

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership Newsletter

Thomas G. Walsh
October 31, 2025



HJ International
GRADUATE SCHOOL for PEACE and PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

October 31, Volume III, Number 16

*HJ International Graduate School and
Higher Purpose Forum Present*

A Contemporary Theology of Human Spirituality

SPEAKER



**Dr. Theodore
Shimmyo**

President Emeritus; Adjunct
Professor of Theology, HJI

RESPONDENT



**Rev. Millhan
Stephens**

Pastor, Boston Family Church



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HIGHER PURPOSE
forum

Exploring
important
questions
together

Watch the Replay - Available Online

In collaboration with the Higher Purpose Forum, “A Contemporary Theology of Human Spirituality” was held online on Thursday, October 9, at 7 p.m. ET.

Dr. Theodore Shimmyo, President Emeritus and Adjunct Professor of Theology at HJI, presented a scripturally grounded understanding of human spirituality aimed at fostering

lasting peace, and Rev. Milhan Stephens, Pastor of the Boston Family Church, served as the respondent.

The event explored how contemporary theology can address critiques of traditional Christian thought and offer frameworks that promote harmony rather than division. [Watch the Replay.](#)



“Constitutional Law and Rights” was held online on Tuesday, September 30, at 7 p.m. ET, in honor of Constitution Day and in memory of William Lay, JD (1952–2025), a beloved former Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and Human Security at HJI.

Hosted by Dr. Thomas Walsh, President of HJI, the event featured the final lecture on the U.S. Constitution by Professor Lay and was followed afterward with commentary from W. Farley Jones, Esq., and Peter Ross, Esq. [Watch the Replay.](#)



Submit Your Research Project for Annual Research Day!

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership has set Thursday, November 20, 2025 as the date for the fourth annual HJI Research Day. Students, Faculty, and Alumni are invited to present an Academic Poster, a visual depiction of a research project that has been completed or is underway. The deadline for Contestant Submissions has been extended to November 11, at 11:59 PM New York Time.

Registration is OPEN. [Click for more information on Annual Research Day 2025.](#)



Marlies Ladstaetter | Masters in Peace Studies 2024 | Austria

What inspired you to apply to HJI and your program? What do you most appreciate about being a student at HJI?

I was inspired to apply to HJI and the Master in Peace Studies because of its international focus and dedication to fostering global understanding, which aligns perfectly with my passion for peace and intercultural dialogue. Having volunteered with UPF Austria and IAYSP Austria, I developed a strong desire to further explore peacebuilding and international cooperation.

HJI's diverse environment offers the ideal platform to engage with students from around the world and deepen my knowledge in this field. What I appreciate most about

being a student at HJI is the opportunity to be part of a global community committed to positive change.

If applicable, share about the benefits of your online learning experience

As I was working next to my studies, the online learning platform was a great opportunity to do a Master's next to work. I could make my own weekly schedule to listen to the lectures and do the tasks within the given deadline. The online discussion forums made it possible to share and discuss with my study colleagues and the professor. Sometimes we also had live online meetings with professors.

If applicable, share about your internship or chaplaincy experience.

I was fortunate to do my internship at the Austrian Red Cross. During my internship at the Austrian Red Cross, I supported the Deputy Secretary General and the Commander in Charge with various tasks, including organizing a trip to Solferino for the Red Cross national chapters. I also assisted in coordinating relief efforts for victims of severe flooding in Austria and Slovenia and contributed to fundraising efforts. A highlight was attending meetings with a Ukrainian Red Cross delegation, learning about their efforts in providing essential supplies to affected populations. I gained insights into the workings of NGOs, conflict management, and the Red Cross' impartial approach to aid. Additionally, I visited the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, where I learned about their global humanitarian efforts and the importance of the Geneva Conventions. Overall, the internship deepened my understanding of international humanitarian work and the vital role NGOs play in crisis management.

Is there any other highlight or aspect of your study at HJI that you would like to share?

One of the highlights of my experience at HJI is the incredible support and encouragement from the professors. They not only recognized our potential but also motivated us to push beyond our limits, which helped me grow both academically and personally. Additionally, I deeply value the rich content of the courses, which provided me with a strong foundation in peace and conflict studies. Learning alongside many international colleagues also enriched my experience, as we often exchanged ideas and learned from each other's diverse perspectives.

What do you enjoy in your free time?

In my free time, I volunteer with Youth and Students for Peace Europe, Middle East, and Austria. I also love spending quality time with my husband, family and friends, especially enjoying the outdoors through activities like walking, hiking, and biking. Additionally, I practice yoga regularly.

For more information about HJI, email admissions@hji.edu

To apply to HJI [click here](#)



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ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY 2025

Students, Faculty and Alumni

Thursday, November 20 • 7 pm ET

- Faculty competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- Enrolled student competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- A non-competitive category for HJI alumni & others affiliated w/ HJI (winner awarded a Certificate of Excellence from HJI's Alpha Nu Pi Chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Religious Studies Honor Society, an affiliate of the American Academy of Religion)

Deadline for Contestant Submissions is November 7 at 11:59 PM

Annual Research Day 2025

PARTICIPANTS

Please review the details below, then register at the bottom of the page:

HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership has set Thursday, November 20, 2025 as the date for the fourth annual HJI Research Day. Students, Faculty, and Alumni are invited to present an Academic Poster, a visual depiction of a research project that has been completed or underway.

The following are eligible to register in the two competitive categories:

- HJI students enrolled in the Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and/or Fall 2025 semester
- HJI full-time faculty members or adjunct faculty members who have taught a HJI course between Fall 2022 and Fall 2025

Participants will be placed in three separate categories:

- Faculty competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- Enrolled student competition (\$500 award to the winner)
- A non-competitive category for HJI alumni and others affiliated with HJI. The Winner in this category will be awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the HJI's Alpha Nu Pi Chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Religious Studies Honor Society, an affiliate of the American Academy of Religion.

SUBMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Your Research Day competition materials will be posted on Canvas, the Learning Management System that HJI uses. You will be invited to Canvas, once you complete the form for joining the competition.

Your submission on Canvas will consist of:

1) an academic poster and 2) a 5-10 minute recorded video presentation explaining your poster

1. Academic Poster

a. Poster Specifications (This is a virtual poster)

- Must be portrait orientation
- Must be 24 in. Width x 36 in. Height (or a 2:3 aspect ratio)
- May be submitted as a PowerPoint, PDF, PNG, JPG, or other file types, provided that you are able to screen share the poster properly during the recording of your presentation

- If you choose to use a PowerPoint, a sample template for your poster can be downloaded [here](#) (the poster does not need to follow this exact layout, but should include all of the categories listed immediately next below in b. Poster Contents).

b. Poster Contents

- An Introduction or Abstract
- A research question or questions
- A description of methodologies/research used in conducting the research
- A description of findings so far and conclusions that can be drawn from said findings
- List of major sources used in research
- Publications or planned publications resulting from research
- Acknowledgements of colleagues who contributed to the project
- At least one image or graphic
- [See Sample Poster](#)

2. A recorded video presentation that includes an explanation of the poster

- Poster should be displayed/screen shared during the presentation
- Video should not be longer than 10 minutes
- [See Sample video](#)
- Your Slider and Video must be posted on Canvas no later than Tuesday, November 11 2025 at 11:59 PM.

SCORING RUBRIC

The following rubric will be used to score posters and presentations: [Scoring Rubric](#)

TIMELINE

- Registration is now OPEN. Please register using the form at the bottom of this page.
- Once you have registered, you will receive an invitation to join Canvas, a learning management platform utilized by HJI. Submissions for the Research Day competition will be collected on Canvas.
- Submissions are due in Canvas no later than, Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 11:59 PM.
- Judges will review the submissions in Canvas and select the finalists. Finalists will be notified and have their posters and presentations displayed on the HJI website.
- A live Zoom session will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 7 PM to announce the winners. All competition participants and others who are interested are encouraged to attend.

Please contact info@hji.edu if you have any questions. We look forward to assisting you.

REGISTRATION

HJI Annual Research Day 2025

Registration Form for Contestants

Email *

First and Last Name *


Status *

- Choose -

Phone *

> SUBMIT

Made with

Formfacade

Welcome to the Application Center



Please use the form below to begin your application:

- Fill in all fields
- Upon clicking “Submit”, you will be asked to verify the Email address you provided.
- Next, you will receive an Email with a link directing you to fill out the full application.

Note: You will be able to return via the link provided as many times as you need. Completed fields will be automatically saved.

Application

--

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Email

Confirm Email

Phone

☐ Use for text messaging
(US/Canada only)

Start Application

Phone: (212) 563-6647

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