



January, 2013

Co-Directors' Corner

Warm Greetings from the Summer Peacebuilding Institute (SPI).

Applications are arriving daily and courses at SPI 2013 are beginning to fill up, but at the moment, there is still space in all courses.



SPI Co-Directors Bill Goldberg and Valerie Helbert

SPI 2013 will be held from May 6 – June 14, 2013 on the campus of Eastern Mennonite

University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. You can find all of the information you will need to attend SPI 2013 -- course descriptions, instructor bios, costs, and an online application -- at our website: www.emu.edu/spi.

Recently both SPI Co-Directors took part in a two-day version of Nurturing Resilience for Sustained Peacebuilding. It was an eye-opening, experiential look at the need to build up personal resilience to keep healthy in stressful times and environments. You can read an interview with the faculty for that course as well as see some comments from others who attended the two-day version of the course in this e-zine. The full seven-day course will be offered during Session 3 of SPI.

We are in the process of confirming speakers for our Frontier Luncheons, one of three times during each session of SPI that we gather together as a community. At each luncheon we will hear from a person working on the frontiers of peacebuilding. More information on one of these speakers is available in this e-zine.

It's going to be an exciting year at SPI. We hope you will join us.

Read full Co-Director's Corner

SPI 2013 Course Highlights

Draft syllabi for most of the SPI 2013 courses are now on our website. A description of all courses as well as the draft syllabi are available by clicking [here](#).

Below is a short highlight of one course from each session of SPI, adding to the description and syllabi that you will find on the website and giving you more insight into the course itself.

Click on the course title to go to the SPI website description of that course or read the full highlight of a particular course by clicking the "[read full highlight](#)" link at the end of each highlight.

Session 1: Faith-Based Peacebuilding

For the past two years, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to groups or individuals who have had connections to faith-based peacebuilding. In this course you will join together with a group of religiously and culturally diverse individuals from around the world to explore how faith, identity, and religious background affect conflict and can be a significant tool for transforming conflict. [Read full highlight.](#)

Session 2: Restorative Justice: The Promise, the Challenge

See recent examples of Restorative Justice in the news in this [New York Times article](#) and on this episode of [The Today Show](#). Participants in this course will come to appreciate the worth of all persons who have experienced the consequences of crime or harm. That recognition informs much of the value-based work of restorative justice and allows us to also effectively critique the limitations and challenges as well as the promises it brings. [Read full highlight.](#)

Session 3: Nurturing Resilience for Sustained Peacebuilding

The following are partial quotes from participants in a two-day version of this course. The full seven-day course will be taught at SPI 2013.

...provided me space to reflect on the past, nurture the present, and prepare for the future.

...a real-time space for learning to effectively manage stress.

...a must for those wanting to sustainably invest in themselves, their communities, and this planet's collective future.

...refreshing and enlightening to think about personal resilience practices in an intentional way.

...helped me think in a wholistic way about my personal and professional journey.

...inspiring, enlightening and thoroughly engaging.

[Read full quotes](#)

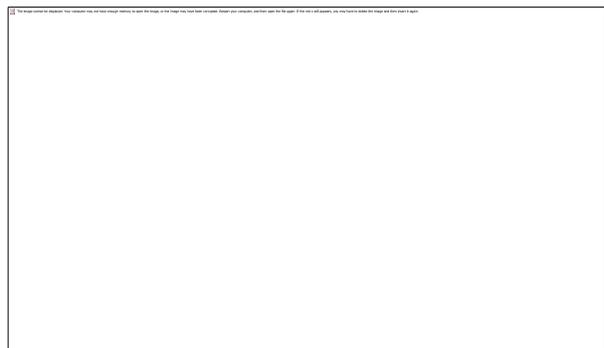
Following the course highlights section is an interview with Bill Lowrey and Alice Petersen, the husband and wife team co-teaching Nurturing Resilience for Sustained Peacebuilding at SPI 2013. [Read interview.](#)

Session 4: Narrative Theory and Practices for Healing Self, Building Community & Organizing Change

Story telling is part of every culture. Our lives at the personal, relational, and societal levels are shaped by the stories that we tell and hear. These stories define identities, outline relationships, and establish morality, justice, deviance, and value. But in this world of information overload and “instant” communication we are at risk of losing the art of deep listening and of crafting a story of pain and triumph so that we invite others to connect with us and share their stories.

Participants in this course will learn to tell stories for healing and connection, and will understand how the unveiling of unspoken narratives can help to shift relationships, societal patterns and institutions. [Read full highlight.](#)

Building Resilience in Life



Bill Lowrey and Alice Petersen, a husband-and-wife team, are co-teaching *Nurturing Resilience for Sustained Peacebuilding* during Session 3 (May 27 – June 4, 2013) of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute.

Bill Lowrey and Alice Petersen

Their interest in resilience comes from both personal and professional influences throughout their life.

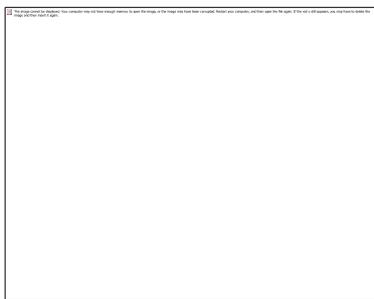
Bill's prior work included training in managing conflict and the people-to-people process of building peace. Alice's prior work focused on building resilience amid life changes and trauma that is experienced over the course of one's lifetime.

Both have ways of fostering their personal resilience. Alice relies on making sure she has a good network of friends and peers. In addition, she regularly sets aside time for meditation, silence, and reflection. Bill has moved away from trying to "manage the whole world" and now recognizes what he says "no" to and why.

Both believe to be resilient it is important to have a variety of friendships, relationships, and specialized care (when needed) from counselors and therapists. And sometimes you just have to go out on the golf course and have some fun!

Read the full interview

Frontier Luncheon Speaker - Session 3



Dr. Ken Rutherford

Dr. Ken Rutherford, Director of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) at James Madison University, will be speaking on May 29, 2013, at the Frontier Luncheon during session 3 of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute. For a bio of Dr. Rutherford, click [here](#). To read more about the work of CISR, click [here](#).

All SPI participants taking a course in session 3 are invited to attend this luncheon. If you are not attending SPI but are interested in attending, e-mail spi@emu.edu for more information.

Upcoming Events

Over the next several weeks and months, there are many exciting events occurring at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. Most of these events take place at the center, but there is also a chance to participate in some of the events via the internet. For more information or to register for any of the following events, click the link in the title of each event.

Restorative Justice (online)

- [Justice in Transition: Restorative & Indigenous Approaches in Post-War Contexts](#) (online course): *February 21, 28 and March 14, 21, 28 and April 4 (4:30pm-6pm EST)*
- [Does Restorative Justice Need Forgiveness?: A Dialogue with Sujatha Baliga](#) (webinar): *January 30, 2013 (4:30-6:00 PM EST)*

STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience)

There will be a STAR level 1 training during session 3 of SPI 2013. For those unable to come during SPI or interested in other STAR-related events, the following will occur prior to SPI:

- STAR level 1 training: *February 4 - 8, 2013, on campus at EMU*
- Transforming Historical Harms: *April 12 - 13, 2013*
- STAR level 2: *April 29 - May 3, 2013*

For more information on those and other STAR events, send an e-mail to star@emu.edu.

CJP Alumni Consultation: When Bottom Up Meets Top Down

The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding will be having its first consultation with alumni of the masters and graduate certificate in conflict transformation May 24-26, 2013, between sessions 2 and 3 of SPI 2013.

CJP Alumni (MA and GC), faculty, and colleagues will be discussing the successes and challenges of linking "bottom up" with "top down" peacebuilding and to elicit theories, knowledge, and experiences from the field.

For more information, contact Amy Knorr, CJP Practice Coordinator.

[learn more](#)

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