important topic in the restorative justice field.

Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System

Raj Sethuraj, professor at Metropoli-tan State University and restorative justice facilitator, led the afternoon session in which participants had the opportunity to observe the application of restorative justice within the framework of community policing. With so much media attention in recent years on the divide and disconnect between police officers and the communities they repre-sent, restorative justice applications pro-vide a different lens and opportunity of considering how relationships and trust are built and where harm can be repaired in community.

Holy Chavez, Restorative Justice Coordinator for the Kansas Department of

KIPCOR online is REALLY easy, and REALLY SECURE.

STEP 1: Go to the KIPCOR website at www.kipcor.org.

STEP 2: Click on “Get Involved” in the ribbon at the top, and then on “Donate/Volunteer”

STEP 3: Read the information on the Donate page; pay particular attention to “Donation Instructions”

STEP 4: Click on “The Donate Today!” button.

STEP 5: Fill out all of the information. The bottom is the “Gift Destination” selection. The default is “Bethel College Fund” (Current Fund), and has a downward facing arrow at the right. Click on that arrow and select “Other”. The “Other Gift Destina-tion” box will appear. In that box, type the word KIPCOR. Fill out the rest of the form, and click on “Submit Form.” That’s all that’s to it!

STEP 6: (Optional) If it’s not too much trouble, or if you have difficulties getting the form to accept the “KIPCOR” designation, let Doug collier@bethelks.edu (or 316-284-5217) or Sheryl wilson@bethelks.edu in the KIPCOR office know that you’ve made an online donation so we can watch for the receipt from the development office, and give you a proper THANK YOU!!!

Coming This Summer: Kansas Stories of the Vietnam War

It’s been 50 years since the escalation of our country’s involvement in the Vietnam War. To commemorate this milestone, the Newton Public Library – thanks to a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council – is coordin-ating a summer-long series of events. KIPCOR is proud to be a co-sponsor and participant in this project.

The Kansas Stories of the Vietnam War project kicked off July 6 with a writing workshop, where veterans explored meth-ods for documenting their war experiences. On August 20, KIPCOR staff will facilitate a community discussion between the general public and a panel of Vietnam veterans and conscientious objectors. There is no fee to attend the discussion, which will begin at the Newton Public Library (720 N. Oak St.) at 6:00 p.m. This should be an especially compelling discussion, given the deep divisions that existed in the Newton area during the Vietnam era.

Other events include two moderated book discussions, with the first on July 31 regar-ding A Patriot After All: The Story of Chicano Vet, by Juan Ramirez. Then on August 20, the community is invited to discuss The Sympathizer, by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Both book discussions begin at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

As part of the Kansas Stories of the Vi-etnam War project, Newton Public Library staff will also collect oral histories from community members that reflect on their experi-ences as veterans, refugees, and/or those on the home front. Collected stories will be submitted to the Library of Congress’ Vet-ans History Project in Washington, D.C.

KIPCOR was honored to be asked to partner with the Newton Public Library and other entities on this project. We are espe-cially looking forward to facilitating the dis-cussion on August 20 as a way to acknowledge the strife that existed in our country during the Vietnam War, and to peacefully address the divisions that re-main.
With this, the Spring 2018 KIPCOR newsletter, KIPCOR has made the transition to an electronic newsletter. If we have your email address, we are sending your newsletter to you electronically instead of through the mail. This action will save resources, as we stop using so much paper and energy to print the newsletter, and it will save us money as we avoid printing and mailing costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, and you’re not sure if we have your email address, contact the office at KIPCOR@bethelks.edu or call (316) 284-5217 and confirm that we have a current email address for you.

As we free ourselves from printing and mailing limits, we are making plans to provide more regular updates electronically so that you will know what’s going on at KIPCOR. We hope that these new avenues of communication about our work will allow you to participate in more of our events.

Remember, you can follow our activities on Facebook at Facebook.com/KIPCORks, and on Twitter at KIPCORSocial.

KIPCOR Calendar
More information & registration is available at www.kipcor.org/Calendar/

June 5 - 8, 2018
Summer Institute: Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

June 25, 2018 (and additional meeting dates)
Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

August 14 - 17, 2018
Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict - Health Care Emphasis
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

August 20, 2018
Vietnam War Community Discussion
6:00 pm
Newton Public Library 720 N Oak St Newton, KS

September 9, 2018
KIPCOR Film Series
3:30 pm
Krehbiel Auditorium @ Luysen Fine Arts Center.
North Newton, KS 67117

September 13-14, 2018
Implementing Restorative Practices in KS Schools
8:45 am - 4:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

September 24, 2018 (and additional meeting dates)
Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Effectively
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

November 4, 2018
KIPCOR Film Series
2:00 pm
Krehbiel Auditorium @ Luysen Fine Arts Center.
North Newton, KS 67117

December 7, 2018
CMH/DEU Shorts
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

January 3-4, 2019
Managing Differences Within Faith Communities
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

January 8-18, 2019
Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict (Core Mediation)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

January 21-25, 2019
Negotiation Theory and Practice
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave. North Newton

Additionally, KIPCOR and the Community Mediation Center offer two classes for divorcing parents each month. We offer the Divorce Impact Education class the second Thursday of the month at 5:15 PM in McPherson, and we offer the same class the fourth Tuesday of the month, also at 5:15 PM, in North Newton.

Contact the Community Mediation Center at (316) 284-5829 or CMC@bethelks.edu for more information on these classes.
In February, KIPCOR and the Bethel College Office of Student Affairs supported five students and two faculty to attend the 2018 Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship Conference (ICPF) at Conrad Grebel University College in Kitchener, Ontario, Bethel college students Anna Lubbers, Caroline Preheim, Emily Kondziola, Adrie Regier and Caleb Allen traveled to Canada with Bethel faculty Lisa Jantz Scott and Doug Seim.

The three-day conference was a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at Conrad Grebel University College. The participants explored the meaning, history, and practice of restorative justice and included many speakers who hosted a variety of workshops and panels. The ICPF conference is an annual conference for students, planned and led by students. Students came from Mennonite colleges in Canada and the US to attend the 2018 conference.

The previous ICPF Conference was hosted at Bethel College in 2017. That was the attraction for previous ICPF attendees Emily Kondziola, a Peace and Justice Studies major: “I thought that it would be fun to attend this conference at a different school because she attended a KIPCOR event.”

KIPCOR also received the Museum exhibit of student artwork. KIPCOR extends a heartfelt thanks to Koller, James Lynch, Berneil Mueller, Rafe Martin and provided critical logistical support. The committee also received invaluable support from Beverly Buller and Carol Flickinger, who worked as liaisons to the local schools that hosted the conference. Caleb Allen was the Chair of the committee and provided critical logistical support. The committee also received invaluable support from Beverly Buller and Carol Flickinger.

Similarly, Adrie stated that she was impacted by the emphasis placed on the indigenous roots of restorative justice. “I didn’t understand how important that history was to them [conference planners],” she said.

When asked what he would take away from the conference, Caleb felt strongly that he would practice some form of restorative justice for “the rest of my life.” He noted that he was introduced to restorative justice through his upbringing, but the conference helped him to affirm the importance of the values, especially after experiencing restorative justice on a college level.

The majority of the Bethel students who attended ICPF had some knowledge of restorative justice before attending the conference and they wanted to learn more. “What stood out to me was the intentional behind everything they [conference planners] did,” Caroline said. “Before every session they [presenters] recognized where the land was stolen from Native Americans and that was very impressive to me.”

Anna also felt strongly that she will look for ways to incorporate the knowledge of restorative justice she attained while at the conference. “I found that knowing about circle process and knowing what that is... is so helpful,” she said. As a student majoring in education, Anna is very interested in how to implement restorative practices in K-12 schools.

Happy Anniversary to us!! (continued from page 1)

for KIPCOR’s 30th Anniversary celebration in February 2016. KIPCOR extends a heartfelt thanks to planning committee members Jeff Koller, James Lynch, Berneil Mueller, Donna Zerger, and Kirsten Zerger. The committee also received invaluable support from Beverly Buller and Carol Flickinger, who worked as liaisons to the local schools that hosted Rafe Martin and provided critical logistical support. In addition, Ani Andre of the Kaufman Museum partnered with KIPCOR as a liaison to school librarians and art teachers, and coordinated the Kaufman Museum exhibit of student artwork.

We hope you were able to enjoy some or all of our 30th Anniversary events, and we look forward to your continued participation and support during the next 30 years!

Making peace about creation care, lifestyle changes

Bethel College’s C. Henry Smith Peace Oration Contest winner has a simple suggestion: Make peace through pollutions.

Sarah Balzer, junior from Inman, Kansas, took first place in the annual event with “Environmental Inequalities in the Age of Plastics.”

Balzer began her speech with a quote from “eco-poet” Craig Santos Perez, who called plastic “the perfect creation because it never dies.”

“We have become so accustomed to the convenience plastic provides,” Balzer said, “that we don’t often think about where our trash goes after we toss it in the Dumpster.”

“If we dig deeper, we see the immense environmental impact plastics can have, and how our overuse of plastics can be considered a form of violence.”

Balzer traced the journey of a plastic water bottle thrown into the trash. Most likely it goes into a landfill, she said, where over time the chemicals that are harmful when burned begin to begin to break down and leach, as toxins, into the soil and groundwater.

People who live closest to landfills come from populations that are disproportionately low-income and/or people of color, she noted.

If the bottle doesn’t go into a landfill, then it’s probably in the ocean, contributing to the huge garbage mass, twice the size of Texas, accumulating in the Pacific.

The plastic garbage interferes with fishing and the livelihoods of people with little else to fall back on. Balzer pointed out. They are responsible for killing vast numbers of marine animals, or ending up as toxins in their bodies, which again disproportionately affect the human populations who rely on these animals for food.

“By following the journey of the plastic water bottle we’ve tossed in the trash, we can see how, over time, the toxic substances used in plastic production can wind up on someone else’s plate, negatively impacting their overall well-being,” Balzer said.

“By crowning plastics as ‘perfect substance’ and creating a world in which throw-away culture is the norm, we have unintentionally contributed to the oppression and environmental degradation.”

Balzer wound up her speech by saying in addition to being called to prevent direct physical violence and injustice, Christians are challenged to care for creation.

“When Jesus said, ‘Love your neighbor,’ he didn’t simply mean ‘Do not kill your neighbor.’ Our Christian peace perspective calls us to not only to abstain from fighting, but to also to go beyond current societal norms, examining our own lives to find ways to prevent injustice and speak up for the oppressed-and combating environmental degradation is one way to do so. “We cannot begin to solve the problem unless we quit contributing to it in the first place.”

While it’s necessary to “educate ourselves and others about the harmful effects of plastics” and advocate for policy changes such as plastic grocery bag bans, Balzer said, perhaps most important is “to change a few of our everyday habits, taking our reusable bags to the grocery store, refusing straws at restaurants or taking the time to do the dishes at family gatherings (and other pollutions) instead of using plastic utensils.”

“Minimizing our contributions to plastic waste is one of the multitude of ways a few small changes in our everyday lives can help reduce inequality and injustice and promote shalom around the world.”

The other prize awarded, second place, went to Victoria Riddick, freshman from Aztec, New Mexico, for a speech entitled “Finding Forgiveness in a Man I Never Knew,” about her recovery from the trauma of the day her best friend was killed in a school shooting.

The Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) sponsors one annual C. Henry Smith Peace Oration Contest at Bethel College.

Thanks to those of you who have so generously contributed to KIPCOR in response to our April fundraising appeal. With your help, and those of the other supporters, we are moving toward our goal of $5,000.00 by our fiscal year end on June 30. We know that many of you plan your giving to the college around the fiscal year, and we feel that our goal is well within reach. Thank you!!

If you would like to make an electronic donation, see page 7 for detailed instructions.

Sarah Balzer wins Bethel’s 2018 C. Henry Smith Peace Oration Contest

~Melanie Zuercher