



Dickinson

Religious
Life



Mission

The Office of Religious Life at Dickinson College provides support during a time when students make decisions about life's meaning, live in a pluralistic community and explore and shape their religious beliefs. The office offers programming for students interested in learning about other faith traditions, provides opportunities to question and explore spirituality and helps students articulate hopes, decisions and beliefs.

Working with many partners on campus and within the community, the Office of Religious Life is a resource for students—both individually and within groups—to delve into their religious traditions, practice various new religious traditions and support leaders of religious groups. We welcome conversations with religious and nonreligious students interested in exploring faith traditions.



After the opening of the new Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington D.C., a group of students participated in Stand Up and Speak Out. Visits during the trip to D.C. included stops at the memorial and the National Holocaust Museum and dinner at BusBoys and Poets, each of which challenged the group to consider the contemporary meaning of speaking up for religious and personal values.



THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN EXPLORING:

WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

(meaning-making and awareness of one's own values and beliefs, space for safe questioning and exploration)

HOW DO I ARTICULATE WHAT I BELIEVE?

(ability to share beliefs and live in respect and understanding with people of other beliefs)

HOW DO I LIVE OUT MY BELIEFS?

(capacity to respond in ways that continue spiritual learning and understanding)

Feast of St. Anne in Florence, Italy — St. Anne has been considered the protector of freedom of Florence since a popular uprising against the tyrannical Duke of Athens. The photograph of the man in the procession emphasizes his piety in the midst of the celebration. Photo by Holly Holtz '15

Local Faith Communities

The Office of Religious Life works with local faith-community leaders to provide opportunities for students to engage in conversations that increase the variety of religious-life resources on campus.

Carlisle offers many faith communities within walking distance of Dickinson. Students are encouraged to grow in their faith by worshipping with a local congregation and meeting local faith leaders. For a full listing of these faith communities, please contact the Office of Religious Life or visit our Web site for locations and worship times.

“Working in the Office of Religious Life as the event and programming coordinator has been an eye-opening experience and has challenged me to understand faith in a much different way by introducing me to new ideas and giving me the chance to meet incredible people with a diversity of life experiences and perspectives.” —Anne Feldman '12

Religious Life Council

The Religious Life Council meets monthly with representatives of each student religious organization. Together they coordinate, support and publicize student-led religious-life programs on campus.

What Matters Most Dinners

Inspired by *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, these dinners spark intentional conversations about what matters to faculty and staff beyond their work at Dickinson. These topics have focused on religious beliefs, the importance of diversity, life outlook when faced with cancer, lifelong career development and other topics of personal importance to the guest speakers.

Beliefs and Big Questions Dinner

These dinners bring together students of faith and nonfaith traditions to share personal beliefs, values and perspectives. Small groups of 8 to 10 students meet at a local restaurant and engage in a guided conversation, sharing their thoughts and exploring how faith impacts one's daily actions.

Interfaith Service Trip

The Interfaith Service Trip encourages deeper conversation about religious beliefs and understandings through the medium of service projects. Students are encouraged to seek religious understanding that goes beyond just tolerating another faith tradition by seeking connections and appreciating other traditions.

During a spring weekend, a diverse group of students travels to Philadelphia to work with the homeless and impoverished through faith organizations. The group participates in Shabbat and Protestant services and visits a mosque. Saturday is spent serving hands-on in the Philadelphia area, ending with evening interfaith exploration and dialogue.



Muslim Student Association students gather for dinner and discuss what being Muslim means today.

Campus Worship

Buddhist Meditation Classes

Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.
in Landis House

Dickinson Christian Fellowship

Fridays at 7 p.m. in Old West

Prayer and Meditation Room

Open 24 hours, HUB (lower level)

The room is a space for personal or small-group prayer and meditation. It is open to the entire Dickinson community.

Roman Catholic Mass

Sundays at 7:30 p.m.
in Memorial Hall, Old West
Confessions Sundays from
6:45 to 7:15 p.m. in the
McCauley Room, Old West

Shabbot Service

Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. in the
Asbell Center for Jewish Life
(Kosher dinner follows service)
Jewishlife@dickinson.edu

“The Office of Religious Life has inspired me by introducing me to other individuals who are consciously reflecting on faith. The office holds events that bring people together. It has allowed me to make connections with others who are thinking similarly to myself and others who challenge my views. Overall, the office has provided me with the opportunities and the people I need to grow in my faith and as an individual.” —Emily Rincavage '14



Hilda Mantelmacher, a native of the former Czechoslovakia, is a Holocaust survivor. She survived the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps. She shared her experience and that of never finding her little brother, Josh.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE PROGRAMMING HAS INCLUDED:

- MLK Memorial and Holocaust Museum bus trip to Washington, D.C.
- Bead for Life event
- Breaking Bread with Professor Pulcini
- Tom's Shoe – Design Your Soul
- Hunger Now meal-packaging event
- Sober Dance Party
- Women's Interfaith Group
- Global Religious Celebrations photography contest
- Taste of the Holidays

On Campus

Buddhism Meditation Classes

Zen Meditation (Shikantaza)

Meets Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

in Landis House

Wiley@dickinson.edu

Dickinson Christian Fellowship

Part of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Meets Fridays at 7 p.m. for worship;

Tuesday and Thursday prayer at noon

dcf@dickinson.edu

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Meets Monday evenings

FCA@dickinson.edu

Hillel (Jewish students)

Events throughout the year

hillel@dickinson.edu

Muslim Student Association (MSA)

Meets weekly for dinner

msa@dickinson.edu

Newman Club (Catholic students)

Meets Thursdays at 8 p.m.

newman@dickinson.edu

Catholic Campus Music Ministry

Meets Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

newman@dickinson.edu

Pre-Sem (students exploring Christian vocations)

Meets weekly

RelLife@dickinson.edu

The Milton B. Asbell Center for Jewish Life draws together Jewish students from all denominations. The center collaborates with the local congregation, Beth Tikvah, to co-sponsor events, including High Holiday services, Passover Seders and other religious gatherings. Learn more at go.dickinson.edu/asbell or e-mail asbell@dickinson.edu.

Contact Us:

Office of Religious Life

Dickinson College (HUB lower level)

28 N. College Street

Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1577

RelLife@dickinson.edu

Many of the photos used in the brochure were finalists in the Religious Holiday Contest in Fall 2011. Students were asked to share photos from their experiences at home and abroad with different religious practices.

Cover image, top left:

Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca, Morocco —

The women in this picture are leaving the Hassan

II Mosque after adhan, the call to prayer. The

mosque overlooks the Atlantic Ocean because King

Hassan II declared that God's throne was built on

the water and therefore the most faithful would

worship on firm soil while contemplating God's

ocean and sky. At night, the minaret has a light that

shines in the direction of Mecca. Photo by Taylor

Putnam '11

Cover image, background:

Tibetan flags in Yubeng, an isolated village in

Yunnan, China — Most people in Yubeng are

Tibetan, and they live a primitive lifestyle. This is a

photo of a flag of the Tibetan Buddhist scriptures, a

holy symbol of Tibetan religion. If the wind blows

the flag once, Buddhists must chant the scriptures on

the flag once. So the Tibetans hang flags in windy

places. Photo by Xijing Zhang '14

Cover image, bottom right:

Nepali Hindu wedding in Kathmandu, Nepal —

This picture captures the ceremonial "handing over"

of the bride to the groom by the bride's father during

a Nepali Hindu wedding in Kathmandu. The

water being poured into a seashell is symbolic

because the water passes from the father's hand to

the daughter's and finally to the groom's, signifying

the "giving away." This is proof that the father trusts

the groom with the safety and happiness of his

daughter. Photo by Prerana Pakhrin '13