

# re.act

## ORIENTED

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIFE  
AT HAVERFORD

welcome	binvignut	vítejte	velkommen	Ḑuḑo eep dāi an cān
selamat datang	환영합니다	wëllkom	mirè se vini	المس و'الما
degemer mad	benvinguts	καλώς ἦρθατε	zupinje z te videtite	bonavinuta
tere tulemast	lervetuloa	fáilte	bienvéni	boyeji bolamu
dobrodošli	benvido	ਜੀ ਆਇਆ ਨ	merhba	歡迎光臨
karibuni	mikouabô	bienvenue	üdvözlöm	ne y waongo
murakaza neza	bem-vindos	velkomin	welkom	vätkomna
chào mừng	lāipni lūdzam	sveiki atvykę	mal gayang pagdating	מבשרים בברכה
まっこそ	weikom	tonga soa	miawezon	mauya
тавтай морилогтун	Fi	mishō-avilan tū	witamy	ຍິນດີຕອນຮັບ
benvenuti	xush kelibsiz	著欠迎	bienvenidos	mirè se vjen
vekömö	wilkommen	добро показывать	swagata	maayong pag-abot
ékabô	karibu	aayubooyan	स्वागत	Üdvözlet
eguahé porá	bine aṭi venit	nodé	доброедождовте	soo dhowow
ngiyane mukela	добре дошли	шчыра запрашаем	kenang ka kgoiso	hoş geldiniz
benvenguts	welkomma	benënnidu	haere mai	aloha

POST-CONVERSATION  
TRANSCRIPT

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

AN OMA/CPGC COLLABORATION

# International Student Life at Haverford

*[re]ACT: Community Conversation Series*

*Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC)*

Friday, November 20, 2015

CPGC Cafe, Stokes 104

## SESSION OVERVIEW

This discussion addresses two broad topics framing issues faced by the Haverford international student community:

*Social:*

- Understanding American cultural references (e.g. sports, tv shows)
- Integrating into the American lifestyle - overcoming the language barrier
- Sharing similar hobbies/interests with American peers

*Academics:*

- Comparing the classroom environment in America to those of other countries
- Communicating with professors about academic performance and grades

## [re]CC COMMITTEE

- Stephanie Zukerman, *CPGC Program Coordinator*
- Tamar Hoffman '16, *CPGC Intern*
- Benjamin Hughes, *OMA Program Coordinator*
- Oluwatobi Alliyu '16, *OMA Intern*
- Clara Abbott '18, *OMA Intern*

## COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

- Matthew Liu '18, *ISS Intern*
- Nicholas Kyriakoglou '16, *ISS Intern*      **FACILITATOR**

*(Collaborative Partners Cont'd)*

- Ann-Victoria (Vicky) Issac '18, *ISS Intern* FACILITATOR
- Amanda Acosta '18, *ISA Co-Head* FACILITATOR
- Rosalind Xu '18, *ISA* FACILITATOR

## SESSION NOTES

- Introductions of international students in panel
- Jumped right into discussion/powerpoint
  
- What assumptions are made here about what is and isn't "universal" cultural knowledge?
- What are differences in TV and other media between America and other cultures?
- What are differences in how we talk about sports between America and other cultures?
- How does customs week and the customs program as a whole privilege certain cultures over others?
- What assumptions are made about what it means to be an international student?
  
- American TV is extremely violent and sexual and does not have clear moral points behind it.
- Sports like soccer can be a way to find cultural middle ground.
- Can be more difficult to have "Haverford style" confrontations as an international student

- Can be difficult to find solidarity/relate to other international students on the hall if they come from radically different countries/cultures
- The honor code, small classes, relationships with professors, and other academic expectations are very specific to Haverford culture.

1. Importance of not making assumptions about someone's cultural background or knowledge
2. Importance of not making assumptions about what international student status means
3. Acknowledging that American culture is not the "default" and that it is one culture in the context of many others that matter