

RE(IMAGINE) JANDON

The Jandon Center for Community Engagement

2019-2020 Highlights



Dear friend of the Jandon Center,

All over, people are feeling impacts of overlapping crises - of health and well being, ecology and climate, national leadership and political will - all framed by structures of inequalities that must at last be faced and loosened. But how?

Working in our small corner of a globally connected network, we can all make a difference, but we must be thoughtful and intelligent about how we deploy our resources and gifts. In an interconnected world we can only succeed together, through nurturing and building tangible experiences of joyful community. For the Jandon Center team, this means balancing mutual support and teamwork with accountability. It means creatively evolving more ways for our students, faculty and partners to catalyze community-driven engagement and public scholarship that build structures of equity.

Moving forward, this will become more apparent in our work - the Collective Organizing for Peace and Equity fellowship, for-credit and noncredit

volunteer and internship opportunities, STEAM Outreach focused on expanding opportunities for women, girls and minority boys, crafting pathways to teaching in underserved schools, and offering support for faculty teaching and research; and last, special projects piloting promising approaches to building structures of equity in communities.

I would like to thank our 21 student leaders, the 3033 unique collaborators engaged on local and national issues, our 7 faculty colleagues, our five core community partners and our newly constituted advisory board of students, faculty, alumnae, and community partners. Lastly, the Jandon Center welcomes our new Dean of the College Baishakhi Taylor and thank her for her support of our work.

Denys Candy



The Path to 2021 for JCEE

In a time of civic unrest, student action, and disparate impacts of the pandemic around the world, our Center team came together to offer creative opportunities for civic engagement.

We aspire to:

- Serve as the center where the ethics of civic engagement and community building remain at the forefront
- Further build Jandon initiatives that engage campus and community deeply and over the long-term
- Develop opportunities for ethical civic engagement in the classroom, both in teaching and by supporting course related community-based work
- Create a space where anyone can drop by and feel welcome

We are:

- Launching the *Smith Alliance for Justice and Equity* (SAJE) fellowship, in which Smithies will join with community activists towards equitable change
- Developing a new resource hub for faculty members and students who wish to connect classroom learning to current day meaningful projects
- Expanding partnerships with activists and organizations both locally and nationally
- Continuing to serve as a space where students can organize and create meaningful connections to each other during their time at Smith



STEAM Outreach

Throughout the 2019 calendar year, Smith College STEAM Outreach developed a number of new community partnerships while honoring the traditional signature programs that have been successful over the years.

STEM VISTA Collaborates with Holyoke STEM Academy

In the spring and fall of 2019, our STEM VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) led a number of volunteer STEM Ambassadors in a collaborative effort with Holyoke STEM Academy, a middle school located in Holyoke, MA. The group provided math tutoring to 5th grade students twice per week in the spring and fall of 2019.

Smith College Hosts Massachusetts Science Fair

We also partnered with the Massachusetts Science Fair (MSEF) in 2019, recognizing Smith College as the new host sponsor of the middle and high school Region 1 Science & Engineering Fairs. The fair involved 37 students from 9 schools and 40 Smith students/staff volunteers.

JCCE Introduces STEAM Team on Wheels

Under the direction of our STEAM Fellows, the STEAM Team on Wheels was created in Fall 2019. Many of our popular experiments and activities were reimaged and new ones created to make up our new “mobile” curriculum of kits that support K-12 STEAM education in local schools.



STEAM Outreach cont'd

STEAM Outreach Once Again Partners with Signature Program

Our *Student Scientist, Zebrafish Outreach Program*, led by professor Michael Barresi, is one of Smith College STEAM Outreach's signature programs. The program offers middle and high school teachers access to instructional materials, workshops, resources and materials to better understand the developmental stages of the zebrafish through hands-on experiential learning.

C4C Launches at a Pivotal Moment

The *Crafting for Community* (C4C) initiative at Jandon is designed to provide experiential engagement opportunities by crafting hand-made goods like afghans, blankets, hats, and scarves to organizations in need.

C4C was recognized and awarded the 2020 President's Innovation Grant Award for Equity and Diversity at Smith College.

At the onset of the COVID19 pandemic, C4C made nearly 1,500 masks, which were donated to campus essential workers, student residents and people in need in the Northampton community and beyond.



Data Science Corps^{NEW!}

The Data Science Corps—Wrangle, Analyze, Visualize (DSC-WAV) program provides a semester-long opportunity for 5-Colleges students with an interest in data science to practice and develop their skills in the context of work for local non-profit organizations.

Data Science Corps Continues its Second Year

Currently in its second year, DSC-WAV teams have worked with The Nature Conservancy, Valley Bikes, VentureWell, Girls Inc. of the Pioneer Valley, Mt. Holyoke's Living Lab, Abortion Rights of Western Massachusetts, Western Mass Health Equity Network, and Hampshire Heroin/Opioid Prevention and Education.

DSC-WAV Teaches the Science of Making Data Approachable

Our projects have one thing in common; making it easier to access and interpret existing data. We are currently:

- Working to develop pattern-recognition software that analyzes wildlife camera footage to autonomously recognize whether an image includes an animal or not
- Mapping past and present systematic inequality in Holyoke exposing a process known as “redlining”
- Visualizing bikeshare program data to understand community usage habits



Project SPARC NEW!

In 2020, we recruited the first cohort of emerging adults for the Springfield Fellowship for Young Leaders. Through the summer and early fall, fellows engaged in a series of remote leadership sessions designed to facilitate near-peer connections.

We have also provided opportunities for reflection and long-term planning towards personal goals. Sessions included social capital building, financial literacy, strengths-finding, and educational/vocational mapping.

SPARC Designs a Guide for Young Adults Living in Springfield

Our Project SPARC young adult team expressed the desire to access community-based resources. A comprehensive guide to young adult life in Springfield, *Springfield Choose Your Future* was designed and developed by our staff/student team. The guide lists over 30 Springfield-based organizations and networks. Resources include mental health services, scholarship portals, and career training programs.

Program Currently Seeking Volunteers to Bolster SPARC Initiative

If you'd like to get involved feel free to email Erin Decou (edecou@smith.edu) or visit the Project Sparc website at www.sophia.smith.edu/projectsparc. The program is looking for tenacious Smith students who want to dive into impactful community engagement.



Urban Education Initiative

55 students from 5 Colleges, including 33 Smithies, participated in Mindich Teaching Fellowships this year, engaging in hands-on learning by apprenticing in classrooms across the country during J-term and studying the landscape of urban education throughout the academic year.

Urban Education Fellowship Gets a New Name

In 2019, we renamed the Urban Education Fellowship in honor of Dan Mindich, a high school English teacher and lifetime educator who loved teaching and learning. Many aspects of the program are made possible through generous funding honoring his legacy. Dan believed that students benefit the most when teachers work in communities where they learn together and support each other, and the Mindich Fellowship embodies that crucial set of values.

The Mindich Fellowship & Project Coach Go Virtual

Both the Mindich Fellowship and Project Coach transitioned to remote programming in mid-March, adapting by launching a creative set of community forums connecting teens, college students, and community leaders, and challenging undergrads to create their own virtual lessons for youth.



Urban Education Initiative

Project Coach Continues to Inspire

39 Smith graduate and undergraduate students mentored and supported 287 Springfield, MA public school students in Project Coach this year.

One Project Coach Jandon Fellow, who mentored a Teen Coach throughout the year, expressed their appreciation for what the program has taught them.

“ I have learned that the most important thing about teaching and learning is creating relationships with those that you work with. A student will not trust you or want to learn from you if they do not have a strong bond with you.

It is important to understand where the student is coming from and meet them where they are at. ”



Reorganized & Diversified

This past year, we reorganized and diversified our board members to include students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Jandon Center Advisory Board

- **Elisabeth Armstrong**, Professor of the Study of Women & Gender; Chair of CESC Concentration
- **Hannah Gates '22**, Education & Child Study Major; Kensington Young Scholars Mentorship Fellow
- **Clare Higgins**, Executive Director, Community Action Pioneer Valley
- **Sheena Kuhn '23**, Community Engagement and Social Change Concentrator
- **Beverly Lipsey '18**, SC Community Engagement and Social Change alumna; Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Malaysia
- **Denisse Manso Gonzalez '22**, Latin American Studies Major; Recruitment Outreach Intern
- **Maeve McCurdy '21**, Anthropology Major, Climate Change Concentrator; Jandon Center Fellow
- **Elvis Mendez**, Organizing Director, Neighbor to Neighbor MA
- **Vanessa Pabón-Hernandez**, Executive Producer, Presencia (WGNV/PBS)
- **Farah Samawi '19**, SC Community Engagement and Social Change Alumna '19; Research Coordinator, CHA Center for Mindfulness and Compassion



Reorganized & Diversified cont'd

Community Engagement & Social Change Concentration Advisory Board

- **Elisabeth Armstrong**, Professor of the Study of Women & Gender; Chair of CESC Concentration
- **Ben Baumer**, Associate Professor of Statistical & Data Sciences
- **Ginetta Candelario**, Professor of Sociology and of Latin American & Latino/a Studies
- **Denys Candy**, Director of the Jandon Center
- **Velma García**, Professor of Government
- **Sam Intrator**, Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor of Education & Child Study
- **Ellen Kaplan**, Professor of Theatre
- **Lucy Mule**, Associate Professor of Education & Child Study
- **Phil Peake**, Professor of Psychology
- **Nnamdi Pole**, Professor of Psychology; Chair of Smith College Institutional Review Board
- **Marsha Kline Pruett**, Maconda Brown O'Connor Professor, Smith College School for Social Work
- **Lynne Yamamoto**, Jessie Wells Post Professor of Art



Thank you so much!

Thank you to our Jandon Center student leaders, 2019-2020.

We couldn't have done it without you.

- Cait Battle-McDonald, '20
- Genesis Canizales, '22
- Lily Diao, '22
- Julia Fondillier, '21
- Hannah Gates, '22
- Megan Holm, '22
- Emma Humphries, '20
- Jessica Kim, '22
- Sheena Kuhn, '22
- Nicole Lussier, '22
- Denisse Manzo Gonzalez, '22
- Maeve McCurdy, '21
- Erin Price, '20
- Jessica Reinert, '20
- Teniel Rhiney, '21
- Tracy Rompich, '21
- Elisabeth Sinclair, '22
- Lily Stowe Aleckman, '22
- Emma Tierney, '22
- Jennifer Warren, '20
- Margaret Zhang, '22





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