

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Cultural Minority Week

Last week MLC students celebrated Cultural Minority Week. Through events hosted by the Service and Cross Cultural Learning Committee, they learned about home mission fields, heard the perspectives of several different minorities, and tried ethnic foods, gaining new insights to aid them in understanding minority groups.

MLC hosted several presenters, including Pastor Keith Siverly from Mankato who, along with seminary student Chuol Buol, spoke about Sudanese ministry. Pastor Kirk Massey, the Apache pastor in Arizona, presented on his ministry on the Apache reservation.

Minority students on two panels shared their stories, their paths to MLC, and how their experiences will affect their future ministries. A special Tuesday Trivia featured unique prizes. And to end the week, the MLC cafeteria featured foods prepared by the students, such as frybread, tortillas, hushpuppies, sweet tea, and spam musubi to represent the different groups and their heritage.



Michael Wu (California LHS / Reformation-San Diego CA), **Elijah Kroll** (Lincoln HS / St. John-Lake City MN), **Sam Lor** (Sumner Academy / Grace Hmong-Kansas City KS), **Matt Zeng** (LPS / New Life-Shoreview MN), and **Yaffet Gabayehu** (LPS / Shepherd of Peace-Powell OH) form one of the student panels.

Meet Isaac Hayes

Isaac Hayes (ALA / Emmanuel-Tempe AZ), a senior preseminary student, was the lead student coordinator for the Cultural Minority Week events. He is a Yaqui Native American, born and raised in Phoenix. In addition to being half Yaqui from his mom's side, he is also Scottish, Irish, Swedish, Puerto Rican, and Spanish on his father's side.

In seventh grade, Isaac attended Emmanuel LES, which marked the beginning of his family becoming Lutheran. Before that, he'd gone to public school and was raised Catholic. He went on to Arizona Lutheran Academy, where God led him to choose MLC so that he could become a pastor. He has loved life in Arizona and will always thank God for blessing his family, giving him the experiences he's had, and allowing him to live where the culture is extremely diverse.

"To state the obvious," he says, "I look different. It's something that does not escape my attention when I, along with a small group of others, am of a different 'color' or 'culture.' But that does not faze me. All MLC students are different, and we all have unique personalities, backgrounds, and lives."

Isaac likes to look at the positives of his situation. As a Native American, he can share his experiences and knowledge with fellow MLC students while they do the same for him. A cultural exchange occurs, and that, for him, is the most important thing he has learned as a minority. He says that the connections we have are more important than race, color, or culture. The best thing about MLC is that we have Christ and his wonderful gospel message as a commonality, and sharing that news is a privilege we all enjoy.

