

# SYMPOSIUM AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

## PERSPECTIVES ON THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

The College of Arts and Sciences at Ashland University inaugurated the Symposium Against Indifference in 2001 as a biennial series of events and lectures dedicated to overcoming apathy in the face of human concerns by raising awareness and promoting compassionate engagement. The Symposium seeks to challenge the University community as well as the wider Ashland community toward a deeper understanding of difficult affairs and creative personal and corporate responses. Symposium themes from previous years include:

- The Holocaust
- Human nature
- Terrorism
- The promises and perils of technology
- Inquiry into what makes a hero
- Against global indifference
- Engaging in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Environmental sustainability
- Building bridges through dialogue
- Truth in the age of disinformation



**ASHLAND**  
UNIVERSITY

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**SYMPOSIUM**  
AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

2023-2024 Event Schedule  
visit: [cas-symposium.blogspot.com](http://cas-symposium.blogspot.com)

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# PERSPECTIVES ON THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS



# SYMPOSIUM AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

**2023-2024 Event Schedule**

**ASHLAND**  
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## The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic Jillian Peterson, Ph.D.

Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m.

Alumni Room, Upper Convocation Center

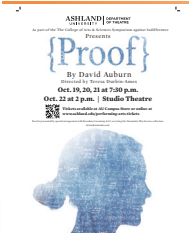
Using data from groundbreaking research on mass shooters, including first-person accounts from the perpetrators themselves, *The Violence Project* charts new pathways to prevention and innovative ways to stop the social contagion of violence. For the first time, instead of offering thoughts and prayers for the victims of these crimes, Peterson shares data-driven solutions for exactly what we must do, at the individual level, in our communities and as a country, to put an end to these tragedies that have defined our modern era.

**Jillian Peterson, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University. Peterson launched her career as a special investigator in New York City, researching the psycho-social life histories of men facing the death penalty. Peterson has led large-scale research studies on mental illness and crime, school shooting prevention and mass violence, which have received national media attention. She is a sought-after national trainer and speaker on issues related to mental illness and violence, trauma, forensic psychology and mass violence. Peterson earned her Doctorate in psychology and social behavior from the University of California, Irvine. She is trained in restorative justice, violence mediation, crisis intervention, de-escalation and suicide prevention.

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

Ashland Center for Nonviolence

Mental Health and Recovery Board of Ashland County



## Theatre Production of *Proof* by David Auburn

Oct. 19, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Studio Theatre, Center for the Arts

After the death of her genius mathematician father, a young woman must face her fears and ask the question, "How much of her father's genius or madness will she inherit?" When a mathematical proof of historical proportions is discovered, its authorship is in question, testing the bonds of family loyalty and love. This Pulitzer Prize-winning play explores emotional truths related to trust, grief, love and the nature of genius. This production is performed by Ashland University students and directed by faculty member Teresa Durbin-Ames.

A discussion with mental health professionals will be held after the Oct. 22 2:00 p.m. performance.

Co-Sponsoring Organization

Ashland University Theatre Department



## Making Hope Happen: Implications for Mental Health and Wellness

Jennifer Cheavens, Ph.D.

Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m.

Trustees Room, Upper Convocation Center

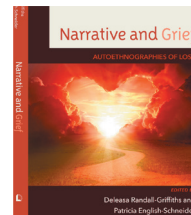
Research over the past three decades has established that hope is related to positive outcomes, including academic and athletic achievement, successful goal pursuits and low symptoms of psychopathology; however, less is known about whether or not hope can be intentionally cultivated. In this talk, Dr. Cheavens will review the data linking hope to valued outcomes. Additionally, Dr. Cheavens will discuss how to make hope happen, including a focus on how hope therapy was developed.

**Jennifer Cheavens, Ph.D.**, is a professor and director of clinical training in the Department of Psychology at The Ohio State University (OSU). Cheavens earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Kansas, after completing her internship year at Duke University Medical Center. Cheavens directs the Mood and Personality Studies research group at OSU where she supervises both graduate and undergraduate researchers conducting investigations aimed at characterizing and improving treatment for disorders of emotion dysregulation, including borderline personality disorder and depression. Cheavens also studies hope, gratitude and kindness, as well as ways to incorporate client strengths into treatments. She has been studying hope since she began graduate school in 1996.

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

Ashland University Psychology Department

Ashland University Honors Program



## Narrative and Grief: Autoethnographies of Loss

Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Ronk Lecture Hall, Schar College of Education

Grief and loss are fundamental aspects of the human experience. This event features readings and discussion on the book *Narrative and Grief: Autoethnographies of Loss*, examining the desire to make sense out of the nonsensical by exploring specific stories of loss and grief, including the loss of a parent or child, ambiguous and anticipatory loss and broader cultural aspects of grief. Speakers at this event include the following contributors to the book:



Jacqueline K. Owens, Ph.D., RN, CNE  
Professor of Nursing and Program Director of the RN to BSN Program



Deleasa Randall-Griffiths, Ph.D.  
Professor, Chair and Director of the Online Undergraduate Communication Program



Sharon L. Russell, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor and Program Director of Reading and Literacy



Kimberly J. Stanislo, DNP, APRN-CNP  
Research Education and Practice Director, National Association of School Nurses



Olga Zatepilina-Monacell, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

Ashland University Department of Communication Studies

Ashland University Department of Doctoral Studies and Advanced Programs

Ashland University Department of Nursing



## Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment

Benjamin Storey, Ph.D.

Friday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.

Ronk Lecture Hall, Schar College of Education

We live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, yet everywhere we see signs that our pursuit of happiness has proven fruitless. Dissatisfied, we seek change for the sake of change—even if it means undermining the foundations of our common life. Benjamin Storey argues that the philosophy we have inherited, despite pretending to let us live as we please, produces remarkably homogenous and unhappy lives. He makes the case that finding true contentment requires rethinking our most basic assumptions about happiness. (From Princeton University Press)

**Benjamin Storey, Ph.D.**, is a research professor at Furman University and a senior fellow in Social, Cultural and Constitutional Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He has held fellowships and teaching positions at Princeton University, the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Hertog Political Studies Program, the Tikvah Fund and Yale University. Storey is the co-author, with his wife, Jenna Silber Storey, of *Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment* (Princeton University Press, 2021). Together, the Storeys are working on a book titled, *The Art of Choosing: How Liberal Education Should Prepare You For Life*.

Co-Sponsoring Organization

Ashbrook Center



## Screening of *What I Want You To Know* Travis Weiner and Tommy Furlong, executive producers

Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m.

Hawkins-Conard Student Center Auditorium

This film, produced by two combat veterans, explores the impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on both those who fought and the civilians on the ground. It asks several important questions: What price was paid by those who fought and by civilians caught up in the fighting? Do they think their sacrifices were worth it? How do combat veterans feel about the war and what burdens do they carry? Join us for this screening, followed by a Zoom talk with **Travis Weiner** and **Tommy Furlong**, veterans and executive producers of the film.

Co-Sponsoring Organization

Ashland Center for Nonviolence