

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI

A Taste of Other Cultures

Right before MLC students headed home for Thanksgiving break, we had an opportunity to thank God for our international students and learn more about their cultures. Under the direction of **Professor Tingting Schwartz**, the Cultural Engagement Center organized the festivities, including ethnic food nights, student presentations, panel discussions, and more.

“International Education Week prepares Americans for a global environment and attracts future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences,” said Tingting. “It’s celebrated by most universities in the United States and in over 100 countries overseas. It’s been celebrated at MLC since 2012.”

Ziwen (Peter) Shi (*MLS / St. Paul-Saginaw MI*) enjoyed what the cafeteria had to offer. He said, “It is so valuable to celebrate the differences in our cultures, and ethnic food is a fun way to share a little taste of home with students and faculty.”

Zirui Wang (*Shoreland LHS / St. John-Oak Creek WI*) loved the panel discussion he was a part of. “After hearing some of my international peers be vulnerable about their experiences (which I am always hesitant to do), I was encouraged by the response of other students. No one was rude—they were all genuinely interested and empathetic. It’s good for us to step out of our comfort zones sometimes!”

In Christ We Are One

One of the super cool parts about training for ministry at MLC is gaining an appreciation for the unique skillset of each individual for the work they will accomplish. God truly has blessed each and every one of us with gifts to use for his kingdom work, and our international students are no exception!

“I hope to be able to relate to students who feel like an ‘outsider’ to this culture and environment,” said sophomore **Zihui Lou** (*Manitowoc LHS / Grace-Manitowoc WI*). “I want to be a teacher students love to talk to before classes start. That interpersonal relationship is so important to me.”

Zihui went on to talk about how important it is for all of us future called workers to learn as much as we can about other cultures. “International students can often feel frustrated as they try to learn in an unfamiliar culture. They need a nurturing instructor who can help them control their emotions and grow despite these challenges. The more students are educated about other cultures at MLC, the more they will appreciate their international students as smart, talented, and valuable.”

Do you speak a second language? Do you have a passion for learning about other cultures? You’d certainly love getting involved with our Cultural Engagement Center, and MLC’s faculty would love the chance to give you the tools you need to start your cross-cultural ministry. Or perhaps you’re an international student. Maybe MLC could illuminate some unique ways God can use your experience in ministry—as he did with Tingting. She said, “I often say that my cross-cultural ministry is at MLC in New Ulm. God has called me to use all my experiences and expertise to build up his kingdom here. What a privilege and blessing I have!”



Tingting brought a couple adorable sidekicks to enjoy Chinese night in the caf.



Kostia Skorenkyi (*LPS / Confessional Lutheran Church-Ukraine*) gave a presentation about Ukraine after chapel.



Canadian student **Renée Johnson** (*Canterbury HS / St. Paul-Ottawa ON, center*) with **Lily Zimpelmann** (*LPS / Immanuel-Manitowoc WI, left*) and **Corianna Lamb** (*LPS / Beautiful Savior-Grove City OH*) at Canada night in the caf