2018-2019
STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

JESS ALEXANDER
School: University of Rochester
Area of study: Psychology
Class level: senior

I am currently working in research on social stress, and hoping to be working in suicide research or at a nonprofit in a year. I’m excited to be part of the SAC and to have this opportunity to improve mental health on campus!

JESSICA MCDEVITT
School: Pace University
Area of study: Arts & Entertainment Management (major), Marketing (minor)
Class level: junior

I currently work at the Recording Academy/GRAMMYs and plan to pursue a career in the music industry upon graduating in May 2020. At Pace, I recently established an Active Minds chapter which I am now the proud President of. I am extremely passionate about creating advocacy opportunities and generating mental health awareness in my community. I’m excited to continue working with JED and my fellow SAC members.
KATIE COHEN

School: University of South Carolina  
**Area of study:** Psychology  
**Class level:** senior

I am currently raising awareness of mental health at USC through my podcast “Hear Me Out” and through my position in Student Government as the Secretary of Health and Wellness. I’m excited to continue being involved in JED!

KENNA CHICK

School: Georgetown University (School of Foreign Service)  
**Area of study:** Culture and Politics  
**Class level:** junior

My greatest passion is mental health policy and advocacy, especially on destigmatizing mental illness and removing barriers to treatment. As the Vice President of the Georgetown University Student Association, I’m working on many projects that focus on destigmatizing, educating and eliminating barriers around mental health resources. One of my projects is to implement off-campus therapy stipends, as psychotherapy in the DC area is notoriously expensive and Georgetown University’s services are short-term. In addition to that, I’m the President of Project Lighthouse, an anonymous peer to peer chat-line that provides peer support and information about campus resources.

LAURYN MALESKI

School: Binghamton University  
**Area of study:** Human Development  
**Class level:** senior

I’m currently working as a Resident Assistant, a Peer Advisor for Human Development academic Advising, and am serving my second term as President in our school’s chapter of Active Minds! Outside of commitments, I’m always journaling, taking pictures, exercising, and hanging out with friends. I’m excited to dig deeper into the JED Foundation programming and to make an impact on the organization as a whole!

MYKIA WASHINGTON

School: Frostburg State University  
**Area of study:** Social Work (major), Psychology and Addictions Counseling (minor)  
**Class level:** graduated in May 2018

I currently serve at Kelly Miller Middle School as a student advocate with AmeriCorps’ City Year DC. I look forward to connecting with fellow JED student leaders to discuss ways to address mental health disparities within educational institutions.
OLIVER HIGHTOWER

School: George Washington University  
**Area of study:** Biology  
**Class level:** senior

As a successful person living with a mental illness, I know firsthand the impacts the illness – and stigma – can have. Through sharing my story as a person with mental illness, I hope to serve as a role model, proving that a person with a severe mental illness can succeed in life with the right resources and support. I have researched at the National Institute of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, Summer Internship Program assisting in research with Dr. Susan Amara. Besides attending college, I work at the American Film Institute. I graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Montgomery College (MD.) in 2017 with an Associate Degree in Life Sciences. I plan to serve individuals experiencing mental illness as a doctor or researcher.

ROSS ALLBRITTON

School: University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
**Area of study:** Organizational Communication (major), Sociology (minor)  
**Class level:** senior

I’m from Mandeville, Louisiana, and am planning to go to grad school next fall to study Higher Education. Most of my time as an undergraduate was spent in various extracurriculars with the goal of leaving my university better than I found it. Mental

SANIYA SONI

School: Drexel University  
**Area of study:** Psychology (major), Criminal Justice (minor)  
**Class level:** sophomore

I am volunteer on the Drexel Peer Counseling Helpline and I am a dancer on Drexel’s Punjabi Bhangra team. I am very passionate about mental health and increasing access to resources among students of color.

SIMAR DHALIWAL

School: West Valley College  
**Area of study:** Sociology  
**Class level:** junior

I’m the President of Active Minds on my campus, as well as the head of our Inter Club Council. Along with that, I am a Senator and part of our Campus Activities Board. I’m looking forward to being a part of this Council because of how impactful spreading awareness about Mental Illness and Mental Health is!
I recently finished my football season as a player and hung up the cleats, however we went out on top going 10-0 and winning a conference championship. I will severely miss the sport but I am beyond excited to have more time on my hands to dedicate towards items such as the SAC. I am looking forward to building great friendships with my fellow team members and forming an efficient and cooperative team!