

Dickinson

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

YEAR IN REVIEW
2019-20



RELIGIOUS LIFE

THE FALL FAITH FEST is an opportunity for religious student groups and local religious communities to meet students out on Britton Plaza and talk about their work. It is a great show of religious diversity for our community. 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), and Dickinson Catholic Campus Ministry (DCCM). 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 "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 and the Dining Hall. We continue to expand our library of posters to include more about other marginalized faith traditions and some lesser-known holidays to broaden religious literacy on our campus.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND FOOD: We had great success with our collaboration with Dining Services in combining upcoming religious holidays with possible foods for celebration with student vetted recipes. We celebrated Navratri with Laddus and Mardi Gras with Fastnacht and had Purim, Buddha Day, Ramadan, and others on deck. This was a great chance for us to put out the Did you Know posters for major and minor holidays in the Dining Hall and also to have it advertised on the Dining Service Facebook page, as well as posters with the ingredients and information about the holiday. Students loved it!

INTERFAITH NATIONAL BETTER TOGETHER WEEK was a huge success with students. This date/week is set by Interfaith Your Corps (IFYC). We had an entire week of events from Interfaith Bingo, to Mindful Eating with food from Yak N Yeti, to an Exploring Religions program at Shilo Baptist Church, to a dialogue about what happens when you die (Asbell and DCF), to Meditating with the Melanated that looked at spiritual practices that help activists of color stay well.

THE "FAITH AND..." SERIES was largely attended by students, faculty and staff. We began in the fall with Faith & Higher Education with discussions between faith groups on campus, followed by Faith & American Politics discussion with Prof. David O'Connell in November. We ended in early Spring with Faith & Sustainability with Neil Leary, Director, Center of Sustainability and Education with a lively discussion of spirituality and the environment.

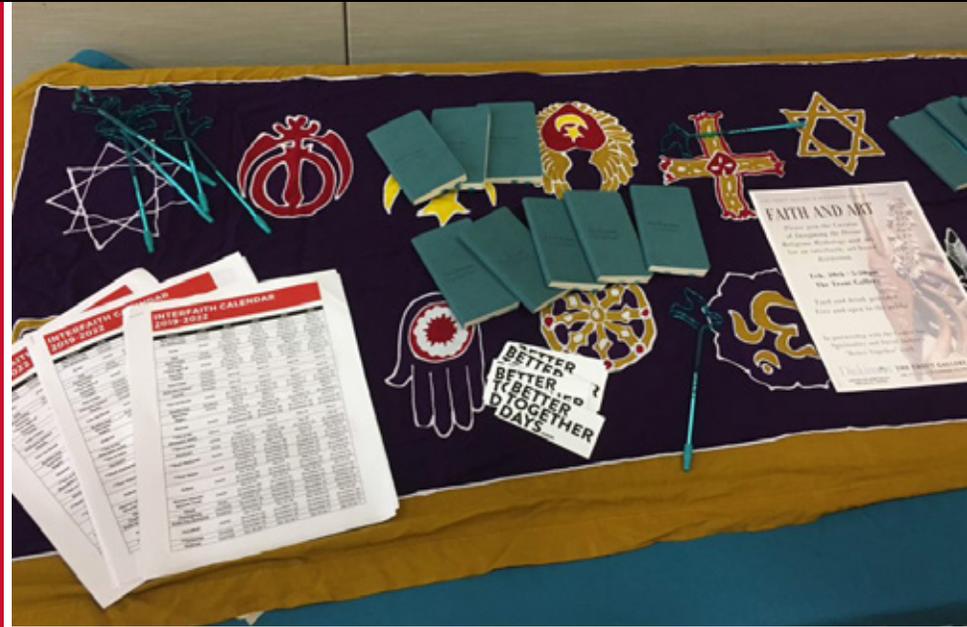
LECTURE BY DR. KERRY MITCHELL: As part of the Sustaining Spirituality Series grant from the Interfaith Youth Corps (IFYC), we were delighted to have guest speaker, Dr. Kerry Mitchell, author of *Spirituality and the State: Managing Nature and Experience in America's National Park, at Dickinson*. Dr. Mitchell currently directs the Living Learning Center of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. His research interests lie at the intersection of spirituality, nature, and policy/government. His lecture, book reading, and scheduled hike to Pine Grove Furnace State Park to explore how the natural landscapes have been cultivated (by government bodies) to elicit a particular experience was very enlightening.

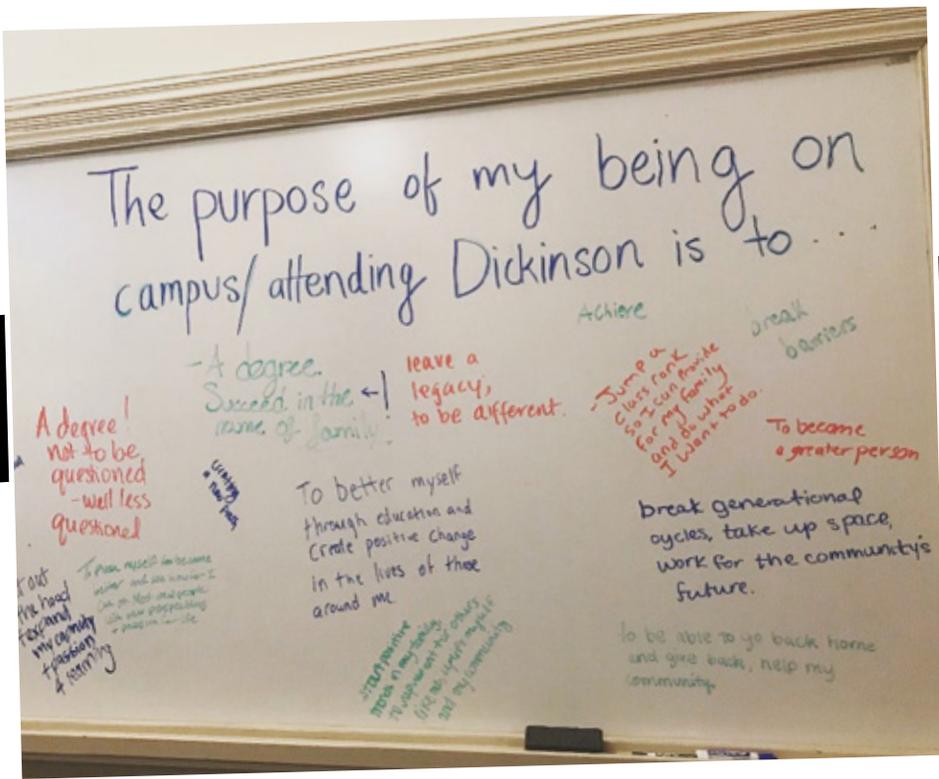
FALL BREAK INTERFAITH SERVICE TRIP

Dickinson's Center for Spirituality & Social Justice (CSSJ) once again held its annual Fall Break Interfaith Service Trip to Philadelphia, co-led by **Aidan Birth '21** and **Ali Raja '22** along with **Asbell** and CSSJ Engagement Associate **Carolyn Goode '18** as a staff member and six other student participants. We were graciously hosted by the Episcopal Mission Center in the Germantown section of Philadelphia during the trip.

Participants were exposed to a variety of different faith traditions in Philadelphia, including Judaism at Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Roman Catholic Christianity at St. Vincent DePaul Church, the Philadelphia Sikh Society, and Al-Aqsa Islamic Society. During these faith encounters, we participated in some of the practices and devotions of the religions and then we were able to ask questions and learn about the connections of these religious traditions to community service. We also participated in community service experiences through Grace Café, which serves weekly meals to homeless people out of the basement of Arch Street United Methodist Church, and Rise Against Hunger.

Throughout the duration of the trip, all the participants were able to grow a deeper appreciation and knowledge of religious traditions and their connections to community service while also exploring our own religious, ethical, and service commitments and beliefs.







OUR STAFF



DONNA HUGHES

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 & Social Justice (formerly Community Service & 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.



LORI LOUDON

Lori Loudon was born and raised in Carlisle, PA. She is married and has two wonderful children whom she is very proud of. She has worked for Dickinson 11 years, and was previously employed by the Carlisle Area School District and Naval Supply Systems Command. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, baking, and spending time with family and friends. She is currently a Deacon at her Second Presbyterian Church here in Carlisle. She loves working with the students and supporting the Carlisle community!



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2019-20 Student Staff

None of the work that CSSJ does would be possible without the efforts and ideas of our amazing student staff.



AIDAN BIRTH

Hometown: Queens, NY

Position: Pilgrimages/Service Trips Intern

Goals: Make religious/spiritual life something that all Dickinson students are aware of and that they can explore through the variety of events offered.

Other activities on campus: Dickinson Catholic Campus Ministry (DCCM) President, Level III Montgomery Service Leader, Interfaith House Manager, Dickinson Christian Fellowship (DCF) Member

Favorite hobbies/interests: Watching motorsports (particularly NASCAR, Formula One, and Indy Car), playing musical instruments (particularly the drums), exploring New York City neighborhoods, following the New York Mets (especially when they are doing well)

After-college plans: Possibly enter a seminary for studies for the Catholic priesthood, possibly teaching high school or college (which would also likely mean graduate school), or social/charity non-profit work.



HENRY COHEN

Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Position: Meaning Maker Intern

Goals: Bring mindfulness meditation to the student body

Other activities on campus: Infernos a capella, College Farm,

Favorite hobbies/interests: Cooking,

singing, playing guitar and piano, exploring consciousness

After-college plans: Work having to do with mental health and well-being



SAGUN SHARMA

Hometown: Solukhumbu, Nepal

Position: Training Coordinator Intern

Goals: Initiate respectful interfaith conversations across campus

Other activities on campus: Resident Advisor, English Writing Tutor, President of WIND (We Introduce Nations at Dickinson)

Favorite hobbies/interests: I like to read poetry and hang out with my mom.

After-college plans: Graduate school, maybe



GOEFFREY COLE

Hometown: Newton, MA

Position: Connecting Intern

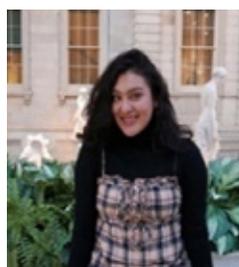
Goals: Inspire students to engage in impactful and supportive conversations around sensitive topics or ones they have not explored.

Other activities on campus: Pincus

Engagement Intern for the Asbell Center for Jewish Life

Favorite hobbies/interests: Reading, Golf, Traveling and Listening to Music

After-college plans: A year off to work and apply to law school!



SHANTEL HERNADEZ

Hometown: Bronx, NY

Position: Social Justice Intern

Goals: To be able to transmit the intersection of spirituality and social justice which is where change unfolds. There is an alignment of our inner and outer lives. A person's spiritual beliefs may give them hope or confidence for

the future. A person's spiritual beliefs might give them a sense of belonging or connection to the community-Dickinson.

Other activities: Latina Discussion Group Facilitator, Wheel and Chain, YWCA storyteller tutor

Favorite hobbies: Listen to music, learn/read about other cultures, walk around NYC with my sister.

After-college plans: Take a year off and then apply for grad school.

WE WANT TO SAY
CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL SENIORS
WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD THESE
PAST 4 YEARS FOR CS3 AND CSSJ.

Our students and their dedication make our office meaningful and we could never do our work without them. We are so proud of all of you and can't wait to see what each of you do in the future! *Please keep in touch!*

From the CSSJ staff:
Donna, Lori, Angelica and Carolyn