



International Flare

JMU Festival celebrates JMU's cultures

JMU showcased its cultural diversity during the third annual International Week held Sept. 23 to Oct. 1. The week was filled with cultural performances, guest speakers, and various international food and music performances. Established in 1998, International Week has become a way to celebrate the international impact of students, staff, faculty, and community members on the university.

The week began with the Harrisonburg International Festival and concluded with the JMU World Cup Soccer Tournament. In between, JMU students and faculty enjoyed numerous events celebrating the cultures of various countries. Musical events included the Celtic sounds of Madeline MacNeil's hammered dulcimer and the African drumming of Darrell Rose. An international bazaar took over the Commons, outside the dining hall, where international craft booths, food vendors, and entertainment showcased JMU's international flavor.

Veteran actress Alma Martinez spoke to a capacity crowd at Grafton-Stovall Theatre, challenging students to change the way they view film and television. The following day international students and faculty, representing more than 80 countries, shared perspectives on the United States during an interactive discussion, "America Through Our Eyes." Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd, the international panelists discussed their experiences in their homeland and in coming to America to either study or teach.

The highlight of the week was Friday night's "International Extravaganza," featuring performances by Middle Eastern dancer Miramar, Spanish vocalist and pianist Angel Perez, ballroom dancing, martial arts demonstrations, a performance by the Hispanic Folklore Ballet, and a trio performance of world music. Those lucky enough to purchase tickets were entertained not only by the performances but also by the culinary delights of a buffet catered by the local Taste of Thai restaurant.

For photos and movie images of the week's events, visit the [JMU International Week 2000 Web site](#).