

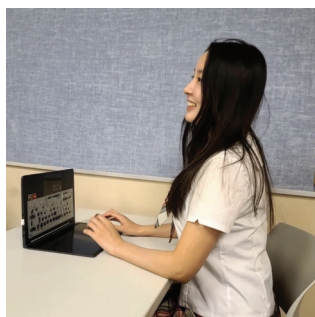
Halloween at Lake Havasu

by Jihyun Kim

Once a year, there is a time when people dress up in scary, cool, and funny costumes. They wear face masks or apply makeup to make themselves look more realistic. Often, they knock on their neighbors' doors and say, "trick or treat!" Now, everyone can guess which holiday it is. It's Halloween! Many people eagerly anticipate this day throughout the entire year. The students at Arizona State University in Lake Havasu were no exception.

In Dr. Leepsa Nabaghan Madhabika's CIS 105 Computer Applications and Information Technology class, students arrived wearing costumes. From angel wings to Korean school uniforms, the students wore outfits that resonated with their unique personalities. They appeared to be thoroughly enjoying this once-a-year event. Not only students but also Dr. Madhabika herself joined in the celebration. She was dressed in a costume adorned with pumpkin, ghost, and witch prints. With Dr. Madhabika distributing chocolates, the class began with warm laughter.

Halloween is special to everyone, but it holds extra significance for these students. In Dr. Madhabika's class, most students come from all around the world. The students represent nations such as Bangladesh, China, India, South Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. Indeed, it is a class with an international spirit. Due to cultural differences, it was some students' first time celebrating Halloween.



Jihyun Kim, a student from South Korea, shared, "It's my first time wearing a Halloween costume to school. I chose my Korean middle school uniform because it represents my identity the best. Before coming to class, I was nervous, thinking I might be the only one dressed in a costume. However, when I entered the classroom, I saw my fellow students in creative costumes. Today is the day that helps me forget all the stress from midterms!"

Her experience beautifully captures the essence of Halloween, where the unfamiliar becomes a source of excitement, and a day of festivities erases the weight of midterms. This international spirit and the power of shared traditions make Halloween not just a holiday but a global celebration that brings people closer together, regardless of their native country. Even in an academic setting, such as Dr. Madhabika's CIS 105 class, the spirit of Halloween can foster a sense of togetherness and cultural exchange. It's a reminder that in the midst of our differences, there are universal moments of joy, laughter, and connection, like those experienced during Halloween.

