WHAT A GREAT YEAR THE CENTER FOR SERVICE, SPIRITUALITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE HAS HAD!

We started strong by welcoming our Pre-Orientation group to our community for two days of service and leadership development. They put their skills to use right away by faithfully attending our events, taking on roles as CommServ Coordinators, Interfaith House Managers, and future CSSS office staff, all in their first year. The entire first year class also volunteered at over 40 organizations in Central Pennsylvania during our orientation service day. In welcoming our new president Margee Ensign, we are thrilled to see her commitment to community service and civic engagement. We partnered with United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County where nearly 150 of our faculty, staff, and students donated a morning of service.

“By attending Religious Life events, I have learned to engage critically with the relationship between my faith and contemporary social and political issues. It has challenged me to think how I should answer such challenges and how I should challenge people in my religious groups to think about such challenges.” — AIDAN BIRTH, ’21

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Montgomery Service Leaders Program, had a lot to celebrate this year! We hired a new set of employees, reestablished partnerships with three community partners, and spent a lot of time volunteering together in Carlisle.

Our greatest feat was welcoming ten new Level I’s, beginners to the program, and helping them embark on their two and a half year journey through MSL. This class has been the most diverse class in recent years, including students from all over the country with various service backgrounds. This increase in diversity has added to the Montgomery Service Leaders’ experiences by encouraging them to engage in difficult discussions with students that have a different background than they do. We cannot wait to see what amazing work these Level I’s will do as they continue to learn and grow as civically engaged students!

In addition to the new class of students in the program, we added three new community partners this year: Carlisle C.A.R.E.S., the Employment Skills Center, and United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County. We are very excited to reconnect with these placements and have enjoyed seeing students get involved with their placements, from volunteering through United Way’s Day of Caring to putting in a little extra effort on the weekends at Carlisle C.A.R.E.S.

Our Level III’s were on a roll as eight students finished out the program writing grants and completing their capstone projects. Projects ranged from instituting an online sales gallery at the Carlisle Arts Learning Center (Julia Huddy ’19) to supporting court hearings with CASA representatives (Stephanie Lopez ’18). One of the most influential projects was instituted by Sophie Haas-Goldberg ’19 who created and implemented a fitness program at the Carlisle Family YMCA after-school camp. Her program extended beyond physical fitness to share a holistic view of health with students. Her goal was to promote a healthy mind and body, which she was able to do by creating a running club, providing students with new, health-centered books, and buying new athletic equipment for the students to use when they play outside.

Overall, this year has been a busy one. We’ve spent time at Garden Harvest Day at King’s Gap, volunteered at a meal packaging event for Rise Against Hunger, and supported our placements at Empty Bowls, an event hosted at the college to raise money for Project SHARE. We had a great year and look forward to seeing the program continue to grow in the future.
“The resilience and resistance that I witnessed in the neighborhoods of Detroit during my service trip in the spring of 2018 changed my perspective on community service. The way that the community members in Detroit were able to incorporate social justice in their every-day lives, either in their church, farm or schools to stand against the systematic injustices that they suffered and/or are still suffering as a community, changed the way I viewed my relationship with my religion, my education, and my community. My experience in Detroit made me want to lead a service trip next year, to share experiences and change perspectives of others, who will then go on to spread good words about community service as well.”

— SAGUN SHARMA ’21

Service Trips

BY AUDREY LING ’18, LEA ZIKMUND ’18, AND LIV LYMAN ’19

Student participants and leaders, as well as faculty administrators, who participate on Service Trips call them transformative experiences, incredible opportunities for growth, and a great way to engage in community. Service Trips emphasize creating teams that are diverse in class years, majors, involvement around campus, and perspective which creates the spaces for reflection that foster community and acceptance and understanding of differences while respectfully challenging some ideas.

Throughout the year, student coordinators lead a powerful team of 13 student leaders to fundraise and publicize service trips. One of our most beneficial fundraisers is Snips for Service; professional hairstylists from Studio East donate their time and skills to provide haircuts to those in the Dickinson community at a reduced price where 100% of funds go directly to Service Trips each semester. In addition, student coordinators, trip leaders, and participants were responsible for selling coffee, tea, and chocolate from Equal Exchange. A large reason that Service Trips are able to happen is due to the generosity of those who donate including family and friends of students involved in trips, and trustees like Doug Pauls ’80 who created the opportunity for 12 individuals to volunteer in his community in South Carolina.

Over winter break, 15 Dickinsonians traveled to Vientiane, Laos to work with a local school that teaches English as a second language as well as vocational skills to students of all ages from all over Laos. Some of these students travel from very far away villages and are welcomed into the school where they are able to live full time. Our hard working students helped the staff at the school in building a small house next to the school that can be used as a dormitory for these visiting students. In addition, they were able to participate in English classes and play games with the students who were there at the time. They had an incredible time forming strong relationships with the students and communicating by means of conversation and many, many games of Uno!

During Spring Break, 41 students and 7 administrators collaborated with various domestic organizations to learn and engage in service with communities in Detroit, Michigan; Sea Island, South Carolina; Guyan Valley, West Virginia; and Americus, Georgia. In Detroit, students worked with the faith-based service organization Repair the World, partnering with several social justice, food justice, advocacy, and educational initiatives for workshops and volunteer projects throughout Detroit. Our team in South Carolina worked with Habitat for Humanity to work on houses currently under construction, while also integrating many learning opportunities about the history of South Carolina. In West Virginia, students worked with Appalachia Service Project on reconstruction efforts in response to the major flooding that occurred in the region in the summer of 2016. For the sixth 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. This May, our Navajo Nation trip team will work with Rez Refuge, volunteering at the local school and Dine College. This effort is greatly enhanced by our collaboration with alumna Ravon Yazzie ’17, who is from the Navajo Nation. We hope to be able to continue our partnership with Rez Refuge for many years.

By participating on these trips, whether they be domestic or international, students are able to come together and immerse themselves in a different culture, while addressing various social justice issues in an intersectional and enlightening way. Our goal for service trips is to foster experiences that allow our participants to come together in new ways, to challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zones and bring what they have learned back to campus and the community. We hope that for years to come, whether individuals at Dickinson have been participants, leaders or administrators, they will continue spread their transformative experiences and love for service trips to the rest of the student body.
Interfaith Service Trip

The Interfaith Service Trip to Philadelphia over Fall Pause, led by Morgan Bates ’18 and Sara Aden ’20 allowed a group of nine student participants and two FAS mentors, Sydney Harlow of the Asbell Center and Prof. Asuncion Arnedo-Aldrich to experience various faith traditions and service opportunities in and around Philadelphia. The trip began with Friday night Shabbat services at Temple Beth Shalom of Mechanicsburg, which gave participants the opportunity to learn about the Reconstructionist movement. After arriving in Philadelphia that evening, participants settled in at the host site, Old First Reformed United Church of Christ, where they also experienced a Blessing of the Animals worship service on Sunday morning! Participants also had the opportunities to experience prayer at the Preah Buddha Rangsey Temple, a Cambodian Buddhist temple in South Philadelphia, and speak to the imam and other members of Al-Aqsa Islamic Society.

Participants also participated in multiple service projects on the trip. From assisting with a fundraiser held by the Salvation Army to serving the homeless at Grace Café to cleaning up the Stop Hunger Now warehouse, participants were able to make a positive impact in the community and learn about various social justice initiatives around the city of Philadelphia. Participants also visited the National Museum of American Jewish Heritage, which was a meaningful and incredibly informative experience.

Although the trip only spans a few days, students learned a lot from each other and the community they served. This experience brought participants from diverse backgrounds together and allowed them to provide their perspectives on every aspect of the trip.

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT INTERFAITH SERVICE TRIP!
This year the Office of Religious Life along with the rest of CSSS continued our effort to engage the Dickinson Campus Community in deep and important dialogue. From the beginning of the year, we introduced students to the myriad of faith opportunities that exist in Carlisle and the surrounding area. This annual Fall Faith Fest is a great way for students to explore both familiar and new communities while also building our spiritual community on campus. Hosting several members of faith communities both on and off campus is a great, and consistently successful, way to get students part of the interfaith conversation.

We continued our most popular events series: “What Matters Most” and “Faith and…” Both of these events are meant to inspire dialogue between students, as well as with Professors, over issues that are important to them in a continued effort to build an inclusive, inquisitive and understanding community. Our Faith And series covered a wide range of topics this year, from Faith and Sexuality to Faith and Gun Violence. These lunch conversations intersect faith and different topics that our student staff feel is on the minds of the community. Some of our most popular events dealt with hot topic issues of this last year: Faith and Charlottesville, Faith and Gun Violence and Faith and Sexuality with Professors Engelhardt, Pulcini and Yost, respectively. These drew students in as we provided food and a safe space to voice the feelings and opinions of all who participated. Our What Matters Most series, a small group discussion about what matters most to a professor or staff member that our office chooses, had some standouts this year as well. Our participants included Professors Bair, Boyle, Lewis, McKiernan, Riccio, Somers, and Wlodarski, as well as KOVE leader Ricki Gold, which gave students a chance to put a story behind an individual they see every day, but have not gotten the chance to converse with outside of the caf, and our joint discussion with another CSSS office Montgomery Service Leaders gave students a chance to explore the true meaning of service.

Some of our best events this year were non-discussion based. A first year member of our Religious Life team, Maryam Khalil ’21, took on the project of revamping prayer spaces on our campus to make sure as many students as needed had places to pray and reflect. Continuing from past years, we devoted one day per month to set up an open Labyrinth in the Social hall as a meditative space for students to walk and reflect. Continuing from past years, we devoted one day per month to set up an open Labyrinth in the Social hall as a meditative space for students to walk and reflect. Our Religious Life department also took the initiative of providing vans for Muslim students on campus to take them to Friday prayers. Since going to the mosque for this prayer and praying with the Jamaat and the Imam is different than praying at home, many international Muslim students also found it as a way to connect to not only their religion but also their home.

We also pushed newer events that focused on outreach to the Dickinson Community so that they know more about our office and what we do. The first event was called Better Together Day and is part of a national movement started by the Interfaith Youth Core that pushes campus religious groups across the country to engage in community dialogue on one day specifically. The events can be any style and we used the chance to table for CSSS and The Office of Religious Life to spread the word about all the work that we do. We also drew in future attendees for events that we had coming up that week which allowed us to bring even more people into the office. This event lead to greater campus awareness of all the things we do every week. The second event was centered on Holocaust Remembrance Day. We engaged in an activity on Britton Plaza where he had students participate, as they were walking through the space, the Jewish custom of laying stones at a gravesite to mark your remembrance. As students entered Britton we handed them a small rock which they then walked to the center of the plaza and placed on a table that was surrounded by flyers, created by the Asbell Center for Jewish Life, sharing information about the day.
As always, CommServ had a successful year bringing Dickinson students closer to the community! Over 100 regular volunteers serving with 16 programs and contributed over 3000 volunteer hours with 18 different local agencies. Three new programs—Composed, Both Hands, and the Salvation Army Youth Program—completed their first year under CommServ and were incredible additions to our program. We welcomed dozens of new volunteers from the class of 2021 (and all class years!) and welcomed back returning volunteers throughout the year. The success of our programs would not be possible without the dedication of our 32 student leaders who worked hard to organize volunteers, communicate with our community partners, and develop their own leadership skills.

**AMERICA READS** has continued to have an impressive impact on the community in the 2017-2018 academic year. America Reads has spent significant time in the classroom helping children foster their literacy skills. Through their hard work and dedication, CommServ volunteers have been able to improve the lives of the children they work with on a regular basis.

**ASL** expanded this year with a record number of volunteers! The amazing volunteers first met all together to learn basic sign language, and then later on in the week they taught local elementary school children what they had learned. They covered basic foods, letters, and then worked up to whole songs and stories. The kids loved engaging with sign language, and are now able to sign a wide variety of words! We are very thankful for the coordinator who began this program and is passing it onto eager new leaders.

**ARTWORKS** had a great year where kids and volunteers alike could use their creativity to make beautiful pieces of art together. Volunteers went on a weekly basis to work with the kids on art projects. After many dedicated hours to creating their masterpieces, Artworks had a display on Britton Plaza at the end of the year. They sold and showcased art pieces, raising awareness about the amazing work Artworks does, while also raising money for a worthy cause.

**BIG LITTLE** was a BIG hit! Dickinson student ‘bigs’ volunteered with their ‘littles’ on a weekly or biweekly basis, serving as wonderful and engaged mentors. Everyone had a blast at the holiday parties and larger get-togethers as well where they ‘bigs’ and ‘littles’ could spend time all together. We are very thankful for the work the coordinators did to organize everyone’s schedules, and for the committed volunteers who came every week.

**BOTH HANDS** has had an incredible year working with high school students in the Carlisle community using the arts to provide them with after school opportunities and personal mentors. The students have engaged in multiple projects and those involved have often expressed their gratitude for this program. Our CommServ volunteer mentors have dedicated much of their time to improving the lives of these students and we are very thankful for their commitment to this program.

**CARES** had lots of energetic volunteers helping with homework, running around on warm days playing sports, or trying their hand at drawing. Once everyone’s homework was done, the kids enjoyed eating pizza and doing educational activities with the volunteers.

**CARLISLE TUTORING** has been incredibly successful providing volunteer tutors at Wilson Middle School, often having enough for every child to have their own and providing one-on-one attention. Watching these middle school students grow their academic skills has been rewarding for everyone involved in the program.

**COMPOSED** is a new program to CommServ and they have quickly found their footing! With the number of volunteers doubling this year, we could not be more thankful to the volunteers and student coordinators who made this program such an early success. The Composed team is full of music lovers who are sharing their passion with elementary school children who are eager to learn music through basic instrument and composition lessons. With no other program like it in CommServ, we are excited to welcome in this new way of engaging with the local community.

**DICKINSON FRIENDS** had another great year with events and programming! Volunteers and leaders met with buddies to go bowling, and hold other fun events. Dickinson Friends also collaborated with Dickinson Athletics in order to co-host the Autism Awareness Lacrosse game this year. The coordinators have also solidified new relationships with wonderful community partners interested in expanding this program even further.

**DREAMCATCHERS** continued to do a wonderful job of bringing ESL middle school students to our campus to have fun and learn more about English and American culture! Our coordinators and volunteers have put consistent effort to bring in new activities in order to better help students’ personal and intellectual growth.

**ESL** thrived under its new collaboration with the US Army War College! This year, they had their largest number of volunteers ever in this program. These amazing volunteers were all paired with spouses of visiting officers at the Army War College interested in being tutored in English while also learning more about the Carlisle
The opportunity to serve on the Presidential Commission for Civic Engagement has allowed me to see all of the amazing work that all of our community programs do in the campus and Carlisle communities. This work has proven to me that Dickinson is unique in the way we approach community service. We are a part of the Carlisle community. We are not our own separate entity. We can learn just as much from community partners as they can learn from us.

– OLIVIA TERMINI ’19
Day of Service had a wonderfully successful year of engaging students, faculty, and staff in community service with the goal that every student has at least one service experience before graduating from Dickinson. We held ten community service opportunities that brought over 200 students into the community, and four fundraisers that raised almost $3,000.

In the fall, Day of Service took students to glean with Project SHARE, assisted with a Carnival at Belair Elementary School, helped with an indoor cleanup with the Furry Friends Network, facilitated Trick-or-Treating at Thornwald Nursing Home, and distribution with Project SHARE.

On campus, Day of Service engaged students in thanking local fire departments, made bookmarks for elementary students, and worked on outdoor beautification projects around Carlisle. In the beginning of the semester, we held a fundraiser for those affected by hurricanes in the United States. We collected cleaning supplies to create hurricane relief buckets for Mission Central to distribute to those in need. Day of Service made 19 relief buckets and donated extra supplies as well.

Just before winter break, about 100 individuals participated in our annual Giving Tree, which sent gifts to the Salvation Army and United Methodist Home for Children.

Towards the end of the spring semester, Day of Service held our annual Forward Fair, during which students make crafts that are donated to local organizations. About 50 students stopped in to make up-cycled tote bags out of t-shirts for Project SHARE, painted pots for nursing home residents, make dog pulls for the Furry Friends Network, write letters to refugee families, and more!

In April, several students helped to set up and run an Easter Egg Hunt held for over 100 children hosted by the East Side Neighborhood Association in Biddle Mission Park.

Finally, Day of Service held a Spring Service Day with over 70 individuals participating in projects across Carlisle. The volunteers helped with much needed work at Red Tomato Farm, CARES and New Life Community Church, held a game day at Safe Harbour and organized a field day at LeTort Park with the Salvation Army.
Justice is Served advocates for prevalent social justice issues and brings those larger matters to campus on a smaller scale so that students can learn and take action. In the fall semester, Justice is Served orchestrated educational awareness events and service opportunities surrounding cultural appropriation, LGBTQ homelessness, and global and local hunger. In the spring semester, we designed events and service opportunities focused on destigmatizing refugees.

On National Coming Out Day, we raised awareness for homeless LGBTQ+ youth by displaying a couch at Out on Britton, hosted by the Office of LGBTQ services, accompanied by statistics and stories of youth who have experienced homelessness due to their sexual orientation or identity. The couch was symbolic of the transient experience that LGBTQ+ youth face when kicked out of their homes for who they are. Later in the month, just before Halloween, we held our annual My Culture is Not Your Costume event to create awareness on what NOT to wear for Halloween, raising important questions/concerns about cultural appropriation. We displayed costumes on Britton Plaza that were both appropriate and not appropriate to wear for Halloween and invited students to discern which were which and why they believe so. We intentionally held this event the day close to Halloween so students are reminded of the costumes that are appropriate and the ones they should avoid.

We held our annual Hunger Banquet to increase awareness of food disparity in both local and global contexts. We modeled a simulation of world hunger by dividing guests by social class—lower, middle, and upper—and feeding them per their randomized selection. Those in the lower class were only fed rice and water and had to sit on the floor. Those in middle class fared better with pizza and seating at a table. Those in the upper class were fed a full course meal. This simulation invited guests to engage in dialogue about hunger and food distribution, along with people’s experiences of poverty and hunger. We also invited guests from Project SHARE, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, and the Salvation Army to speak about these issues and what they do to curtail these issues. The Hunger Banquet served as a fundraiser for our final event of the semester: the annual meal packaging event we held with Rise Against Hunger, an international hunger relief organization that coordinates and distributes a blend of packaged food to children in need. Over 100 members of the Dickinson community came together to package 10,000 meals for people facing food insecurity around the world. Meals were sent to countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. With all of our participants, we packaged 10,000 meals in record time!

In the spring semester, Justice is Served focused on issues surrounding the destigmatization of refugees and the ongoing refugee crises happening around the world. Justice is Served held three main events to educate the Dickinson community about the refugee crisis and provide service opportunities to become engaged: The Refugee Show and Tell Project Event, weekly service opportunities at the Pennsylvania Center for Refugees and Immigrants (PACRI), and the Share a Table, Share Stories event. We also communicated with Every Campus a Refuge to explore possibilities for Dickinson to host a refugee family on our campus. The Refugee Show and Tell Project served to inform the Dickinson community of the current international refugee crises occurring and to think about reshaping the narrative of refugees as we currently know it. The project aimed to destigmatize the word and concept of “refugee” and to encourage students to become involved in matters concerning the crises. Following this event, we began to work with PACRI to engage in service that aligns with destigmatization. On a weekly basis, a group of volunteers headed out to Mechanicsburg to engage in one-on-one English tutoring with former Somalian refugees for their naturalization tests. Volunteers also had the opportunity to learn about the legal aspects of naturalization and do legal work. Justice is Served concluded the spring semester with the “Share a Table, Share Stories” event, in which over 100 guests, from PACRI, the Bosnian Cultural Islamic Center in Carlisle, and Dickinson, engaged in dialogue to break down barriers and share their stories. The event was a great success and included a silent art auction with art by (former) refugees themselves, food from Bosnia and Somalia, and meaningful conversations.
IN 2017-18, DICKINSON STUDENTS REPORTED OVER 24,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND GAVE OVER $85,000 IN CHARITABLE DONATIONS!

DONNA HUGHES
This year marks Donna’s fifth year with CSSS. An ordained Methodist Minister since 1995, Donna came to Dickinson after four years as the Executive Director of United Protestant Campus Ministries of Cleveland (Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State and Cuyahooga Community College. Before Cleveland she served churches in South Dakota and Iowa, taught courses in World Religions, Cultural Anthropology, Environmental Biology and led service trips to India, Israel, Russia, Lithuania, Belize, and Nicaragua. Before her involvement with the ministry, Donna received a Masters of Agricultural and Equestrian Studies from Texas A&M and taught Agricultural English in Inner Mongolia. Donna is married and has four dogs. She loves to travel the world with students, do yoga, run, go to the movies, eat chocolate and read great books.

KIM SALLIE
Kim Sallie graduated from Shippensburg University in 1999 with a double major in Spanish and Psychology. She is the proud aunt of one niece and four nephews who keep her busy with all of their activities! In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. Kim really enjoys working in her hometown and values the incredible work that the students and staff do for our campus and the community!