Diversity on Campus

Students from all over the world converge on our small campus right here in Buies Creek, NC. According to our admissions office, there are 35 different states represented on campus. You and your classmates also represent 17 countries from around the world. Campbell’s undergraduate population is home to over five different religions and 18 denominational backgrounds within Christianity. It’s amazing to know that so many people from so many different backgrounds have the opportunity to come together in this small community. This situation puts you in a great position to learn about religions, cultures and ethnic groups that may be widely different from your own. A great place to start exploring the diverse opportunities at Campbell is in the councils and communities on campus that are dedicated to celebrating our diversity.

The Multicultural Council (MCC) is a great way to learn about other cultures and how they can work together on campus. The MCC plans and coordinates special activities including Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service and lecture series on differing topics related to cultural awareness. Events hosted by the MCC seek to promote campus unity and celebrate ethnic diversity by bringing students together from different backgrounds. The MCC raises awareness of the many different cultures that are represented on campus by offering activities for students to learn about these cultures. To learn more about the Multicultural Council, and the events that they plan, you may email the chairperson, Dr. Venancio Ibarra at ibarrav@campbell.edu.

Another great opportunity to meet individuals from other cultures and religious backgrounds is to speak with Andrea Streb, the Graduate Assistant for International Students. If you are interested in working with and learning from international students, Andrea can put you in contact with international clubs and organizations that meet on a regular basis. There are many clubs and organizations that host events to celebrate international and religious holidays. You may contact Andrea at intlga@campbell.edu.

These are only a couple of different opportunities available for you to be able to meet new people from different backgrounds. As a college student you may not realize or understand the unique opportunity you have to meet people from all over the world. This may be your only chance to be around such a diverse population. Go out on a limb and get to know people who are different from you. You may learn something new!
Although at times it can seem like college-level academic work receives little reward or recognition, the truth is that your hard work can be recognized before graduation. One of the ways Campbell University rewards such hard work through honor societies. These societies range from Kappa Delta Pi for Education Majors to Lambda Pi Eta for Communication Majors and many of them are part of larger, international organizations. Admission to these societies is granted by invitation and many of them include lifetime membership. Although requirements will vary, most societies have a standard GPA which has to be maintained in order to receive the society’s benefits. Such benefits include an initiation ceremony and dinner, access to distinguishing paraphernalia, and sometimes benefits and discounts when applying for things like insurance or field-related business.

If you have a declared major, chances are that there is an honor society at Campbell for your field of study. In addition to the above benefits, an honor society can function like a community of dedicated students that have similar interests and are committed to academic success. One of the greatest advantages of belonging to an honor society is the ability to include the name of your society on academic resumes and possible graduate school applications. Few things stand out as much as a name which acclaims academic achievement and hard work.

Another advantage to joining an honor society is the possible networking opportunities it may provide. Each chapter of a society has one or two faculty advisors who aid and participate with the society and its members. These advisors often have connections with the professional world outside the university and can help make connections you may not otherwise have achieved. Such advisors are perhaps more likely to recommend a student who is in an honor society and has proven him/herself to be academically capable.

My personal experience with Phi Kappa Phi has been an excellent one. Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest all-discipline honor society and has a great faculty advisor in Dr. Smith of the Communications Studies Department. Considering the benefits and relatively low cost of joining, I would definitely recommend considering an honor society in your field of study. It is in ways gratifying to know that my hard work and academic achievement has been rewarded and recognized.