



Celebration of Nations and the Technical Communicator

From left to right: Felix Nyikwagh, Frederick Sunkpal, Iveren Akula, Ernest Oteng, Vivian Asigri, and Jude Enete at Celebration of Nations on September 24



Vivian Asigri under the flag of Ghana, her home country

Celebration of Nations is an annual event hosted by the S&T student body with participation from the city of Rolla. Since its inception in 2010, the celebration has had strong support from the students and people of Rolla, with the exception of the year 2020, when many events around the world were canceled to help curb the pandemic.

Technical communication scholar Godwin Agboka notes that we are all “cultural actors who construct our identities and negotiate systems of knowledge and meaning that come to play during intercultural contacts.” S&T’s Celebration of Nations offers many opportunities for intercultural contacts. It is a heterogeneous cultural experience that seeks to showcase diversity, unity in oneness, and oneness in our community. Such events remind us that the world we live in is a global village.

Charnise Anderson, a graduate student in technical communication, is pleased to see the S&T community promote diversity and tolerance. “Appreciation of diversity is important to the ETC department because we have a variety of people from different backgrounds,” Anderson said. “It is also crucial to technical communicators because our practice requires us to adapt content for diverse audiences.” Events such as the Celebration of Nations contribute to the development of a necessary mindfulness.

Fredrick Sunkpal is a new international student from Ghana, and for the first time, witnessing an event like this gives him a sense of belonging. He said, “As an international student, the Celebration of Nations gives me the platform to represent my country and my culture through music, food, and attire. I

had the opportunity to bond with people from other cultures.” Fredrick enjoyed tasting different foods from around the world. For him, the event resonated with the sense of “one campus, one community, and one world.”

For Iveren Akula, also a graduate student in technical communication, the Celebration of Nations was an opportunity to learn new things and make new friends. “I love to connect and network with people from various cultures and backgrounds.” She believes “the future in terms of diversity is as colorful and bright as the different attires of the varying nationalities.”

Indeed, diversity is a crucial part of our lives today, and it only takes tolerance and acceptance to live in harmony to make the world a better place.