Game Changers Common Hour Reception: To start off the 2019-2020 academic year and celebrate a milestone year in F&M College history, the Center hosted a reception following the semester’s first Common Hour. Featuring alumni Michelle Flatt, Salina Almanazar, and Cynthia Krom and hosted by President Barbara Altmann, the Common Hour celebrated and interrogated the college’s evolution as it begins its fiftieth year of coeducation. After beginning in the Alumni Sports and Fitness Center, the conversation shifted to the Center where refreshments were served and current students had the chance to connect themselves with their on-campus feminist lineage.
ADWC and WGSS Welcome Back Event: Continuing the tradition of co-hosting events together to celebrate feminist communities in and outside the classroom, the Women’s Center board and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies program held a welcome back event in the Center. Featuring feminist Heads Up and a lively round of pass the uterus, the event also had light refreshments and provided a space for both groups to mingle and share in community.

ADWC Open House & Welcome Back: The Center hosted over one hundred and fifty students, faculty and staff members for a gathering involving snacks, “Trample the Patriarchy” cake, laptop stickers, pins, and feminist community. The event provided an opportunity for first-year and returning students to learn about the Center’s role on campus and about upcoming programming for the beginning of the semester.
LGBTQ+ Welcome Back Social: Over 70 students, faculty and staff members came to the Center to take part in the LGBTQ+ Welcome Back Social. Attendees were treated to a rainbow cake, stickers, pins, and the chance to spend time in community. The event also allowed first-year students to see the breadth of LGBTQ+ programming and resources available to them on campus and learn more about the Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA) club.
Shafia Zaloom Common Hour Reception: The Center hosted a post-Common Hour reception with health and sexual educator Shafia Zaloom to allow students to engage with the material she presented during her Common Hour in a more personal manner. Zaloom also led two different workshops entitled “Alcohol and Consent” and “Pleasure and Consent” that students could sign up for to deepen their knowledge and learn how to navigate difficult conversations surrounding collegiate social and personal life and consent.

BethAnn McLaughlin Common Hour Reception: Following #MeTooSTEM founder BethAnn McLaughlin’s powerful Common Hour entitled “Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble: #MeTooSTEM and Disrupting Sexual Harassment in Science,” the Center hosted a reception with McLaughlin and any students or faculty who wished to continue the conversation in a smaller group setting. The reception featured light refreshments and the opportunity for questions to be answered and resources to be shared in a safe and affirming space.
Queer Visibility Week Brunch: To kick off Queer Visibility Week, Writers House hosted a brunch where queer and trans folks and allies could gather and share in community. A wide spread of food and engaging conversation eased everyone into a full week of programming and activities to celebrate queer and trans communities on F&M’s campus.

Queer Visibility Week Queer Craft Night: The Center provided all the materials needed for students to make mini zines, pride flag pins, buttons, and Shrinky Dinks to continue the Queer Craft Night tradition, which has become a beloved staple of Queer Visibility Week. In addition to the craft options, students also had their pick of an extensive candy bar and were able to engage in community to whatever degree they felt comfortable.
Queer Visibility Week Town Hall: During Queer Visibility Weeks Uncommon Hour, the Diplomatic Congress and LGBTQ+ Student Life co-hosted a town hall panel discussion engaging with LGBTQ+ leadership on F&M’s campus. Featuring student panelists whose work ranges from environmental activism to disability activism, the conversation began with a series of pre-prepared questions and then opened up to the gathered attendees for further questions and comments, which were recorded to help guide future programming and advocacy efforts.

Queer Visibility Week Open Mic and Variety Show: To continue the celebration of Queer Visibility Week, LGBTQ+ Student Life collaborated with L.I.F.T., the spoken word poetry club on campus to host an Open Mic and Variety Show open to any and all students who wished to participate. The acts included the performing of poems written by the individual students as well as the performing of poems by famous queer and trans poets, which were provided for anyone who wanted or needed them.
Queer Visibility Week: SAGA hosted Queer Visibility Week’s Movie Night, which featured a double feature of queer films and a wide array of snack options for attendees. Students were invited to wear their pajamas of choice and relax as they Experienced various different aspects of queer and trans history and storytelling.
Queer Visibility Week Mixer: Queer Visibility Week culminated in a mixer for students, faculty and staff to eat, converse, and take a turn in the rainbow photobooth. Between the gayke (gay cake) and the opportunity for Polaroid photographs, the event provided a wonderful space for attendees to decompress, enjoy each other’s company, and claim moments of radical joy after a long week of programming.

Queer Visibility Week True Blue/True You Weekend Reception: The final Queer Visibility Week event brought F&M Alumni back to campus as a part of True Blue Weekend and gave them the chance to engage with current students, who took advantage of valuable networking and community-building opportunities. Co-sponsored by the F&M LGBTQ+ Alumni Council, SAGA, and LGBTQ+ Student Life, the event was a wonderful end to an exceptionally full and successful Queer Visibility Week.
International Coffee Hour: In anticipation of women students planning to go abroad for the spring semester and considering the option of studying abroad in the near future, the Center co-hosted a discussion on the experiences that women have had studying outside of the United States. The Coffee Hour provided a platform for women who occupy a variety of different identities to speak to their particular joys and struggles existing in a different cultural and political context to give as much information as possible to students thinking of doing the same.

POC Solidarity Ribbons: In response to the protests taking place on campus calling for administrative response to repeated racist acts and calling out the lack of institutional support for students of color, the Center provided black and brown ribbons for folks to express their solidarity with the student protestors. Students, faculty and staff worked together to make hundreds of ribbons to have on hand for anyone who wanted to show solidarity and support.
Rebelle: The Center hosted a workshop with Rebelle, a feminist group from Lancaster, centered around self-empowerment and self-care. Over forty individuals from in and around Lancaster came together to share in community and engage with the question of how to reach a sense of balance in life between one’s obligations.

W.O.C. We Own Control: The Office of Student and Post-Graduate Development worked with the Center to put together a panel of five women of color alumni to speak to their experiences navigating F&M while simultaneously navigating their identities in a predominantly and historically white institution. Over a catered dinner, the panelists answered both prepared and impromptu audience questions and helped continue important conversations surrounding representation, access, distribution of labor, and racial equity at F&M.
Campus Climate Survey: In addition to having Women’s Center Student Board members table to raise awareness for and participation in the Campus Climate Survey, the Center also provided a space for students to participate in the survey and ask questions relating to its content. Administered by Rankin and Associates, the survey is designed to collect information relating to the experiences of various different identity groups on F&M’s campus so as to assist in a more equitable allocation of necessary resources.
People of Color Alliance (POCA) Snacks and Solidarity: The People of Color Alliance of faculty and staff used the Center to host a gathering for students of color to de-stress and share in community to conclude an exhausting week of protests and conversations surrounding how the school can most effectively move forward. In addition to creating an art installation to stay in the Center, attendees had the opportunity to use coloring books, read, converse, and unwind.

LGBTQ+ Staff and Faculty Night Out: LGBTQ+ Student Life collaborated with the Office of the Provost through the Provost’s Initiative on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to sponsor a night out for LGBTQ+ staff and faculty at Gypsy Kitchen. Attendees were able to share in community while enjoying an array of hors d’oeuvres and desserts.
Dismantling the Tools of White Feminism Student-Led Discussion: This student-led discussion focused on the many ways in which White Feminism manifests itself in our daily lives. We explored gaslighting, tears, TERFS, etc. as tools that work to serve white feminism.
Transgender Day of Remembrance: SAGA and LGBTQ+ life held a vigil in the Women's Center for the Transgender folks who were killed this year. During the vigil, the names of all the trans folks who passed were read aloud, and on TDOR SAGA placed trans flags with the name of each person on Hartman Green in order to honor their lives.

Everybody, Every Body SAGA Art Show: SAGA hosted an Art Show with pieces relating to the theme of “Everybody, Every Body.” Submissions for the show were open to all students and invited the artists to examine different kinds of bodies and different ways of thinking about how bodies look and work. The event took place in Booth Ferris and provided a fascinating array of perspectives from a number of incredibly talented artists.

Decolonize Your Bookshelf Installation: Members of the Women’s Center Student Board put together an installation entitled “Decolonize Your Bookshelf,” which included almost forth different authors of color across six different genres. The project invited observers to interrogate the use of the word “decolonize,” which is typically used in relation to Native land rights and provided a synopsis of each book as well as information on where it could be found on campus.
World AIDS Day Ribbons: To honor World AIDS Day, the Center made red solidarity ribbons available and put together a photo installation in the atrium of College Center that traced the history of the AIDS epidemic and the many different facets of queer activism that emerged in response to it. The ribbons and the installation served to connect students with their larger queer lineage and to counteract the erasure of this crucial piece of ongoing history.

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This student-led discussion took a look at Ecofeminism, a form of feminism that draws a connection between the state of the environment and the oppression of women. During this event, students explored topics such as the Flint Water Crisis to demonstrate how low-income communities have unequal distribution of resources. Climate Change is impacting all women worldwide, and this presentation aimed to represent that feminism includes fighting for their rights and health as well.

The Galentine’s Make and Take focused on the Galentine’s Day celebration which happens every year on February 13th. Craft materials such as cards, stickers, markers, and glue sticks were provided to students in order to aid them in the creation of Galentine’s Day gifts and art. To provide access to as many students as possible, the event ran from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Music was DJ’d by students and a full candy bar was provided.
The Women’s Center hosted a dinner for the poet Kimberly Johnson. During this intimate time students were able to hear Johnson talk a bit about her work, and were able to ask questions touching on topics such as craft, poetry in education, and the publishing world. This was the first of a series of events hosting Johnson at F&M.

The Women’s Center collaborated with FEM&M Magazine, Writers House and the Center for Sustainable Environment to host a clothing swap where participants exchange articles of clothing free of charge. Period. Lancaster was also on hand to collect donations of menstrual products that would later be distributed to the Lancaster community.
The Center hosted F&M President Barbara Altmann for an informal conversation surrounding the ongoing search for F&M's new Chief Diversity Officer and to answer questions about how F&M is approaching ideas of diversity, equity and inclusion at the institutional level. Attendees were welcome to share their thoughts and concerns in order to move discussion forward and be a part of the necessary task of appointing someone to the position.
Both the ADWC and LGBTQ+ Student Life sponsored the Consent Beyond Yes workshop to continue to engage with F&M students about questions of consent, power, desire, exploration and communication. The workshop was offered at two different times in Booth Ferris and was led by sex educators Emma Daley and Fuzzy Konner.

To celebrate International Women’s Day, the ADWC held a student-led panel and discussion about global feminisms in the Center and a solidarity demonstration on Hartman Green in what has become an annual day of dialogue, community and action. During the demonstration, members of the Women’s Center student board handed out hundreds of laptop stickers expressing solidarity with women.

Following Spring Break, Franklin and Marshall College closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting all learning to remote instruction and requiring all programming to move to remote forms of engagement. While the ADWC’s physical space remained empty, the Center released a weekly F&Minist Dispatch to keep feminist dialogue alive despite students, faculty and staff being spread across the country and around the world.