

On November 17 of 2016, Salisbury University's Department of Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution hosted Oge Onubogu from the United States Institute of Peace. This event was part of the Global Lecture Series and the focus was "Winning the Peace: Understanding the Drivers of Conflict and Peace." Students had the opportunity to learn about what it's like to work with USIP and the importance of peace in the trenches of conflict.

Ms. Oge Onubogu began her presentation with the proposition in which USIP embodies: "Peace is Possible. Peace is Practical. Peace is Essential." In a world where so much has been achieved in terms of peacebuilding, more investment needs to be made. As Senior Program Officer of USIP's Africa Programs, Ms. Onubogu oversees the design and implementation of programs in Nigeria in coordination with USIP's community of experts. In regards to Nigeria, she spoke of the instability, the state's inability to mitigate disputes, the high unemployment rate, mistrust and violence, displacement of people, and the divisions among civilians. She also emphasized the value of achieving peace and USIP's commitment to the region by seeking multiple stakeholders and understanding the endemic underlying causes behind conflicts, in specifically Nigeria. "We at USIP have a unique opportunity to address the conflict without violence. It will be a long road but no one said peacebuilding was easy. We can all together make peace possible."

After her presentation, Ms. Onubogu thoroughly addressed nine questions from the audience. The speaker reminded students and faculty that we spend a lot of time thinking about cultures, viewing these cultures sometimes with the lens in which we see what we are doing is not working. She reminded peacemakers that it's not about implementing the same peacebuilding project, but about developing a new project that can be implemented into the community. The speaker also answered questions regarding mixing the military with peacebuilding, the impact students can have, USIP's involvement with Liberia and Sudan, the foundation of power in social life, the upcoming 2019 presidential elections in Nigeria, the effect of the new US government, and the radicalization of youth.