

# LGBTQ LIFE



SUMMARY FOR 2020-2021



This report highlights programs and projects connected to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Life office at Johns Hopkins University. This report provides an overview of events from the academic year 2020-2021.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**COVID-19 Operations.** Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all operations took place virtually throughout the academic year. We continued in our mission of providing support, education, and advocacy to the JHU community. As we look towards in-person operations in the fall, we will consider lessons learned from this experience and consider retaining some virtual programs.

**National Coming Out Day – October 9.** We hosted two Zoom events in honor of National Coming Out Day. In the morning, we heard stories of coming out and shared experiences. In the afternoon, we discussed media portrayals of coming out and shared our favorite fictional coming out depictions.

**ThanksGayVing – November 22.** DSAGA and LGBTQ Life partnered to ensure that this tradition was held virtually. Participants received a mailing with a recipe card, stickers, origami instructions, and origami paper. Then, participants met over Zoom to cook a ThanksGayVing specialty together. We also shared video acknowledgements of the event from President Ronald Daniels, Joanne Rosen, and other supporters.

**World AIDS Day – November 28 – December 3.** This series of events and social media posts highlighted the history and present of AIDS/HIV. It was a joint effort from student groups including Sigma Gamma Rho, Lambda Pi Chi, Alpha Phi Alpha, DSAGA, and PEEPS. LGBTQ Life also sponsored a virtual display of the AIDS Quilt, highlighting squares that honor lives lost to HIV in Baltimore and Maryland.

**Show Your Love | February 14.** We hosted Show Your Love as a virtual tradition. Members of the JHU community submitted photos to show their love for the LGBTQ community. We compiled the photos into a video that was shared on our social media platforms.

**Lavender Celebration | May 2.** Because we were not able to gather in person, our Lavender Celebration tradition was held over Zoom. 75 people joined us to look back on the year and celebrate our graduates. Introducers recorded a personal audio or video introduction to each of the graduates, creating a meaningful program for the 21 students we were honoring.



Lavender Celebration Graduates 2021

## LGBTQ LIFE

LGBTQ Life was founded in 2013. The office provides support, education, and advocacy around sexual orientation, gender identity, and the intersections of those identities with other identities. In collaboration with our many campus partners, we are working towards making Hopkins a safer and more inclusive place for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Demere Woolway is the director for LGBTQ Life, which also employs four undergraduate interns and a graduate assistant.

### Support

Demere Woolway met regularly with students and other members of the Hopkins community, in order to provide **one-on-one support**, resources, and referrals. **Meet-ups** and **mentoring** connect students around aspirations and identities. This year, we held 26 gatherings of various sizes (most of them virtual). We hosted the **OUTlist**, an online directory of out LGBTQ members of the Hopkins community, which now has 249 members. We regularly share information through **our weekly email newsletter** and **social media**. We also began hosting **virtual office hours** on Discord.

### Education

**Safe Zone trainings** are 3 hour sessions that anyone can attend and learn more about the LGBTQ community. We pivoted to providing these sessions entirely online. From June 2020 – June 2021, we trained 580 people in 35 sessions. We held and collaborated on 42 educational **speakers, panels, presentations, and discussions**, including the new **Out in the Workplace Series** and the **Community Voices Series**. We designed and administered online **Identity and Inclusion workshops** with support from Diversity and Inclusion colleagues.

### Advocacy

A large-scale project involves working towards the inclusion of **pronouns in computer systems**, which should become officially launched in fall 2021. We are also working on projects related to **gender affirming health care** and **body positivity**.

## LGBTQA ORGANIZATIONS AT HOPKINS

We partnered with organizations across Hopkins that support and serve the LGBTQA community. Students join DSAGA, oSTEM, Graduate Queer Straight Alliance (GQSA), Gertrude Stein Society, and SAIS Pride. Other groups include LGBTQ Working Group (SPH), and Allies in the Workplace (APL). Finally, we have a great relationship with JHU Pride, which serves LGBTQA alumni.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are looking forward to a safe return to campus in the fall. We will examine which programs should be held virtually and which will be held in person. We plan to continue many of our traditions, including **National Coming Out Day**, **ThanksGayVing**, and **World AIDS Day**.



**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender, and Queer Life**

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