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# Mills Peace Sign in Honor of International Day of Peace

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In today's realm, the world is in a critical period of violence. We see crime and hostility all over the news everyday and wish there was something we could do. With endless domestic violence, civil right debates recognized in Louisiana, and the war in Iraq; it's hard to imagine a place where the atmosphere is totally peaceful. It might sound like we're running for Ms. United States of America, but I'm sure an important thing we all want in our lives now is world peace.

On Friday September 21st, Rollins College students, faculty, and staff created a human peace sign on Mills Lawn in honor of the International Day of Peace. More than 200 people participated around noon all dressed in white. The lawn had strips of white material laid on the ground for people to stand on in preparation to create a giant peace sign.

Before everyone gathered on the lawn, IMPACT provided peace buttons and pins available in front of the Mills building. SGA was also handing out plain white t-shirts in front of the campus center and decorating supplies were made available to make the plain shirts more personal.

This fun event, like all others around the world, was planned in hopes of everyone leaving more aware of the violence in the world and to be apart of something to promote peace in their community.

The development of the International Day of Peace was by the United Nations Assembly in 1981. This is a worldwide movement where individuals, organizations and schools gather together on this day for a moment of silence, engage in community service, or in Rollins case, form a peace sign. The goal of this day is to spread awareness of global peace and encourage a day of nonviolence throughout the world.

United Nations' Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon rang the Peace Bell at United Nations Headquarters in New York and called for a moment of silence at noon. As quoted on the UN website, the Secretary-General says this day, "[I]t defines our mission. It drives our discourse. And it draws together all of our world wide work, from peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy to promoting human rights and development." It is on this day that people come together and create a day of peace.

During the peace sign creation at Rollins, Jeremy Tibbetts; an IMPACT leader, stood on the podium to announce there was a picture being taken. He then went on to announce the upcoming Global Peace Film

Festival featured the week of September 25th through the 28th. Once the picture was snapped, Dominos delivered a good amount of pizza to this event and then everyone was set out to finish their day of peace elsewhere.

Beyond individual students and staff members coming together, a few RCC classes came to participate in this peace day activity. Among them were Kylene Dey and Carson Nicely, both peer mentors for their Health and Wellness RCC.

Kylene said, "We decided as an RCC class that this was an important event that not only brought the Rollins community together, but also made us apart of the international community.

The United Nations nominated this day of peace and encouraged connections all over the world to participate. This focuses on our Rollins College mission statement of becoming global citizens and acting as leaders of a community. As peer mentors, myself and Carson believe this event is perfect for first year students to engage in a cultural experience on the Rollins College campus."

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