Let’s Start at Solidarity Gathering: In collaboration with the new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a number of other offices and initiatives across campus, the Women’s Center and the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life co-facilitated an intentional community gathering designed to acknowledge the racial, gendered and identity-based violence taking place both on F&M’s campus and around the world and begin to devise ways of addressing that harm and pushing back.
F&Minist Swag Grab Pop-Up: To celebrate the beginning of the academic year, the Women’s Center hosted an F&Minist Swag Grab on Hartman Green where feminists from across campus could swing by to pick up stickers and pins and learn more about ways to engage in feminist community and programming through the Center. To honor social distancing and community care the event required everyone in attendance to wear masks and limit time spent at the table to ten minutes or less.
LGBTQ+ Student Life Swag Grab Pop-Up: To kick off the 2020-2021 academic year, the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life hosted a Swag Grab pop-up event on Hartman Green where members of the F&M community could come by and pick up rainbow pins and stickers to show their pride and learn about how to get involved with the LGBTQ+ community at F&M. To honor social distancing and community care the event required everyone in attendance to wear masks and limit time spent at the table to ten minutes or less.

Bi Visibility Day Pop-Up: The Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life celebrated Bisexual Visibility Day by hosting a Pop-Up event on Hartman Green where folks could come by and grab bi pride flags, stickers, pins and laptop stickers. Recognizing the importance of bi+ visibility both on campus and beyond, the event unapologetically centered the experiences and pride of bi+ individuals and communities.
Queer Self-Care Workshop: Collaborating with the Sexuality and Gender Alliance, the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life presented a virtual workshop on Queer Self-Care designed specifically for queer students to help them explore best practices for radical self-acceptance and community-based care.
RBG Film: To celebrate the life and legacy of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the ADWC and the F&M Library hosted a watch part of the film *RBG*, which provided an intimate portrait of Ginsburg’s life and showed her tireless commitment to advancing rights for women and opposing gender discrimination, from her early legal battles to her work in the Supreme Court.

F&Minist Postcard Kit Pop-Up: The Center collaborated with F&M Votes to host a Pop-Up event on Hartman Green to encourage F&M students, faculty and staff to write to their representatives and senators and to their favorite feminists. Participants could come and select a pre-packaged kit, which included a selection of feminist postcards, stamps and pens. The event provided a space for the campus to gather in socially distanced feminist community while stressing the importance of voting as a feminist tool when practiced along with ongoing education and organizing at the community level.
Queer Postcard Kit Pop-Up: Working in tandem with the F&Minist Postcard Kit Pop-Up event and F&M Votes, the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life hosted a Pop-Up event on Hartman Green where participants could come to pick up a queer postcard kit to write to their representatives and senators and to their LGBTQ+ kin. Recognizing that voting can be a crucial tool in the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ liberation, the event used an accessible and community-driven format to raise awareness for the importance of voting in the upcoming general election and engaging in grassroots community organizing.
Stolen Sisters Student-Led Discussion: The ADWC’s first student-led discussion of the academic year took place on Zoom and contextualized the disproportionate violence against Indigenous women in honor of Indigenous People’s Day. The discussion touched on Indigenous history both pre- and post-colonization, statistics, current legislation, provided links to Indigenous-led organizations to support, delved into two specific case studies and featured two breakout discussions with participants to keep the conversation and action going beyond the event.

Queer Visibility Week Virtual Queer Dance Party: The Center’s virtual Queer Visibility Week programming began with a Virtual Dance Party through Zoom featuring DJ Sevyn. Everyone was welcome to come wearing whatever made them feel most comfortable and to dance in whatever ways and to whatever degrees they wished. The event was a delightful and exhilarating way to begin a full week of programming.
Queer Visibility Week Trans & Gender Non-conforming Space: For the second Queer Visibility Week event, Professor Meg Day hosted a virtual TGNC Space for Trans and Gender Non-conforming students to share affirming and joyful space with one another. It provided a crucial way for TGNC students to feel connected to each other and to a larger trans lineage both within and outside the institution.

A Virtual Queer Poetry Reading with Shira Erlichman

Shira Erlichman is a poet, musician, and visual artist. She was born in Israel and immigrated to the US when she was six. She is the winner of the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry & a Lambda Award Finalist. She is the author of Odes to Lithium, & Be/Hold: A Friendship Book. She lives in Brooklyn where she runs Freer Farm: A Portable Creativity School, connecting a global community of writers.
Queer Visibility Week Poetry Reading with Shira Erlichman: Queer Visibility Week continued with a poetry reading and question and answer session with poet and educator Shira Erlichman. Erlichman read from her most recent book *Odes to Lithium* and spoke at length about how her lived realities of queerness and mental illness have shaped her poetics and how she approaches engaging with students and mentees.

Queer and Trans Black Lives Matter Pop-Up and Fundraiser: For students, faculty and staff on campus, the Queer and Trans Black Lives Matter Pop-Up provided an opportunity to grab rainbow, trans, and Black Lives matter mini-flags, stickers, pins, and other items and to enter to win a gift basket with any size donation. All donations went to the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, which helps to fight systemic violence against Black transgender people and is named after Black trans Stonewall veteran Marsha P. Johnson.
Queer Visibility Week S.A.G.A. GAYme Night: Queer Visibility Week concluded with the Sexuality and Gender Alliance’s Game Night through Zoom, which featured an array of games designed to build and grow community and connect people across varying degrees of geographic distance. The event rounded out a tremendous week of virtual and in-person programming to celebrate F&M’s annual Queer Visibility Week.
Badass Womxn in Politics Student-Led Discussion: The second ADWC student-led discussion of the year took place in the days leading up to the 2020 general election and delved into the importance of having women in positions of political power while simultaneously recognizing that having women in those positions of power does not necessarily mean that they are working in the interest of gender equity and against misogyny. Through a presentation that traced the history of women in politics and breakout discussions amongst participants, the event encouraged critical feminist analysis as a necessary part of our collective political and historical education.

The Poetics of Peace: Following his virtual Common Hour address, the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life co-hosted a virtual reading and conversation with Irish poet, theologian and mediator Pádraig Ó Tuama. Ó Tuama is the host of “Poetry Unbound” through On Being Studios and his work centers around using poetics as a tool for conflict analysis and bringing art and theology into public life.
Heavenly Bodies Student-Led Discussion: This ADWC student-led discussion focused on how to practice radical self-love and body positivity in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding quarantine. As media and interpersonal rhetoric surrounding how bodies can change as a result of quarantining have become increasingly fatphobic, the discussion delved into how one can begin to re-frame that discourse and one’s relationship to their body.
Safer Sex in the Time of Social Distance and COVID Workshop: Sexologist Dr. Jill McDevitt led a workshop with F&M students over Zoom designed to address the particular challenges of navigating safe sex during the COVID-19 pandemic in light of the necessity of social distancing. Dr. McDevitt’s approach to sex and sexual education operates from a desire to radically alter the ways people think about and treat both themselves and each other in order to center pleasure, consent, and sexual autonomy.

Transgender Day of Remembrance: The Sexuality and Gender Alliance hosted a virtual vigil to honor the lives lost due to anti-trans violence in 2020. The space served as a place of mourning for the trans and gender-nonconforming individuals whose lives were taken during the last year and as a means of expressing solidarity with trans communities and with Black and Brown trans women, who face disproportionate levels of violence. The event included a reading of the names, a moment of silence and a public comment period.
Galentine’s Day Take & Make Pop-Up: To celebrate Valentine’s/Galentine’s/Palentine’s Day, the ADWC hosted a Take & Make Pop-Up on Hartman Green where folks could come and select a card-making kit that they could then use to send to a loved one or keep for themselves. Due to social distancing and the availability of materials, the first one hundred people who stopped by the event were able to leave with one of the kits.
LGBTQ+ Forum: The Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life and the Sexuality and Gender Alliance hosted a forum designed to center LGBTQ+ students and their their experiences of being queer and trans at F&M. Though allies were welcome to attend and witness the stories that were being shared, the space was first and foremost for LGBTQ+ students to make their needs known to the school as a part of ongoing efforts in tandem with the F&M Strategic Plan and the recently completed Campus Climate Survey.

International Women’s Week: In honor of International Women’s Week, the ADWC co-sponsored the International Student Advisory Board’s panel of F&M Global Women Alumni, which connected current and former students to discuss their experiences of navigating F&M as women international students. The ADWC also co-sponsored a faculty talk by Professor Firuzeh Shokooh-Valle entitled “Turning Fear Into Pleasure: Online Violence and Feminist Resistance in the Global South” and hosted an International Women’s Day Solidarity Pop-Up event on Hartman Green where participants received stickers and flowers and had the opportunity to celebrate the women in their lives.
Women in Sports Discussion: To further the celebration of Women’s History Month, the ADWC participated in a conversation surrounding the gendered experience of women in sports, which featured ADWC and LGBTQ+ Student Life Director Chelsea Reimann, Professor Firuzeh Shokooh-Valle, Coach Kirsten Richter and AD Lauren Packer Webster. Topics of discussion included ways to support and center women’s sports, the disparities in funding and resources allocated to them and the recent legislation attacking the rights of trans and non-binary athletes.
A Queer Find Your Roots Workshop: This interactive workshop, hosted by the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life, allowed LGBTQ+ students the opportunity to connect themselves to a long lineage of radical queer and trans activism, organizing, resistance, joy, and history while discussing what it means to have queer roots interwoven across space and time.
Transgender Day of Visibility Open Mic: The Sexuality and Gender Alliance hosted an open mic night for students to perform their own work or the work of another queer or trans writer to celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility and the resilience, resistance and joy of trans communities. Though the event acknowledged the complicated politics of visibility and outness, it nevertheless provided a space for the centering of trans life.

Celebrating Black Feminists Student-Led Discussion: Members of the ADWC Student Board led this informative and engaging discussion on the work of Black feminists Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison and Kimberlé Crenshaw with fellow F&M students and FPS in order to familiarize participants with their central contributions to today's feminist frameworks of thought and action. Following the discussion, attendees could stay to compete in a Kahoot trivia game featuring questions pulled from information highlighted in the event, with the individuals who accumulated the top three scores receiving complimentary copies of one of Lorde or Morrison’s books.
Campus Queer and Trans Activist Leadership Summit: While in previous years the Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life has taken a cohort of students to the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania’s Campus Queer and Trans Activist Leadership Summit, this year the event was held virtually and students could choose the number of workshops they wished to attend. The event connects LGBTQ+ students from across other regional Pennsylvania institutions and creates community spaces for discussions about queer and trans leadership both within and outside college campuses.
Take Back the Night Chalk the Campus Sidewalk Event: In preparation for F&M’s annual Take Back the Night event, the ADWC Student Board provided chalk and a set of community guidelines and let folks share their calls for ending racial, gendered and sexual violence on the sidewalks around the school’s campus. For remote students, there was also a corresponding Padlet site where individuals could share photos and written messages of support and solidarity in the lead-up to Take Back the Night.
Take Back the Night: Every year, Take Back the Night serves in many ways as the culmination of the ADWC Student Board’s work and gathers the entire campus community together to push to end racial, gendered and sexual violence. This year’s virtual event featured members of the ADWC board performing poetry and introducing President Altmann and the night’s featured performer, Afro-Jamaican poet Staceyann Chin, whose poetry gave voice to the silences of sexual violence and provided the language for witness, necessary rage and euphoric joy to all in the audience.

Lockdown: COVID-19 and Gender Justice Student-Led Discussion: In the last student-led discussion of the academic year, members of the ADWC student board engaged the larger campus community in conversation surrounding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and gender minorities with a particular focus on racial disparities in access to healthcare and national and international increases in violence against women since the start of the pandemic.
Lavender Graduation: The Office of LGBTQ+ Student Life’s final event of the year brought together queer and trans members of the classes of 2020 and 2021 to officially welcome them into the F&M alumni community. Each senior recognized at the event received a rainbow cord and pin and the opportunity to share community space with kin, faculty mentors, allies and members of the LGBTQ+ Alumni Council.