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Mohawk College welcomes the world!

Last fall, Mohawk College welcomed more than 3,000 international students, including 1,200 new students, 1,800 returning and over 400 in co-op/part-time programs. With students coming to Mohawk from more than 80 countries around the world, India, China, Vietnam, Nigeria and the Republic of Korea are the countries most represented in our international student body.

In this newsletter, our focus is on the many initiatives happening across the college to build global competencies and we also feature ongoing updates from College-wide supports, Mohawk International and our partners across the College.



Volunteers helping at International Orientation Fall 2018



Upcoming events

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION JANUARY 10

All new international students are invited to join us at the Arnie for a fun and information packed event to learn about Mohawk and the community!

HOW TO SUCCEED AT MOHAWK JANUARY 16

New international students will learn valuable success strategies at this essential event.

COFFEE CLUB JANUARY 16

Friends, coffee and stories make a perfect combo. Join us for the first Coffee Club of the New Year.

International Strategic Plan

Mohawk International's focus is to deliver a Great Experience that develops Global Citizens all while building Mohawk College as an international Best Practice Leader.



GREAT EXPERIENCE



GLOBAL CITIZENS



LEADER

Message from the Dean of International

Did you ever take a difficult course or join a gym and think or had the feeling – this is going to be challenging? As we grow – a positive thing – we usually need to adjust to new realities. International students attend Mohawk College based on their desire to come to Canada, a “Mohawk” recommendation from friends and our alumni, and the well-deserved reputation of our teachers. This year, Mohawk welcomed over 3,000 international students to Hamilton. Our international growth is challenging us to ‘step-up’ and deliver on our promise to our students, faculty and staff to make the 2018-19 year another outstanding year.

In this issue, we report on our continued efforts to support students in their transition to life in Hamilton. You will read about how Sunwoong, an English language student, builds skills to participate fully in our community. We also share our experiences with welcoming students before they come to Hamilton (Pre-Departure Orientation), Right out of the Gate (at Pearson Airport), and at the International Student Orientation.

With a new slate of activities planned by the Language & Culture Centre team, we are realizing the benefits of building cross-cultural skills across the college. Events like the Thanksgiving Coffee Club, Diwali and others create a sense of pride in our contributions to the layers of a global fabric here at Mohawk.

Finally, as a last word, I would like to thank the international all-star team as we recognize new, returning and award-winning faces amongst us.



Keith Monrose,
Dean of Mohawk International

Student Profile – getting to know our students

In each newsletter, we profile an international student who is currently studying at Mohawk.

Sunwoong Pyeon

Graduated EAP Student

Enrolled in Software Support (Computer Technician Program), Mohawk

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN IN THE EAP PROGRAM?

I started the EAP Program in January 2017 in Level 5 with Susan McElwain. I was nervous to begin the program but had many opportunities to speak English with my classmates, practice writing and learn Canadian customs, like using eye contact when speaking. This made me more confident and excited to learn in the other levels.

HOW DID THE EAP PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM?

The EAP program really helped me prepare for my current Software Support program at Mohawk College

by improving my communication skills, leadership skills, and presentation skills.

WHAT SUPPORTS DID YOU UTILIZE IN THE EAP PROGRAM?

I volunteered a lot in the EAP program with new student start-up and orientation. I liked these opportunities as I could act as a mentor and friend for new international students, making their first time at Mohawk a positive one. Now that I've graduated from the EAP Program, I still enjoy volunteering, and was part of the EAP Graduate Panel, sharing information about my time in EAP to new students. I really enjoy these opportunities to volunteer, make new friends, and improve my speaking.



WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER STUDENTS IN THE EAP PROGRAM, WISHING TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES AT MOHAWK COLLEGE?

This is a difficult question, but I would absolutely tell students to make friends from different cultures. This will let you improve your communication skills, make new friends, learn new cultures and feel supported. Also, I would tell students to come to the Language and Culture Center (LCC) to volunteer and get involved whenever possible.



EAP eClass in J103

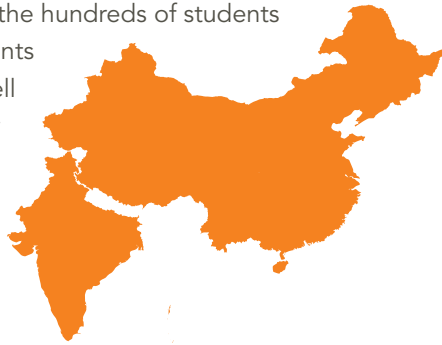
Left, Frank Nasic, EAP eClass Instructor, teaches students in the newly remodeled interactive classroom. The International department is currently piloting the use of mobile tablets to enhance student engagement.



Welcoming International Students to Mohawk

Pre-departure orientation sets students up for success

This past summer Mohawk International hosted 7 pre-departure events throughout China and India. These events are designed to help prepare international students for their transition to Canada and time studying at Mohawk College. Several hours in length, these events offer an opportunity for students and parents to gain important information on life in Canada, living in Hamilton and how to be successful in their academic studies at Mohawk College. Students and parents have the opportunity to speak with Mohawk International staff as well as ask questions of current and former students about how to make the most of their time here at Mohawk. As a result, the hundreds of students who attend these events every summer feel well supported and better prepared for their life-changing journey ahead.



Market Specialist Maggie Chen at Pre-Departure event in Beijing, China



Market Specialists Maggie Chen and Kevin Wang and Coordinator - International Agents Nancy Pitman with future students and parents at Pre-Departure Orientation in Guangzhou, China



Market Specialist Vinay Joshi with future Mohawk students at Pre-Departure event in Gujarat, India

Right out of the Gate

During the September 2018 startup, Mohawk College partnered with McMaster University, Columbia International College and the City of Hamilton to deliver a bright and warm welcome to newly arriving international students at Pearson International Airport. The presence of volunteers in bright orange shirts was hard to miss at both terminals for the duration of the month of August. Students were not only greeted, they were given information on how to get to Hamilton, offered free calls home at the iCent booth, given help to establish wi-fi connections and to access currency exchange, and offered general information about Mohawk College. Over 350 Mohawk students were helped by this service and the team will be picking up again next summer for a full month of welcoming our students.



International Student Orientation

On September 6th, almost 450 new international students joined us in the McIntyre Theatre for their New Student Orientation. The Orientation event for new students is an exposure to programming, supports, workshops and leadership opportunities unique to international student needs. As part of the event, students enjoyed the motivational messaging and music of Blake Fly, who spoke about the importance of getting involved, and breaking out of your comfort zone to make new connections.

We also hosted a trivia contest which engaged the students in voting for their burning questions as new students, supported by services like the MSA, Guard Me, and Mo Money. Students also had an opportunity to enter a draw to win funds on their OneCards that could go toward expenses on campus like textbooks, and were treated to a meal and networking after the event. Student Orientations and "How to Succeed at Mohawk" workshops are offered at every intake for new international students.



Orientation video: <https://youtu.be/52UnWgR8w6E>



Student winners of One Card funds at International Orientation draw

Thanksgiving Coffee Club

Every two weeks students, staff and faculty are welcome to partake in Coffee Club - a conversation club coordinated by International Coach Jacques Heri Soares da Silva which engages international and domestic students in discussions and group activities. Thanksgiving Coffee Club was amazing! We had a great turnout where students and staff participated in many games, including a "Kahoot" (interactive quiz) with questions about the history of Thanksgiving, and differences between Canadian and American Thanksgiving. All are welcome to join us at Coffee Club which occurs every other week in J137 at Fennell Campus.

Read more and see the schedule: www.mohawkcollege.ca/coffeeclub



International Supports Update

As mentioned in the last Mohawk International newsletter, the College launched several new positions to provide support to both faculty and students in an effort to promote international student success. Here is an update on some of the great work happening in this area!

Faculty Leads Supporting Success

HEALTH, WELLNESS & FITNESS PROGRAM COFFEE CLUB

The HWF Coffee Club, led by School of Health International Faculty Lead Tara-Lyn Dinyer, was held Monday, Sept. 24 at 6:00pm. The purpose of the Club is to provide an opportunity, early in the semester, for both international and domestic students to connect socially with others in their program, ask questions and learn about supports available to them. Supports from International, Kelley Hoyt and Advisor Maria Bracalenti, were on hand to answer questions from the 18 students in attendance. All enjoyed stimulating coffee and conversation and appreciated the opportunity to connect.



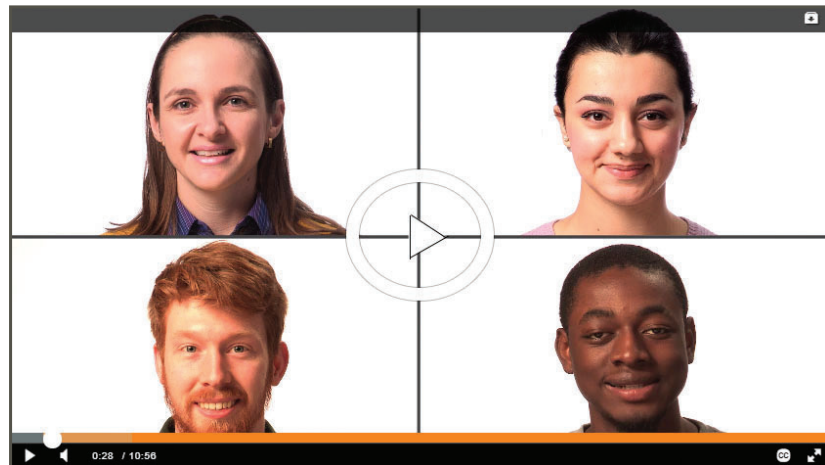
UPDATE FROM KELLEY HOYT - Teaching & Learning Consultant - International Education (CTL)

Kelley Hoyt, Teaching & Learning Consultant - International Education with Andrew Connery in the Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) have developed a video on the CTL website that illustrates some of the common challenges faced by international students and what faculty members can do to support students. See a link to the video below.

Additionally, work continues with the Faculty Leads on various projects aimed at supporting teaching excellence. There are three project areas including the Faculty Professional Development series, the Faculty Toolkit, and the Student Toolkit.

For further information or to book a customized professional development session for yourself or your team, please contact Kelley at kelley.hoyt@mohawkcollege.ca or 905-575-1212 ext. 3504.

Supporting our International Learners: Resources for Faculty video



<https://www.mohawkcollege.ca/employees/centre-for-teaching-learning/faculty-support-international>

Enhancing cultural understanding through experiential learning

Faculty and staff attended an experiential learning opportunity offered through the Centre for Teaching & Learning to Gurdwara Shaheedgarh Sahib in Dundas in November. Maneet Singh Boparai, a member and volunteer at the temple provided a tour and talk about Sikh history and culture. It was a very informative session – faculty left with knowledge, empathy and full stomachs as a delicious meal was shared as well!

Experiential learning opportunities have been developed as a result of faculty and staff interest in learning more about the culture, history and spirituality of students. Faculty and staff are committed to providing a welcoming experience for their international students by learning more about various cultural backgrounds. For further information or to learn more about upcoming opportunities, please contact Kelley Hoyt in CTL.



International Faculty Professional Development Workshops

During the summer, the International Faculty Leads in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching & Learning offered the workshop “**The Five W’s of International: Who, What, Where, When, & Why of Supports for International Students and Faculty**” on May 16 and repeated it on August 1.

On November 6, 7 and 8 the Leads offered the workshop “**Multi-Cultural Classrooms – Facilitating collaborative relationships within diverse student environments**” at all three campuses. This workshop was part one of a three part series. Stay tuned for parts 2 and 3 next term:

WORKSHOP 2:

Best practices for inclusive classrooms

WORKSHOP 3:

Practical strategies for connecting students in the classroom

UPDATE FROM HUSSAM ELDIB - International Student Career Advisor



Hussam Eldib

Hussam Eldib is an International Student Career Advisor working in Student & Graduate Employment. He helps students with strategies for working in Canada, how to apply for a job and also offers a wide range of workshops and events.

Below is a list of some of the workshops Hussam offered in the fall term and will offer in upcoming terms:

NEED A PART-TIME JOB? How to write a professional resume, how to apply for jobs online as well as strategies to uncover hidden job opportunities.

JOB CLUB An informal gathering twice a month that covers all aspects of finding a job.

SIN CLINIC Students wishing to work in Canada can have a SIN processed onsite by a Service Canada representative.

JOB READY WORKSHOP SERIES (3 SESSIONS) Features the pre-job search stage, the job search stage and post job-search stage.

WES (WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES) PRESENTATION A WES representative provides information on educational credential assessments for degrees and diplomas earned outside of Canada.

MEET AN IMMIGRATION EXPERT A Settlement Specialist discusses immigration-related issues faced by international students.

EMPLOYER PANEL DISCUSSION Three employers from various sectors share advice and information to prepare for the job search.

Watch MyMohawk for updates!





News from International Recruitment

The International Recruitment team has been busy this year. They have touched down in various countries around the globe. Take a minute to uncover the places they've been and recognize their growing impact.



Ricardo Rivera

Going South with Ricardo Rivera

One of the newest members of the Mohawk International team is Ricardo. As the market specialist for Latin America you will find Ricardo splitting his time between Canada, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico where he supports prospective students and key partners in the region. Originally from Colombia, Ricardo enjoys helping students choose the right education to fulfill their career goals and contributes to helping them achieve a positive Canadian experience. Ricardo is fluent in Spanish and is currently learning Portuguese in order to better support our students from Brazil.

Ricardo had this to say upon returning recently from his first trip abroad for Mohawk College: "I recently came back from promoting our college in Colombia and Brazil, two countries that never fail to surprise me with their kindness, enthusiasm and eagerness to live life to its fullest. Students in both countries show great interest in pursuing their studies at Mohawk College and enjoy learning what the Hamilton area has to offer. I am proud to help Latin Americans fulfill their education goals in Canada and look forward to promoting our College for years to come."

Check out where our Market Specialists have been recently:



Making Moves Across the Globe



The International Recruitment team consists of eight regional specialists who travel around the world developing relationships with partners and recruiting students to Mohawk College. Activity can include student fairs, partner visits, trainings and institutional visits. Take a look at some of our Market Specialists in action.



Market Specialist for South Korea, HyeMin (Mina) Kim at the student recruitment fair "EFC Daegu" in Daegu, South Korea



Market Specialist for Nigeria, David Thompson with prospective students at a recruitment fair in Abuja, Nigeria

A world of information for international students



Find a world of helpful information, videos, tips and more for international students.

www.mohawkcollege.ca/international



Website Refresh

The Mohawk International website received a facelift at the end of September. The refreshed site features:

- Streamlined navigation
- Updated, welcoming content
- More videos and graphics, including videos created for students by students and photos of actual Mohawk students

New sections on life in Hamilton, a guide for parents, video tutorials for students, and improved ways to get in touch are just some of the updates!



Students Taking Flight

Through the Career Ready fund, a provincial government grant that supports the development of experiential learning opportunities for students, Mohawk College received funding to develop and enhance experiential learning opportunities both on and off campus. Part of the fund was dedicated to increasing global experiences for domestic students through international service learning trips to Jamaica, India and Greece. Mohawk's ultimate goal is to provide experiential learning opportunities to each student, thereby enhancing their educational experience and allowing them to be "career ready." The service learning trips to Greece and Jamaica took place in the fall of 2018.

Under the guidance of Kelley Hoyt, Teaching & Learning Consultant - International in the Centre for Teaching & Learning, Ryan Iles, Professor of Liberal Studies and Elyse Pipitone, Manager, LCC & Short-Term Programs, 12 students participated in a Global Experience to Chalkida, Greece from October 16-27, 2018. Students alongside faculty and staff worked at the Ritsona Refugee Camp for approximately 30 hours. The team helped in various capacities including providing supplies to residents at the distribution centre, helping families with their clothing needs at the Ritsona "Shop," helping residents in the laundry facilities, and interacting with women and children in the "Female Friendly" space.

Formerly an air force base, the Ritsona Refugee Camp was funded by the United Arab Emirates and the Red Cross to address the influx of asylum seekers that began entering Greece in 2015.

The team had the opportunity to learn about the refugee crisis in Greece and

the toll it has taken on the country as well as the asylum seekers who are fleeing their homes.

During the trip Kelley, Ryan, Elyse and one of the students presented live from Greece at the Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) conference which is offered each reading week by the Centre for Teaching & Learning. The team discussed how learning abroad experiences can be beneficial for intercultural competency development. Kelley, Ryan & Elyse are extremely proud of this team

of professional, courageous, kind and compassionate students who worked hard every step of the way!

The trip was part of the "Global Experience" 3 credit General elective course and students prepared heavily in advance and completed post-trip assignments as part of the course. The goal of the course is to increase intercultural and global competencies of students.



Project Jamaica

Students from the Computer Networking, Computer Software, Photography and Building Renovation programs were part of a trip of a lifetime where they were able to use their skills from their program of study to enhance Bowden Hill Primary, a rural school in the mountains of Bowden Hill, Jamaica. This opportunity provided Mohawk students with a unique work integrated learning experience where computer students installed 10 laptops and 4 projectors and facilitated workshops for students. The building and renovation students measured and developed specification drawings for much needed storage units and a new kitchen and the photography students captured every moment of the journey.

The week was filled with many cultural learning experiences from visiting Fern Gully, Craft Market Devon House and the Bob Marley Museum; however the true learning came from the time spent at Bowden Hill Primary. Mohawk students immersed themselves in each of the classrooms and quickly won the hearts of the Jamaican students and teachers.



The week culminated in a community celebration, hosted by Bowden Hill Primary and Mohawk College. Attended by over 300 parents and the broader Bowden Hill community, the event celebrated the collaboration of Project Jamaica and showcased the work that Mohawk students completed in a short period of time.

The last day concluded with a visit to the Embassy to meet with the Canadian High Commissioner Lori Peters; students discussed with Lori their interest in Project Jamaica. Mohawk staff and students had an incredible experience which provided a foundation for new learning opportunities for the students at Bowden Hill Primary.





Staff on the move in Mohawk International

Welcome, Rob Hicks, Acting Director of International Recruitment



Rob Hicks

Originally from the UK, Rob is new to Canada having moved here in late 2017 with his wife, a Hamilton native. Rob has worked in education management for more than 10 years and has enjoyed varied positions with the University of Leicester, United World Colleges International and Nord Anglia Education. Rob spent the previous four years living in Prague, Czech Republic working as Director of Admissions and Marketing at the English International School Prague, the country's highest performing international school.

Rob is excited to work with the Mohawk International team to continue to open the doors of Mohawk College to students from all over the world. Having lived in three countries himself he enjoys supporting others in fulfilling their ambition to gain an international education and life experience. In his spare time Rob enjoys sports, playing football (soccer!) in a Sunday league team and gazing in wonder that his once average team, Wolverhampton Wanderers, are in the Premier League.

Welcome, Natalie Hughes, to English for Academic Purposes (EAP)



Natalie Hughes

Natalie Hughes has returned from maternity leave into the role of Academic Manager for English for Academic Purposes (EAP). In this role, Natalie provides academic and administrative leadership for the EAP/ESL programs within Mohawk International's Language & Culture Centre.

With a history of personal travel and international teaching, she is passionate about international education.

Welcome, Nathan Tran, to International Recruitment



Nathan Tran

Nathan (Nam) Tran has many years of experience working with students and partners from Southeast Asia, and is happy to provide wholehearted support for their success at Mohawk College.

He enjoys interacting daily with students and partners as well as travelling within the region to advocate his strong belief that international education transforms lives.

Welcome, Maria Bracalenti, International Student Advisor



Maria Bracalenti has over 25 years experience working in a post-secondary environment and 12 years at Mohawk College. Maria has worked in several departments at the Fennell Campus, always with a focus on helping students succeed. In her roles as International Coach and her recent role as International Advisor, Maria has developed several initiatives to help international students transition into the college environment and navigate a new life in Canada including the launch of Coffee Club. Maria also initiated the Global Citizenship Certificate and is partnering with Mona Fathieh in the development of this series of workshops for students. Maria has a M.A. Ed. From Central Michigan University and was in the first cohort to graduate from this Mohawk-CMU degree program. Maria also was the first recipient of the Everyday Hero award and was a 2018 recipient of the Mohawk College President's Award of Excellence. Maria is a native of Hamilton and the proud mother of a Mohawk student (her son) and a daughter.



Welcome, Tayo Oluloro, to Mohawk International

Tayo Oluloro is Mohawk International's Admin & Purchasing Officer. Tayo has 9 years experience working in post-secondary educational institutions. During her time working in Oregon she was responsible for scheduling, purchasing, and earned a reputation as a dedicated and reliable staff member. Since joining Mohawk International in April 2018, she has already become a valuable member of the team and is known for her enthusiasm and commitment to helping staff and students. Tayo speaks several languages and brings a wealth of international experience. In this role, Tayo will be responsible for meeting coordination and support, purchasing and requisitions, as well as supporting on-boarding of new staff.

Welcome, Wendy Fillion, to Admissions Department



Wendy Fillion has been working in International Admissions since June 2018 as a Program Support Clerk. Wendy discovered her passion for helping students when she worked and volunteered around the College during the three years she attended Mohawk. Wendy is an honours graduate of the

General Business and Business Analysis programs and puts the skills she learned at Mohawk to use every day. She appreciates the opportunity to work with colleagues who sincerely try to make the international students feel welcome and supported.

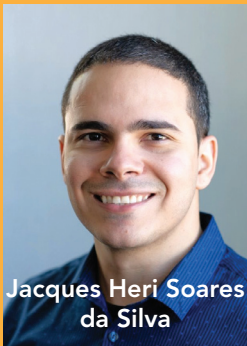
Welcome, Irene Walker, to English for Academic Purposes



Irene Walker's new role as the EAP Liaison Officer provides additional supports to EAP students outside of the classroom by creating a rich learning environment through EAP-focused workshops and activities. A few examples of exciting activities completed include: Mohawk Library and

researching skills tour; EAP graduate student panel; Stress relief workshop with Wellness4U; Trips to Royal Botanical Gardens and Mapletown at Mountsberg Conservation Area.

Welcome, Jacques Heri Soares da Silva, to International Student Services



International Student Services is pleased to welcome Jacques to the team as an International Student Services Coach. He will be taking over Maria Bracalenti's role as she moves on to the role of International Student Advisor. Jacques is not new to helping international students succeed at Mohawk, and has been working with Mohawk International as a Support Officer from June – September 2018. Jacques is from Brazil and has been in Canada since 2015. He began as a volunteer in the department and is now happy to be a part of the team due to its "strong, supportive culture as well as its commitment to staff and student success." In his spare time he loves eating sushi, cooking for family and friends, travelling and caring for his two rescued cats from Brazil.

Welcome, Nina Devolder, to English for Academic Purposes (EAP)



Nina Devolder is a new full-time EAP Professor in the GAS-EAP Program at Mohawk College. Nina has been teaching at Mohawk College since 2008 as a LINC and OSLT instructor. She has taught internationally in a variety of countries, is a strong believer in life-long learning and loves working with her students.

Welcome, Janet Munn, to International Student Services



Janet has worked in various positions at the college. She taught in Engineering Technology for 7 years and worked as a Support Officer and CE instructor in Continuing Education. In 2012, Janet backfilled for one of the International Advisors and gained skills and knowledge working every day with international students. Most recently Janet taught generic computer training, prior to joining International Student Services.



Lucy Lobodici

Farewell Lucy Lobodici

Lucy Lobodici was the Events Coordinator and a key member of the Student Life team organizing many significant events at the college, in particular taking the lead on planning International Education Week activities since 2004. Year after year Lucy researched and sourced events and activities to offer students an enhanced campus experience while showcasing the diversity of the many cultures represented across Mohawk College. Her passion for International Education Week was seen in the many activities offered for students and staff including the photo contest, bug eating challenge and Taste of the World in the cafeteria. Her efforts took her both on and off campus, while always working with the students to put their special mark on the week. November 2018 was Lucy's final International Education Week at Mohawk College and Lucy retired in December, 2018. We want to wish Lucy a happy and healthy retirement; students and staff will miss the enthusiasm and passion evident in all her projects – especially International Education Week.

International Education Week Celebrates Cultures of the World



International Education Week (IEW) is celebrated globally on the 3rd week of November at schools, colleges, universities, associations, businesses, governments, and nongovernmental organizations and is an opportunity to share our diverse cultures and prepare students for a global

environment. Mohawk has been proud to participate in this initiative for the past 14 years and this past fall with over 3,000 international students enrolled from over 80 countries, Mohawk had a lot to celebrate.

Annually Mohawk invites students to showcase their countries of origin by sharing their cultures including food, music, dance, art and more. This past year we featured Korea, Brazil, Italy, Turkey, China, Caribbean, India, Jamaica, Portugal, Poland, Japan and Canada along with the many talents shared by our students at the International Talent Showcase. Also, Mohawk's Indigenous Education and Student Services staff shared the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishnaabe people which allowed students to explore the seven traditional teaching principles and how they could implement these into their everyday lives.

It was a fun-filled week, with celebrations at all three campuses where students and staff learned about the importance of celebrating the cultures that create Mohawk.

Check out photos from the week at the website:
<https://www.mohawkcollege.ca/student-life-at-mohawk/activities-and-student-leadership/events-for-students/international>

International Education Week Korean Showcase

International Education Week took place November 12th - 16th and featured a range of exciting activities from cultural cooking demonstrations, a photo contest, raffles, prizes, and opportunities to try foods, dress and dances from around the world.

The South Korean Showcase took place on November 14th in the C Wing Atrium at Fennell campus and featured Korean foods Sikhye (rice juice) and Yugwa (rice crackers), K-pop dancing, traditional Korean games and dress. About 200 people attended to experience the culture of a large segment of our student population.



Students and staff enjoying the South Korean Showcase during International Education Week

Mohawk International staff retreat

The Mohawk International team attended an all-staff retreat on June 6th at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. The day focused on team building, mindfulness, fostering our inner leaders, and celebrating our success as a growing department. The Dean shared insights on the Strategic Plan and the International Team resolved to ensure continued success in serving the international student journey, pre-arrival, at Mohawk and after graduation.



Contact us!

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Mohawk International Staff Retreat, June 2017