

# Dickinson

Office of Community Service  
& Religious Life



Year-in-Review 2014 - 2015



**A Snapshot of Our Year**



# Service Trips

Yael Farber '17



This year, the Office of Community Service and Religious Life sponsored a total of seven service trips over various school breaks, two of which were trips through an interfaith lens. Over 97 students from various class years and majors participated in trips to Philadelphia, Belize, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, and Arizona/New Mexico. The Fall Pause trip was an interfaith trip that brought thirteen students to Philadelphia to engage in interfaith dialogue, do community service, and learn about the city of Philadelphia.

Over Winter Break, 15 Dickinsonians flew to Belize for two weeks to work in schools and community centers. Partnering with the non-profit,

Peacework, the group helped to paint murals, plant gardens, and build a fence around a school, all the while working alongside Belize students. Over the two week period, the participants also learned more about the country of Belize and explore the rich history and culture.

The Spring Break trip to Detroit, Michigan spent the week looking at the intersection of faith and community service. The participants of the Detroit trip had the opportunity to learn about food access and education in a struggling city. Working with Repair the World: Detroit, the group helped to set-up a library in a public school, worked at various greenhouses, and helped to serve food at

multiple soup kitchens.

Everyone who went on a service trip this year walked away with new experiences, new friendships, and new memories that will never be forgotten.



## A Glance Inside: Service Trip Journals

A friend within a friend  
Turned the switch in my head,  
That we all have choices to make,  
Of who we are, what we stand for, and who we  
want to be.

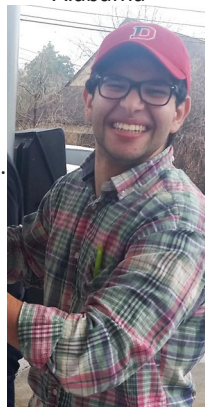
A friend within a friend is the best kind around,  
It inspires, motivates, and changes our judgments.

A friend within a friend breaks the barriers we  
have,  
And opens a door to a place unknown.

Most of all, we are all "friends" to each other,  
But it is up to us if we want to be friends.  
A choice like this isn't that hard,  
Just open your heart, close your eyes, and trust yourself.

My friends are: Austin, Nalani, Saadia, Nate, Haosen, Carrie, Jackie, Pia, Matt, Issac, Maureen, Macey, Liza, and Miranda. We are all different, but we made a choice – a choice we can all make, everyday. All we have to do is be a friend within a friend, and let our true selves shine.

Nick Rejebian '17  
Alabama



I really enjoyed reading stories to the students at the elementary school. Natalie and I were partnered up. In the first room, I read Batholomew Cubbins and the Obleck. I had a lot of fun doing different voices and hand motions, asking the students questions, and seeing their genuine excitement and interest in the stories. Natalie also did a very good job reading her story, the ABC book by Dr. Seuss and the Scary Squirrel. It was a lot of fun driving off to the first location with David, Eddie, Alex, and Katie, and singing One Direction and Taylor Swift. We also had some nice discussion about the trip and getting to meet one another. Later in the day, we got newspapers from the local paper with our picture on the front page. I felt that this was a nice way to commiserate our time here in Americus. After that, we went to Koinonia Farm and met some workers

on the farm. It was interesting to hear their stories. In the car afterwards, we had a very nice conversation about service trips. We also talked about how we hope everyone can remain friends, even after the trip is over. As I am writing this, a lot of people are playing Egyptian Ratscrew and are so tired that they are giggling with giddiness. It's very entertaining. I'm happy that everyone is having a lot of fun with each other. I know it will be a fun ride home, but it will be sad to have to leave everyone.



Tyler Ralston '15  
Georgia



# Faith Lecture Series

Tony Moore

What do political violence, environmentalism, LGBTQ issues, terrorism and domestic violence have in common? Besides often being issues that spark heated debate, at Dickinson the common thread is that each will be examined, parsed and discussed in the new monthly Faith Lecture Series, spearheaded by Donna Hughes, director of the Office of Community Service & Religious Life.

“The idea is to provide a space not just for students but also for faculty and staff where they can talk about religion and other major contemporary concerns and issues,” says Saadia Ahmad, a current Office of Religious Life intern who manages the series. “We want to see how various issues relate to religion and talk about misconceptions that exist.”

Interfaith dialogue is at the heart of the Faith Lecture Series, and discussions have thus far

- Faith & LGBT Identity with Louie Marvin, Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central PA
- Faith & Domestic Violence with Dr. Susan Rose, Professor of Sociology
- Faith & Racism with Dr. Crystal Moten, Assistant Professor of History
- Faith & Gender with Dr. Andrea Lieber, Associate Professor of Religion and Sophia Ava Asbell Chair in Judaic Studies
- Faith & Politics with Dr. David O’Connell, Assistant Professor in Political Science
- Faith, Violence, & Peacebuilding with Dr. Shalom Staub, Professor and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs



explored Christian, Jewish and Muslim perspectives.

During the year, the Faith Lecture Series sponsored the following topics and speakers:



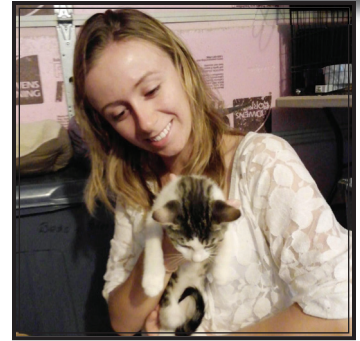
# Alpha Phi Omega

Brooke Serra '15



With 115 active members in Alpha Phi Omega by the end of this academic year, our chapter continues to grow. With daily service opportunities and fellowships for our brothers to strengthen intra-chapter relations, we are constantly growing as a chapter and working towards a better community. We pride ourselves on the bonds we have created within Carlisle, and are always searching for new ways to broaden the service we can provide. Our fraternity’s motto is “Leadership, Friendship, and Service,” and we work daily to bring these goals out of our chapter and into the world.

Throughout this year, we worked with several organizations, including the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. We helped with the Red Kettle Project during the holiday season, cleaning up and doing small maintenance projects at King’s Gap State Park, raising money to support National Adoption Month, hosting a blood drive for the Red Cross, and even holding an event to appreciate staff at Dickinson. On April 18, 2015, we had our



annual “Day of Service,” and we dedicated our time to helping the Ironmaster’s Mansion with small projects that needed to be completed around the grounds. This service alleviates costs associated with maintenance for the innkeepers, and provides our chapter with an opportunity to connect with one another while serving our greater community.

President of APO for the spring semester, Alex Kasznel '15, shared, “I joined APO because I wanted to find a way to get more involved in community service, but in the process I stumbled upon a community of warm, generous people who shared that love of service.” Rebekah Samuels '17 feels the impact of our work on the Carlisle community, and appreciates that because it gives her an opportunity to, “give back to an area that provides a home away from home for the short four years I’m here.”

Consider joining the brothers of Alpha Phi Omega in the Fall of 2015, and meet a group of students who share the same passion for community service, that you can also call family.





# First Year Experience

Heather Geist '15

First-Year Experience (FYEX) started the year early with an amazing group of First-Year students through our Pre-Orientations program, "Change the World Through Service." During the four days of Pre-O, these students not only learned what it means to make change through providing community service, but they also initiated change. Our schedule was packed from day one - meeting each other, participating in Pre-O evening events, attending leadership workshops, and jumping into the Carlisle community through service. We partnered with many community partners, including Project Share, Salvation Army, Thornwald Home, Safe Harbour, and Carlisle Arts and Learning Center. Not only did we kick off the year with service, but we had some fun, too, by going to Camp Thompson and doing some bowling! Our Pre-O group started the year off the right way and propelled us into our

first year transitioning from Neighbors to Neighbors to FYEX.

FYEX is a community service group aimed to develop regular programs that engage first-year students in community service within the local Carlisle community. All first-year students have the opportunity to incorporate service into their college experience, and FYEX is another way to explore these opportunities. All of our programs are run by three upperclass students.

This year, our program did not focus specifically within the first-year living arrangements: service opportunities were open to all students! Our FYEX programming included one weekly service opportunity serving dinner at the Salvation Army, where we had over 16 different volunteers throughout the year. This service opportunity allowed for a sense of community to develop

between Dickinson students and the Carlisle community members, and most of these students served with Salvation Army three or more times. In addition to the weekly service program, we had many one-time service events. Students volunteered at the Dickinson Farm, did activities with and for Thornwald Home residents, helped at Project Share, participated in Car Winterization, assisted with Stop Hunger Now, and more!

As we move forward into next year, we hope to develop FYEX further by providing multiple weekly service opportunities that allow for further engagement into the Carlisle community. With the new version of the program this year, we have been able to engage over 65 first-year students, and look forward to the possibilities in expanding those numbers!



## In Their Own Words:

This was my second year working with First-Year students through community service, having originally helped to start Neighbors to Neighbors two years ago. It was very exciting to see how the program has evolved over the past two years through student input! I personally enjoyed working with the Salvation Army; being able to engage in the community in that capacity and witness the first-year students do the same. There is so much happening right here in Carlisle with many wonderful programs in the community, and through helping to plan all of the events throughout the year, I met so many wonderful people and learned so much. I have had the pleasure of working with so many influential and passionate First-Year students, and look forward to hearing about the impacts they make in both the Dickinson and Carlisle communities!

Olivia Falcey '17



This year, I had the opportunity to become a leader for First-Year Experience. Community service has always been a part of my life to some degree but as a freshman last year, I didn't explore Dickinson's extensive community service opportunities. Becoming a FYEX leader has allowed me to venture into the sphere of volunteerism at Dickinson. It has been such a rewarding experience familiarizing myself with some of the organizations in Carlisle, many of which I was previously unacquainted with. Despite having collaborated with a diverse range of organizations in the Carlisle area, I feel that one of our greatest successes this year has been our weekly visit to the Salvation Army soup kitchen, where we have volunteered each Monday evening. It has been truly gratifying to see first-years form relationships with one another and with local Carlisle residents through their service to the community. Although I will be abroad next year, I have high hopes for the continuing legacy of First-Year Experience, and am eager to see the passion that the next FYEX leaders (and first-year class) bring to the Dickinson and Carlisle community in the upcoming academic year.

This year was so exciting and fun working as a First-Year Experience leader. The format truly allowed more flexibility than my previous position in the Neighbors to Neighbors program, and I really enjoyed getting to know a number of dedicated and passionate first-year students while simultaneously helping our community. My favorite part was working a group for the Pre-Orientations program this year. Here I was introduced to volunteering for new partners within the Carlisle community, including the Carlisle Arts and Learning Center and Project Share; we also made partners with organizations I knew much better, like the Thornwald Home. Being able to continue to foster these connections with the community is, in my opinion, what FYEX is all about. It is also why I was so happy to be involved. It also provided me the opportunity to interact and befriend such wonderful people on campus whom I never would have met simply because of their "first-year" status. And when it truly comes down to it, that is the real reason why I love FYEX - because I feel we are making a difference on our on campus AND in the surrounding community.

Tara Black '16



Heather Geist '15





## In Their Own Words: Labryinth

On the first Wednesday of each month, the Office sets up a labyrinth for members of the community to walk. The labyrinth used is called the Cretan Labyrinth, or classical 7-circuit labyrinth. People of all religions, those longing to reconnect to faith, and those looking to find meaning or to center themselves are invited to walk the labyrinth. Students reflected on their experiences:

*"Thank you, my mind felt clear, if only for a minute. But a minute I'll hold onto for the rest of the day."*

-Conner

*"Perfect way to relax my mind. Just keep going. You'll end up there somehow."*

-Megan

*"Good way to become in tune with the present."*

-Noorjahan

*"I am obsessed with this!"*

-Bryn

*"In the midst of life's craziness, it's nice to be peacefully directed from time to time."*

-John

*"Thank you! Some silence and stillness is much needed by the end of a long day."*

-Kathleen



*"Thank you for the space. I am more aware of the source flowing through me; I perceive it vividly and peacefully."*

-Kia

*"I love walking labyrinths. Peaceful, and relaxing. Perfect timing, too!"*

-Silvana and Hyla

*"It's my very first time ever doing or even seeing the labyrinth. It's been an encouragement for sure! The prayer card was amazing!"*

-Anastasiya

*"We all share the labyrinth; humanity walks together. Thanks for being here, whether you are physically here or not."*

-Eli



## Interfaith Prayer Circle

Ayesha Solaiman '16

In February, the Office of Religious Life hosted an "Interfaith Prayer Circle," an idea that was formed during a student leader meeting with board members of all the faith organizations. The purpose of the prayer circle was to invite people of all religious and non-religious backgrounds to come together, reflect, and pray for both personal and global issues. To create a comfortable environment, we offered teas and hot chocolate, a variety of cookies (Walker's Shortbread was a favourite!), and Hershey's Kisses & Hugs. There was also soothing meditation music playing in the background, the lights in the HUB Social Hall were dimmed, and electric candles were lit.

The event opened with guests getting some tea and sweets, followed by a short discussion about interfaith prayers. A packet was handed out to the guests with a peace-related prayer from Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and others. Everyone took turns reading the prayers out loud, which was followed by sharing which prayers were particularly touching.

After this, the guests each prayed silently, and then began sharing their prayer request out loud, ranging from issues such as hunger relief and global rights to education, to more personal concerns about health issues or family troubles. It was a truly beautiful experience. The event

concluded with a moment of silence with everyone forming a circle, holding hands.

On a more personal level, I recall opening my eyes during the individual prayer time and seeing everyone praying in their different religious forms. There was a Buddhist woman meditating, a Muslim with her hands cupped together, and Christians with their hands together. It was so beautiful to see people of different

faiths praying for the same purpose. By the end of it, every person who attended found themselves grateful for the everyday blessings we have, and especially grateful for the opportunity to get to know one another.

We hope to do this important, reflective, and relaxing event again every semester henceforth.







# CommServ

Rebecca Feldman '15 & Julianna Barr '17



2014-2015 has been an exciting year for all ten of CommServ's programs! We have seen many programs grow in size and capability and have also watched them all host a variety of great events for the communities they serve. In total, there were around 150 volunteers participating in one or more projects.

Our 20 program coordinators did a great job of recruiting volunteers and helping each program become a success. During our retreats, coordinators helped paint and clean at the Carlisle United Methodist Church and baked cookies to deliver to the Carlisle CARES Emergency Shelter. Coordinators also heard from different members of the community during our weekly meetings, including the Mayor of Carlisle! We want to also highlight some of the individual successes of each of our programs:

**America Reads** was excited to supply kids with resources, such as DVDs, to further encourage reading. Volunteers also took initiative to bring new activities to the school. The children were very excited to have a chance to meet and play with a service dog!

**Big Little** was able to match many Dickinson students with littles this year for visiting during the children's lunch hour. More so, they host an afterschool event for all bigs and littles to attend together, which was a huge success.

**Dickinson Friends** was lucky to gain a new community partner this year, who helped them bring in some new buddies! They hosted many successful events such as a Halloween party, a pizza party, and a gym day at the Kline.

**ESL** saw increased student interest this year. The Employment Skills Center appreciated having a handful of new volunteers to act as tutors for their students. Our volunteers built and maintained positive relationships with these underserved community members.



**Carlisle Tutoring** had a great year tutoring at Wilson Middle School. Due to a lot of interest from Dickinson students, they were able to expand both the number of tutors they could send and the number of languages offered. The impact at the school was noticeable!



**ArtWorks!** had a great year and saw increased involvement within their program. We were very excited to have them host an art exhibition on Britton Plaza, displaying artwork made by CALC students with the assistance of ArtWorks! volunteers. This exhibition served as a Fundraiser for Lymphoma research.

**PIT** was proud to be able to adapt the program to the 2014 changes to the GED. In just 2015 alone, upwards of eight inmates were able to complete their GED after working with our volunteers. Consistent support from a few dedicated Dickinson students helped to make this possible!

**CARES and Dream Catchers** worked in collaboration this year to host a large afterschool program for ESL students from both local elementary and middle schools. The kids received homework help and mentorship from Dickinson students, but there was also plenty of time left for field trips of ice cream and bowling!

**Senior Companions** has now grown to have four times the number of volunteers from when the program began just a few years ago. Along with regular visits from volunteers, the residents of Claremont Nursing Home enjoyed a variety of exciting events this year. A visit from a magician and a performance by a Dickinson A Capella group are just a few examples!

We look forward to further growth in 2015-2016 and to adding a new American Sign Language program, as well as reincorporating the Habitat for Humanity program! We have very much enjoyed working with CommServ this year and are proud to be able to witness the impact Dickinson students are making in the community.





## Dickinson Christian Fellowship

Kathleen Getaz '17

Where can grilled cheese sandwiches, cell phones, and Jesus all come together? Only at Dickinson Christian Fellowship (DCF)! In September, DCF hosted an event officially called "Grilled Cheese, Text Please." Students texted questions they had about Jesus or Christianity, and minutes later, a hot grilled cheese sandwich was delivered to their door along with an answer to their question! In one night, DCF student leaders delivered 70 sandwiches. Many of these conversations led to lasting friendships that enabled students to discuss tough questions about faith freely.

This is just one of many ways that DCF invites students to learn more about Jesus. DCF is an interdenominational, student-led group of about fifty students that is affiliated with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a campus ministry found at over 600 colleges and universities across America. Besides sparking

deep spiritual conversations on campus, DCF longs to be a community where students of any background can come, feel welcome, and grow closer to God.

At a liberal arts college like Dickinson, it is vital that students have a safe community where they can learn and discuss topics that can be controversial. InterVarsity staff workers Kara Miller and Andrew and Liz Berg explain that they want to see "students' lives transformed, the campus renewed, and world changers developed" because of DCF's role on campus.



## Muslim Student Association

Ayesha Solaiman '16



The Muslim Students Association (MSA) is an organization for both Muslims and non-Muslims to come together and learn about the religion of Islam. During meetings, we discuss important aspects of Islam, such as the five pillars, Ramadan, and charity, as well as plan events.

This past year, the MSA held many events, including our annual henna night, an Eid dinner, and a candle light vigil in memory of the Chapel Hill shooting victims. A new event we sponsored this year was Tag'em With Love, which was a spray-painting activity that provided students with the opportunity to spray paint a positive message on canvases. Another new event this year was Food & Islam, featuring an informational dinner with discussion on different rulings in Islam about food, such as eating with your right hand. We also

sponsored Hijabi For a Minute, an interactive booth that allowed women to try on the headscarf, which is often used by women as part of their *hijab* (the religious code that governs modesty of clothing and behavior).

For the upcoming year, the MSA wishes to have similar events, as well as monthly community service activities, weekly *Qur'an* recitation, trips to the mosque for Friday prayers, movie screenings, and a hike or retreat for club bonding. The MSA hopes to provide Muslim students with a support system to help them feel at home while at Dickinson, as well as educate non-Muslims through interactive activities about the true beauty of Islam.



## Stop Hunger Now

Sydney Cross '17

In November 2014, the Office of Community Service & Religious Life hosted a Stop Hunger Now packaging event. Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief organization that coordinates and distributes a blend of packaged food to schools in communities in need of food. The ingredients of soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamin and mineral tablets are spread out and packaged by volunteers in an assembly line fashion. Once packaged, the meals are loaded onto a delivery truck and sent to children in an area of need.

Stop Hunger Now believes that providing a hot meal during school gives parents an incentive to send their children to school; the cycle of poverty is broken when these students receive an education.

Approximately 70 Dickinson students and staff members helped package the meals. The energy was high in the Social Hall with vivacity from volunteers and entertainment by a cappella groups and a student DJ. 10,320 meals were packaged in less than two hours thanks to the volunteers' dedication to service and

"gung ho" attitude. These meals went to West Africa while they were in the midst of fighting the Ebola epidemic. Each meal can feed up to six people; 61,920 children in West Africa were fed with the meals that the Dickinson

community packaged. Stop Hunger Now packaging events are an inclusive way to serve, because all ages can join. The energy of these events is widespread and the impact of volunteers' efforts is even greater.







# Community Service Projects

Larry Jolón '15



For the 2014-2015 year, the Office of Community Service combined Day of Service and Special Projects to increase collaboration between the Community Service Project Leaders, encourage creativity for programming, and to increase the number of events the team could organize. The Community Service Projects Team helped provide a smorgasbord of events for the Dickinson and Carlisle communities so people could serve in fun, interactive ways.

The bulk of the team's programming involved Day of Service events so that people could learn more about their community and volunteer for just a day. Events this year included making apple butter and setting up a Fall Festival for King's Gap, providing free car inspections for the Carlisle community for car winterization, and cleaning and caring for kittens and dogs for the Furry Friends Network. Volunteers also helped clean up stables and played with animals for the Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association and volunteered for a children's track meet in the Carlisle community. The team provided many fun opportunities for students.

Dickinsonians expressed satisfaction, as they had options to do other things on the weekends, and because they met new people through these events.

The team also wanted to address the disconnect between students and the Carlisle community, and therefore spent a lot of time planning community events for Dickinson. This is where the team's creativity came in, and they created interactive, annual events like Good Neighbor Day, Let's Get Real, and The [Pay It] Forward Fair.

On Good Neighbor Day, the team provided activities for Dickinsonians like writing loving letters to students, painting pots and potting plants to provide as gifts for the Carlisle community, and entering a raffle where students answered a questionnaire about Carlisle community members.

Let's Get Real involved innovating a creative outlet for students to speak out about issues they cared about, and having a fun environment for the Carlisle community to see their works. The event took place at The Carlisle Theatre, and the event was able to

donate a lot of money to the Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties. Works included a presentation about the benefits of summer camps, a visual performance piece, spoken word, and modern dance. Carlisle community members like Alibi's, Leo's Ice Cream, Redd's, and the North Hanover Grille provided food for the event. The YWCA of Carlisle also came to provide information about resources and to support the event.

Finally, The [Pay It] Forward Fair is an event that took place on Britton Plaza where students can give back to the community either by creating goods to donate, or by donating money to a local organization. Activities at the event included buying and making a smoothie through the smoothie bike to donate to Project SHARE, making letters to soldiers, donating school supplies for LeTort Elementary, purchasing Henna tattoos, and putting on army equipment to experience what it is like for an army soldier. Thankfully, many organizations collaborated with us like Dickinson ROTC, The Office of Religious Life, The Center for Sustainability Education, Delta Sigma Phi – Theta Lambda Chapter, and a lot of wonderful Dickinsonian volunteers. Having DJ 4tress,

Leo Parker IV '18, and a photo booth also helped make this event a success!

Besides volunteer events and community events, the team also held donation drives and a special empowerment event for the community. Donation drives included the Winter Holiday Giving Tree for foster children, and the Feminine Product Hygiene Drive collaborating with the Vagina Monologues for Safe Harbour. Our school empowerment event was This I Am, which involved writing and decorating note cards with messages of self-love for Dickinson students as well as for middle school children.

This was an incredibly busy and successful year for the Community Service Projects team, and overall the team was happy with the amount and quality of programming they planned together. Although both Larry Jolón '15 and Kayla Muirhead '15 will be leaving the office since they are graduating and Macey Cohen '17 will be studying abroad, they are confident and excited for the next team joining the office. The new team is filled with ideas and energy, and they will certainly engage the surrounding community with big and thrilling programming.







# Montgomery Service Leaders

Mackenzie King '15

This academic year was another success for the Montgomery Service Leaders (MSL). Seeing first-hand the results of the time and effort Montgomery Service Leaders invest in the Carlisle community is incredible. The students of MSL are some of the brightest, hardest working, most passionate, most caring people at Dickinson. Whether it was volunteering at Project Share, having a discussion with the mayor of Carlisle about local issues, or just hearing how excited they were to walk into their non-profit partner every day, MSL demonstrates the importance of community engagement.

At the very beginning of this academic year, after reading many applications and conducting group interviews, 10 new members of MSL were selected and began their Level 1. Once placed at their community partner, these students dove right in, and are excited and

prepared to dive even deeper next year in Level 2.

Those who participated in Level 2 this year made many important connections between their community partner and a class of their choice. At the end of the class, each Level 2 student wrote a paper reflecting on the connections they formed and what they learned from the experience. The students also gave presentations to the other Montgomery Service Leaders detailing their experiences with the Level 2 program.

In Level 3, students complete a Grant Writing seminar and submit their own grant proposals for a self-designed project to further the mission of their community partner. Upon successful completion of the Grant Writing Program, each of the participants is awarded up to \$500 to assist with the completion of their projects. During this process, students

also complete the Internship Notation Program through the Dickinson Career Center as part of their Capstone project, allowing them to reflect on their Level 3 experience and for the project to appear on their transcript as an official internship. This year, students successfully completed projects relating to hosting a "Pipelines in Pennsylvania" panel discussion for Cumberland County, and the implementation of a more effective inter-office document management system.

In addition to all this wonderful work, Montgomery Service Leaders also volunteered together at Wagner's Gap in the fall and at Project Share in the winter. Doing these events together allows students who normally work independently at their placement to experience volunteering as a group. Overall, this year has been very exciting and Montgomery Service Leaders continue to build bridges between Dickinson and the Carlisle area as they serve the community.



# Interfaith Trivia Night

Rogelio Cerezo '15

Hoping to enhance our existing interfaith programming, the Office of Religious Life organized the Interfaith Trivia Night based on the input by student leaders from different faith groups on campus. Given the interfaith nature of this event, our Office worked with Hillel, Dickinson Christian Fellowship, Newman Club, and Muslim Students Association. These student groups submitted questions from their respective faith traditions, and our Office also incorporated questions from Hinduism and Buddhism in order to better represent the major religious traditions of the world.

This event consisted of two rounds: the first round had general questions regarding the different religious traditions and the second round had questions in areas where many religions intersect or meet (i.e. Jerusalem and famous figures). The tables were meant to have at least one representative from the different faith traditions in order to encourage interfaith dialogue. This event had a student participation of about 40 students. Though coordinating across multiple organizations can be challenging at times, the reward of students engaged in deep and meaningful conversations was definitely worth it!

# Religious Movie Screenings

Rogelio Cerezo '15

The Religious Life Movie Screenings were monthly movie screenings which sought to explore meaning, purpose, and understanding through interfaith collaboration. With this in mind, the movies presented every month usually took place by working with a religious life club or organization in order to further campus understanding about a given religion or issue(s) pertaining to a religion. For example, our first movie screening was of the movie "The Other Son," which addressed contemporary issues of Judaism and Islam in the context of families from Israel and Palestine. Dr. Ted Pulcini, Associate Professor of Religion, facilitated the post-movie screening discussion.

Subsequent movie screenings discussed a wide range of issues, including but not limited to: the Algerian Civil War, the concept of arranged marriage, Christmas, Passover, and the formation of Islam. Though attendance at the movie screenings was higher sometimes and lower during other times, interest exists in having the Office support student groups with movie screenings as opposed to organizing the movie screenings ourselves. The movie screenings also provided an amazing space to have discussions with faculty members. These activities have a lot of potential if organized in a collaborative manner with different student groups and faculty members!





# International Cultures & Traditions Festival

Sydney Cross '17

The International Cultures and Traditions Festival aimed to create a fun and easy way to learn about the different cultures and traditions represented on Dickinson's campus. People of a variety of different backgrounds set up tables on Morgan Field with multiple aspects of their culture

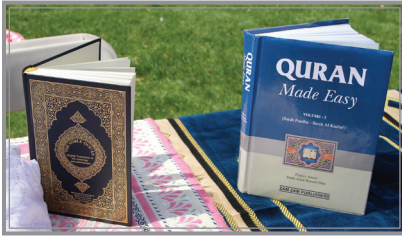
or tradition presented. Traditional clothing, food, religious books, and practices were available for viewing and discussing while music from around the world played over speakers. The event gathered over 100 people over the four hours. Students had a great time learning about different cultures

and traditions from their peers.

Each table incorporated three different concepts into their presentation: visual, interactive, and informative. The visual concept consisted of maps, flags, clothing, jewelry, and religious statues. The interactive aspect had many different food items and practices such as henna designing from India. The informative aspect was the most vital portion of each table and passersby had the opportunity

to learn about the history and religions of a country or the basis of a tradition or value.

The final activity was a raffle draw for an Amazon gift certificate. Participants of the raffle draw had to have visited all the tables and completed their "passport" which required facts from each table. It was a very fun and educational event and we hope it only increases in success in the years to come.



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Larry Jolon '15  
Mackenzie King '15  
Kayla Muirhead '15

### Religious Life

Rogelio Cerezo '15  
Sydney Cross '17  
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### Social Media

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### Contact Us!

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**Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, the Office of Community Service & Religious Life will officially be known as:**

# Dickinson

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

**Together we served over 34,000 hours to the community this year!**