

James Farmer Multicultural Center

Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report

Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Celebration – October 19 – 24

- This celebration looked to pay tribute to the contributions of LGBTQ+ people in music and the performing arts. The theme was “Rockin’ Reunion!” Programs for this week were hosted virtually and included a movie and discussion, a discussion panel, and a dance. The keynote speaker was Rosemary Ketchum, the first trans person elected to the City Council in Wheeling, WV.

Asian Cultural Celebration – October 26 – 31

- The theme was “A Night Out: Asia Under the Stars.” Events for the week included a lecture, a karaoke/game night event, as well as a movie night, all held via Zoom. The keynote event featuring the Thai Nattasin dance performers was canceled due to illness of a few members of the group. The celebration ended with the popular annual celebration, Taste of Asia, which highlighted different aspects of Asian culture presented through a fashion show, dance performances, and cooking demonstrations of an array of ethnic foods.

Jewish Cultural Celebration – November 2 – 6

- The annual Jewish Cultural Celebration was co-sponsored by the Jewish Student Association and the JFMC. The Jewish Cultural Celebration keynote speaker, Rabbi Dr. Julia Belser, was excellent. There were a few other virtual programs throughout this celebration including a presentation on antisemitism and a challah making night. The week concluded with a Shabbat Dinner.

Native American Cultural Celebration – November 9 – 13

- This celebration strove to showcase the wide range of customs, civilizations, and languages that have emerged and shaped the founding of several societies. The theme was “Indigenous People: Honoring Our Legacy.” Scheduled programs included a Native American dinner in the University Center, 4th floor, a film and discussion, a presentation on Rappahannock Indian History, and outstanding Native American Cultural Celebration keynote speaker, Sherry Salway Black of the Oglala Lakota Nation.

Academic Collaborations

- Program support with Dr. Steve Rabson, adjunct instructor in the Classics, Philosophy and Religion department, for a program entitled, "Exploring the History of Asian Markets in the U.S.," on Monday, October 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Program support with the Social Justice and Leadership Summit held on Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 5 pm via Zoom. There were four concurrent sessions led by UMW faculty members during the afternoon. The topics of the concurrent sessions were "Between Borders," "House is on Fire," Social Justice Theories," and "Unequal by Design." The faculty colleagues who facilitated these sessions were Dr. Melissa Martinez, Dr. Eric Bonds, Dr. Danny Tweedy, and Dr. Christine Henry, respectively.
- Program support with Mr. Scott Harris, executive director of the University Museums, on a presentation entitled, "Rappahannock Indian History in the Colonial Period," on Wednesday, November 11 at 6 pm via Zoom.