



**2018-2019  
YEAR IN  
REVIEW**



**CENTER FOR  
SERVICE,  
SPIRITUALITY  
AND  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**



# RELIGIOUS LIFE

Sara Cochran '19, Mychal Herber '19, Aidan Birth '21, Maryam Khalil '21, Zolboo Erdenebaatar '21 and Geoffery Cole '20



**The Interfaith Service Trip** to Philadelphia over Fall Pause, led by Sara Cochran '19 and Maryam Khalil '21 allowed a group of 9 student participants and a staff member, Carolyn Goode of the Asbell Center, to experience various faith traditions and service in and around Philadelphia. After arriving in Philadelphia Friday, participants settled in at the host site, Episcopal Mission Center in Germantown. This year, we partnered with Interfaith Philadelphia, a Philadelphia based non-profit focused on bringing people of different backgrounds together to learn to respect one another and strengthen their own religious identity. Participants had the opportunity to visit Congregation Rodeph Shalom, St. Vincent DePaul Church in Germantown and the Philadelphia Sikh Society. Giti, a member of the Baha'i Community of Philadelphia had the group over to her house to talk about the Baha'i faith and her experiences as a Baha'i in Philadelphia. As it was our last stop, students enjoyed the comfortable atmosphere and her hospitality. The group served a meal at the Grace Cafe in downtown Philadelphia. Although the trip was a few days long, the group learned a lot from each other and the community they served.

### **Interfaith House:**

This year brought a new and exciting living opportunity for Dickinson students: the Interfaith House. The new special-interest house brought together students from religious and non-religious backgrounds in the hopes of promoting community and interfaith dialogue. The Interfaith House held a variety of events throughout the year providing an opportunity for Dickinson students to explore how they practice their own beliefs on a college campus and how their practices and beliefs may overlap with other people's practices and beliefs.



The Fall Faith Fest brought together students and local faith groups to broaden our local network of people of faith and spaces to practice. We had several attendees from local faith groups as well as on campus groups such as MECA (Muslim Educational & Cultural Association), Hillel, our Jewish Student Club, Dickinson Christian Fellowship (DCF), Dickinson Catholic Campus Ministry (DCCM), and Disciplemakers Christian Fellowship. Additionally, we had community representatives from the First Presbyterian Church on the Square in Carlisle, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the First United Church of Christ, Baha'is of Carlisle and Newville, and the Carlisle Quaker Meeting.

The Exploring Religions Series this year provided students with the opportunity to visit different places of worship such as the Asbell Center for Jewish Life and St. Mary Eastern Orthodox Church.

**Multicultural Seder:** We were able to co sponsor this event with the Asbell Center for Jewish Life & Dickinson College Hillel. A few members from our Religious Life office participated by speaking about Tu BiShvat, which celebrates the Jewish new year of the trees. Different groups on campus also shared readings about viewing the environment through the lenses of poverty and racism while we shared a communal vegetarian meal and enjoyed music from the Afro-Semitic Experience.

**Beliefs and Big Questions:** Our yearly event in the fall attracted numerous people to think more deeply about how issues of faith and spirituality impact them in their daily lives. This year's event consisted personal reflections with questions such as "Who are you?" and "Where does spirituality fit in your daily life?" This event gives a glimpse into the spiritual and religious beliefs of Dickinson students, which they may not ordinarily share on a day-to-day basis.

**The "Did You Know" poster series:** This year our office continued providing quick information about various faith traditions and their holidays by setting up "Did You Know" posters by the HUB stairway. We expanded our library of posters to include more about other marginalized faith traditions and some lesser-known holidays to broaden religious literacy on our campus.

**What Matters Most Dinner Series:** Our What Matters Most series, a small group discussion about what matters most to a professor or staff member that our office chooses, had continued success this year. In alternating months we partnered with Residence Life and Housing to bring these meaningful discussions into dorms and campus housing. Our participants included Professors Menon and Pulcini, Dean Eisenberg, Vice President of Student Life, George Stroud, and Carl Socolow.



**Eboo Patel:** During the fall semester, Dickinson College welcomed one of the leading interfaith leaders in the United States, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, Eboo Patel. A lunch was offered to students during which Patel shared a story about interfaith work from one of his books as a model for how interfaith work takes place, after which he took questions from students on how interfaith work can be done. The same day, gave a lecture in partnership with the Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues about the American religious landscape. He provided the history of religion in the United States from its Protestant Christian roots to the religiously diverse country it is today. It was a great opportunity to think about new ways that interfaith work could be done at Dickinson campus while recognizing the numerous ways religious diversity has impacted the United States since its founding.

**Spirituality at Dickinson:** This spring, our office refurbished the Meditation Room in the HUB and the Interfaith Chapel in Allison Hall. Our student workers provided more copies of holy texts from various faith traditions, as well as literature about faith and spirituality in general. To advertise these improvements, we hung posters around campus letting students know where they can go to engage in spiritual practice, either in private or in groups. As a result of our office's efforts, these spaces saw increased foot traffic and engagement with students. In the future, we hope to further enhance the HUB Meditation Room and Allison Interfaith Chapel so that more students are aware of these valuable places on campus.





# DAY OF SERVICE

Cailey Cummins '20, Jalee Lopez '21  
and Katy Dechert Harrison '19



In 2018-2019, Day of Service held a number of events that engaged students, faculty, and staff in service with the goal that every student have at least one service experience before graduating from Dickinson.

In the fall, Day of Service took students to visit Claremont Nursing home to participate in game nights and bond with residents. We worked with Project SHARE throughout the year by gleaning at a local apple orchard and volunteering at their winter holiday distribution. Each week, a group of students served at the soup kitchen at the Salvation Army of Carlisle. Day of Caring, an annual service day, engaged students in various ways! Students wrote thank you notes to the facility and dining staff members, made t-shirt bags and created bookmarks for elementary students. About 100 individuals participated in our annual Giving Tree, which collected gifts for the Salvation Army and United Methodist Home for Children in need.

To start off the spring semester, Day of Service went back to Claremont Nursing Home to help with a bingo night. We took another group of volunteers to the Carlisle Arts and Learning Center to prepare for upcoming events with community members.

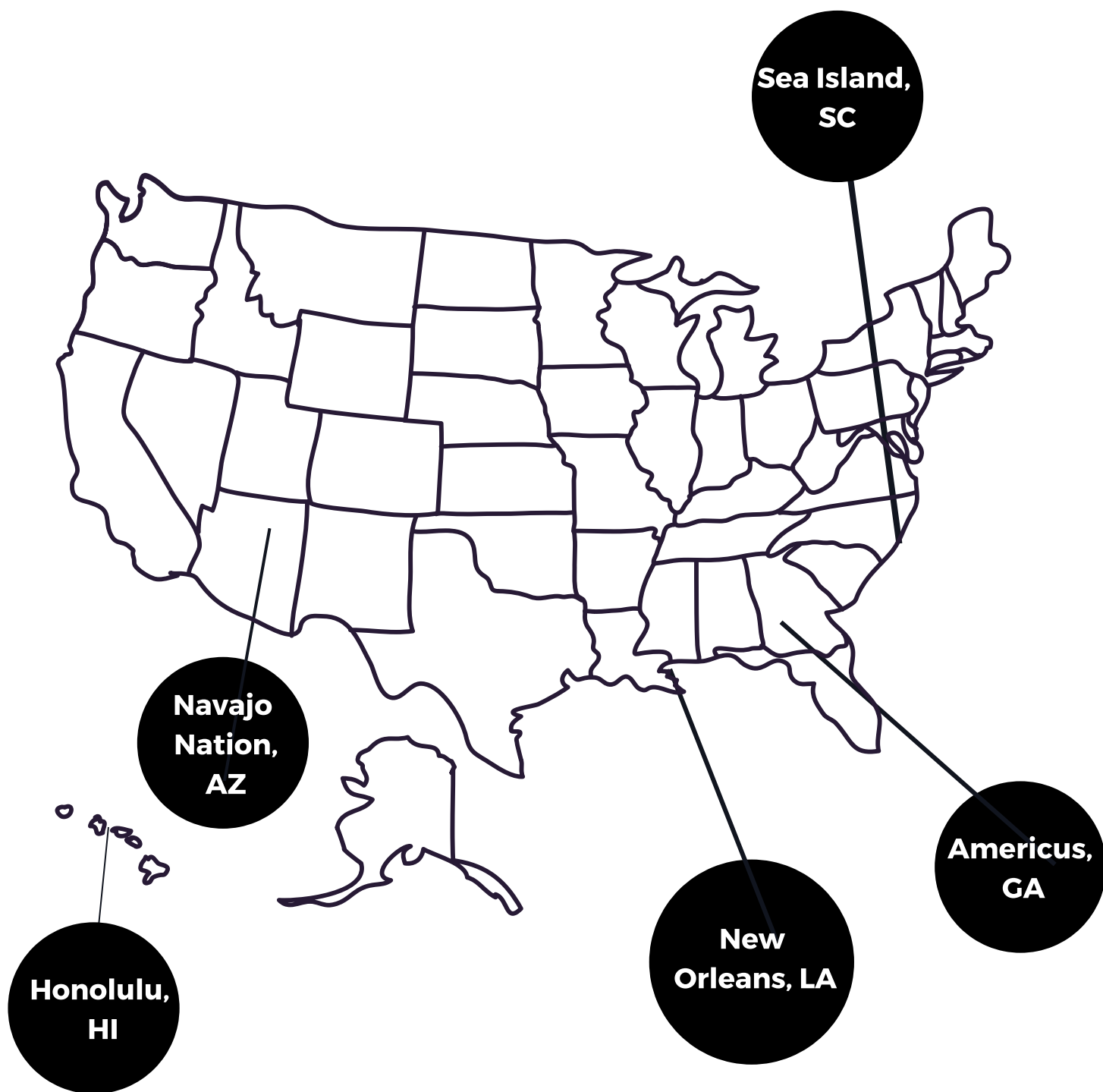
Over 70 volunteers showed up to our annual Day of Service! Volunteers had the option to sign up for morning or afternoon sessions with New Life Community Church, Carlisle Arts and Learning Center, Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, neighborhood clean up and Claremont Nursing home completing a variety of tasks.

A week later we held our annual Forward Fair where students make crafts that are donated to local organizations. About 50 students stopped by to paint flower pots for nursing home residents, write letters to refugee families with Justice Served, make motivational bookmarks for Carlisle CARES, write letters to youth in a juvenile detention program, make dog pull toys for the Furry Friends Network, make tote bags from t-shirts for a local sustainable store and raised over \$150 for hospitals in Zimbabwe. We received over \$150 in gift cards for a raffle for participants.

Overall, it was a great year! Thank you to everyone who collaborated with us and thank you to our volunteers!







Janayia Banks '19, Olivia Lyman '19 and Ken Bamba '20

During the 2018-2019 academic year, Services Trips sent over 60 students and 10 administrators all across the country to serve!

Support for Dickinson Service Trips derives largely from the fundraising efforts of our trip coordinators, leaders, and participants. The 4th annual Color Rush 5K was a huge success, with nearly 60 people registering to run or walk the 5K course. We also sell coffee, tea, chocolate and popcorn through Equal Exchange and Double Good.

# WHERE DID SERVICE TRIPS GO?



## WINTER BREAK

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Over winter break, 14 Dickinsonians traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to join the efforts of the indigenous population in sharing and engaging with their culture and helping to provide service to those in need. We partnered with Chaminade University, a private co-educational university, to focus on indigenous Hawaiian culture, taro farming as well as working with community members

## SPRING BREAK

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During Spring Break, 36 students and 6 administrators collaborated with various organizations to learn and engage with communities in Sea Island, South Carolina; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Americus, Georgia. During the second year in South Carolina, students worked with Habitat for Humanity building houses! In New Orleans, Louisiana, students worked with Camp Restore who placed them in various different service sites. They worked on floors, sorted Mardi Gras beads at a recycling center, painted for a community garden and assisted a Rescue Ranch. For the fifth year, we partnered with the Fuller Center for Housing in Americus, Georgia, renovating a home as part of the Fuller Center's goal of revitalizing communities in the area.

## NAVAJO NATION

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This May, our Navajo Nation trip worked with Rez Refuge, volunteering at the local school and Dine College. This effort is greatly enhanced by our collaboration with student Ravon Yazzie '17, who is from the Navajo Nation. We hope to be able to continue our partnership with Rez Refuge for many years.



# JUSTICE SERVED

Mihir Pyakuryal '19 and Rebecca Agababian '21

During the 2018-2019 year, Justice Served put on many events focusing on the intersection of community service and social justice issues, challenging students to learn, grow, and engage with the difficult problems we face in the world.

Justice Served held an event titled “My Culture Is Not a Costume” shortly before Halloween to focus on cultural appropriation common in Halloween costumes. The event, held on Britton Plaza, featured pictures of culturally insensitive costumes and appropriate costumes, such as a crayon, pumpkin, or Power Ranger. The pictures sparked conversation among students about which costumes were or were not culturally insensitive and hopefully helped the campus to have a respectful and fun Halloween!

In November, Justice Served hosted the annual Hunger Banquet, which aims to increase awareness of global food disparity. Our group collaborated with the community and was able to gain donations from different restaurants for the event. As students entered, they randomly selected their lot—high, middle, or low income—out of a bowl. Students with a high income were served a three-course meal by waiters at fancy tables. Students with a middle income ticket received a single slice of pizza and a cup of water. Lastly, students with a low income ticket sat on the floor and were given only rice and water. Students heard from Project SHARE CEO, Robert Weed, about how poverty and food disparity impacts the Carlisle area.

The proceeds from the Hunger Banquet were donated to Rise Against Hunger, an international nonprofit that distributes nutritious meals to schools across the world. Throughout the fall semester, Justice Served raised \$3,000 dollars for Rise Against Hunger. In December, we hosted our annual volunteer meal packaging event with Rise Against Hunger. This event brought together over 70 students, faculty, and staff who came to help package more than 10,000 meals, which were distributed to communities around the world.





Throughout the spring and fall semesters, the students organized small group discussions, typically over lunch, about social justice issues that impact Dickinson and the wider world. In the fall, they hosted “Justice and Education” with Professor Sarah Bair. The lunch was well-attended and provoked thoughtful discussion. In the spring, Justice Served collaborated with the Office of Religious Life to plan “Faith, Justice and Native Americans” with Nikki Dragone, visiting professor of American studies. Lastly, we hosted “Justice and Business” with Visiting Professor in International Business and Management Sherry Ritchey. All the discussions were very well received and greatly enjoyed by students and professors alike.

For a final event, we worked with the Pennsylvania Center for Refugees and Immigrants to plan Share a Table, Share a Story. This event was a night of story-sharing and barrier-breaking. About five refugee families came to campus to converse and connect with Dickinson students over dinner on a Saturday evening.





# MONTGOMERY SERVICE LEADERS

Julia Huddy '19 and Sophie Haas-Goldberg '19



As the year draws to an end, there is a lot to look back on for MSL. After receiving more applications than ever, ten new members were selected and began their Level 1 experience. These new Montgomery Service Leaders immediately began engaging with the Carlisle community and discussing important issues on campus.

In addition to new members of the program, we revived a few of our previous partners, welcoming CASA, Safe Harbour, and the Employment Skills Center back to the program. Our students are thrilled to be a part of these new organizations and have only great things to say about getting involved with these organizations.

We saw lots of support from Dickinsonians at our Meet the Montgomery Service Leaders event on Britton Plaza, where students in the program had the opportunity to speak with others about the program and how they can get involved with the community. The event sought to show the campus what MSL is all about and the great work that our students and community partners are doing.

In addition to all of this wonderful work, MSL volunteered at Justice Served's meal-packaging event with Rise Against Hunger and enjoyed a meal with the Carlisle community at the Empty Bowls event hosted by Carlisle Learning Arts Center and Project SHARE. Having spent the majority of our college careers as members of Montgomery Service Leaders, we are so proud of the accomplishments we have seen throughout the years. We have learned so much from our passionate students and are constantly amazed by their work. In the coming years, we cannot wait to see the impact that these Montgomery Service Leaders will have in the community!





# COMMSERV

Yuer Zhang '19 and Aly Fosbury '21

CommServ started off the Fall semester with a fun training session for all coordinators that provided them with all the resources necessary to lead a strong program. We carried out a library exhibition, showcasing the wide range of volunteering experience that CommServ offers and highlighting the hard work of our volunteers and coordinators. We also had joint meetings with MSL, who work at many of the same locations as our volunteers, and planned joint event such as expert panels to boost communication between the two branches of CS3. In addition, we were able to plan events such as volunteer training for those who wish to improve their tutoring skills while working with their partners.



**America Reads** continued to be a success among in 2018-2019! The committed efforts of volunteers and coordinators alike resulted in huge strides within the classroom. Volunteers read books with elementary students twice a week and they had a great time mingling with the students! Providing new books and consistent opportunity, CommServ volunteers engaged in life changing service this semester.

**American Sign Language** has been doing a phenomenal job volunteering with the Children Center! Volunteers teach kindergarten kids at the Dickinson Children Center sign language each week. Every week, coordinators meet up with their volunteers twice a week to go over the lesson plan and prepare for their weekly volunteering.

**ArtWorks!** once again worked with students in the Carlisle area to express themselves through art. With just a handful of volunteers, Dickinsonians were able to create close relationships with the kids and work one on one with them to create beautiful pieces of art at Carlisle Arts and Learning Center. At the end of April, ArtWorks! students sold beautiful hand-crafted butterflies as a sign of support and recognition of those that suffer with mental illness as a final way to close out the year.

**Big Brother Big Sister** continued providing stand-out Dickinsonians as mentors for local students at Mooreland elementary. These “bigs” meet with their students on a weekly basis during lunch, recess, and even during some class time to make sure that they are happy and successful in and out of school!

**CARES** expanded their usual after school activities this year, making it not only fun for volunteers but exciting for the kids! These activities included swimming at the Dickinson pool, a hike at Pole Steeple, and fun and games out on Morgan Field!

**Carlisle Tutoring** had an extremely successful few months working at the YWCA and Le Tort! Volunteers split between the two sites and help students with their homework after school while also creating close bonds with the kids!

**Composed** had a great year, splitting their time between three different sites to teach children music! With consistent volunteers and a strong set of coordinators, the program met every week throughout the entire year and had fun teaching kids how to play instruments such as the piano, guitar, and drums.

**Dickinson Friends** coordinated locally with families around Carlisle to host a series of events with volunteers including a trip to the Dickinson College Farm and bowling!

**Dream Catchers** continued to balance their mission of fun and intellectual growth this year by staying committed to facilitating a program for kids in need of homework help. Every Tuesday after school, group of students came to Dickinson campus to do homework and enjoy outdoor activities with our volunteers. Over the course of the semester, our volunteers have been able to build strong relationships with these students.


**English as a Second Language** had a great year! Working with a large group of adult ESL learners from the Army War College, volunteers planned lessons and executed them with their language partners. Fun activities included movie screening, trivia, themed vocabulary learning sessions and jeopardy and so many more!

**Prison Inmate Tutoring** had an extremely successful year, working hard with inmates to receive their GEDS. At least one inmate did successfully pass his GED and the coordinators also ordered dozens more composition books.

**Senior Companions** was a huge success this year! A group of volunteers went to Claremont Nursing home every Thursday night to play games, work on arts and crafts and chat with the residents.







# 20,000

*Hours of community service by  
Dickinson students, faculty and staff  
in the 2018-2019 academic year*

# \$64,000

*Raised in charitable donations by  
Dickinsonsonians*



# THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!





## MEET OUR STAFF



**Rev. Donna Hughes**, an ordained United Methodist Minister since 1996, has been serving at Dickinson College as the Director for the Center for Service, Spirituality and Social Justice (community service and religious life) since June 2013. She has served as a part time pastor at the Cumberland Charge UMC's and is currently a Spiritual Director. Before moving to Carlisle, she worked for four years as the Executive Director of United Protestant Campus Ministries of Cleveland (Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State and Cuyahoga Community College). Before working with college students in Cleveland, she served a medium size congregation in the Iowa Annual Conference of the UMC, after being a college chaplain at Iowa Wesleyan, a campus minister at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, serving churches in South Dakota and teaching courses in World Religions, Cultural Anthropology and Environmental Biology. Two of her favorite things about working with college students are the opportunity to take them on service trips to Hawaii, Navajo Nation, Cameroon, Guatemala, Laos and Cambodia, Kenya, Italy, France, India, Russia, Lithuania, Belize, Ecuador and Nicaragua and walk with them on their spiritual journeys. In here life before seminary she received a Masters of Agricultural in Equestrian Students from Texas A&M, a Bachelor of Science in Range Animal Students and taught Agricultural English in Inner Mongolia. She recently remarried a native Carlisle fellow and added two Weimaraner's to her own two dog family. She loves trail running, Zumba, walking to work and practicing yoga. She is an avid movie watcher, reader of mysteries, loves to travel and will eat anything, the more unusual and spicy, the better.



**Kim Sallie** Kim was born in Buffalo, NY but has lived in Carlisle for over 30 years. She graduated from Shippensburg University in 1999 with a Bachelors in Psychology and a Minor in Spanish. Most recently, she worked for Community Care Behavioral Health, a division of UPMC, as a Senior Administrative Assistant. She is a proud aunt to one niece and four nephews. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with family & friends. Kim is excited to be working in her hometown and values the important work the students & staff do for the community!



**Allison Boni** Allison graduated from Dickinson in May 2018 with a BA in Sociology. She is very excited to be staying in Carlisle for another year working full time to help students get involved in community service. As a student, Allison was a Day of Service Coordinator, Service Trip participant and leader, a CommServ program coordinator for Big Brother Big Sister and a co-president for Colleges Against Cancer.

### CONNECT WITH US!



@DickinsonCS3



@DickinsonCS3



Dickinson College Center  
for Service, Spirituality and  
Social Justice

### CONTACT US!

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# CHANGES TO COME IN FALL 2019

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** will move over to the Center for Civic Learning and Action (CCLA). CCLA will have student leaders in similar roles and host similar events. The center will allow faculty, students and community partners to work collaboratively, both locally and internationally, to better understand and address regional priorities and challenges. It also will expand community-based teaching and research opportunities; provide expertise and support for academic departments to meet learning goals for civic engagement; and ensure recognition of outstanding community engagement work by faculty, students and staff.

For further information contact the Director of CCLA, Gary Kirk, at [kirkg@dickinson.edu](mailto:kirkg@dickinson.edu).

**RELIGIOUS LIFE/INTERFAITH WORK:** This work in CS3 will now become the Center for Spirituality and Social Justice (CSSJ). CSSJ will assist students, community members, faculty and staff to build connections around spirituality and religion, explore the complexity of identity and values, understand worldview diversity, participate in interfaith dialogue, dive into complex social justice issues and explore meaning and purpose. CSSJ Interfaith Interns are student leaders who are committed to deepening their leadership capacity and engaging the community around issues of spirituality, religion, meaning making and social justice. Interfaith Interns support program needs, facilitate reflection, and inspire peers in interfaith dialogue, community building and personal growth.

Donna Hughes, [hughesdo@dickinson.edu](mailto:hughesdo@dickinson.edu), will direct CSSJ. Please contact Donna for any further information.