

Participating in International Education Week

Stephanie Arndt
FEATURES EDITOR

Here at Hope, we are educated “for lives of leadership and service in a global society,” per our mission statement, so what better way to learn than to take part in International Education Week? Hope and other educational institutions have been taking part in this joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education, striving to educate more people on more than just our own countries. In case you haven’t been attending this week’s events, here are some more ways to participate in learning about other cultures:

International Music

You may have noticed songs like “Despacito” (released first by Luis Fonsi, featuring Daddy Yankee, and later remixed by Justin Bieber) and “Gangnam Style” (released by the artist Psy in 2012) increasing in popularity. Although many people don’t know the lyrics or lack a definite translation, there’s something about music that overcomes language. Below is a list of just a few popular genres that are used within a variety of cultures:

K-Pop - Pop in general is adapted in many countries. This is just what it sounds like—Korean Pop.

Reggaeton - Most often characterized as Spanish rap.

EDM - Electronic Dance Music, popular in Europe and the U.S.

Latin - Although this genre has many sub-genres, it’s clear that the sounds of Latin music are very popular amongst Spanish speaking countries and others.

Ballad - Also known as a French creation, ballads were traditional storytelling techniques in poems that have adapted to music.

This Saturday, **IMAGES: A Reflection of Cultures** will take place at the Knickerbocker Theatre, where different countries will be represented by Hope students who will sing, dance or play to songs are representative of their cultures or interests.

International Shopping

From clothing to food, each country has a unique take on what’s in and what’s not. Downtown, **The Bridge** is a fair trade store that imports many handmade products from around the world. If you walk in, you’ll find bowls and jewelry that have been hand-woven in other countries.

There isn’t a ton of Holland-based stores to get some items from other cultures, but here are popular items that you can purchase online or even at a local World Market to experience just a little bit of what it’s like to shop somewhere else:

Bento Box - A Japanese version of a lunch box that divides your food and keeps it ready to eat.

Kimchi - A Korean staple that is a mix of napa cabbage and other spices and vegetables.

Dashiki shirt - A common West African shirt that’s colorful and patterned in a V-shape style.

Naan - This diverse bread can be considered the Asian tortilla, as it extends to many countries in Southern Asia.

Marzipan - Associated with Germany, this sweet treat comes in many shapes and varieties.

International Friends

As a Phelps Scholar, many of the people I began my journey at Hope with were from different countries. From China, India, Africa and even Canada, many students travel to Hope for its global education and understanding. If you haven’t met someone from a different country and gotten to know what makes their culture tick, what have you even been doing? Go out there; meet some people. Gain some knowledge and put your understanding to practice. It’s other countries, after all, that make our world.



Friday 11/10
3:00 pm: Global Coffee Hour: Focus on Japan
-MMC 1st Floor Rotunda

Monday 11/13
9:00 am to 12:00 pm: Hot Chocolate in the Pinegrove
-Pinegrove

Tuesday 11/14
11:00 am: Global Coffee Hour
-MMC 1st Floor Rotunda

Wednesday 11/15
7:30 pm: Inside Islam Documentary and Discussion
-MMC Fried Hemenway Auditorium

Thursday 11/16
4:30 pm: Philosophy Speaker Series - Islamic Hadiths
-Schaap Auditorium 1019
7:00 pm: International Trivia Night
-MMC 239

Saturday 11/18
7:00 pm: Images - A Reflection of Cultures
-Knickerbocker Theater

HOPE COLLEGE CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

International Food

What better way to delve into another culture than eat what they eat? In Holland, it’s hard to find restaurants that serve authentic food that represent just one culture because we have all embraced several more cultures as our world progresses. However, some restaurants come close. Below is a list of locally owned places that are my personal favorites:

Thai Palace - A local Thai restaurant similar to Sabai, but with a larger menu including curry and other traditionally spiced food.

Sabai Laotian Cafe - A mix of Laotian foods and classics like pho, a traditional soup, pad thai and bubble tea.

Ramirez Bakery - A small shop that sells Mexican breads like conchas and even makes its own manguanas.

China Kitchen - The best take-out in town, this restaurant doesn’t have much room to sit but has much to give.

Mizu Sushi - Japanese cuisine and sushi creations range from udon, a Japanese soup, to fried octopus.

DeBoer’s Bakery - This breakfast stop prides itself on a Dutch-based menu and bakery.

Margarita’s - A family owned Mexican restaurant with authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex food.

Holland is also home to Mi Favorita Grocery (a Mexican store located just off of Hope’s campus) and Huynh Plaza Oriental Foods where you can buy spices, food and other items from.