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Cultural Fusion Fest celebrates cultural diversity on campus

Keira Gilmore

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Knights Nakshatra performs a variety of dance styles to songs from various Indian movies during Cultural Fusion Fest on Sunday in the Pegasus Ballroom.

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UCF Student Government invited students to experience an array of cultures at the first Cultural Fusion Fest on Sunday in the Pegasus Ballroom.

With 11 performances from cultural organizations and clubs, students were able to enjoy singing, dancing, spoken word and food in a space celebrating cultural diversity and inclusion.

Rachel Flasterstein, junior marketing and management double major, said she loved the thought of getting to try new foods and watching unique performances from different cultures on campus.

“Culture is important because it is something we all should explore,” Flasterstein said. “It gives people a sense of identity when they might not have one, taking that with them and pulling things from it to become who they are.”

Joshua Montanez Perez, junior marketing and political science double major, grew up in Puerto Rico and said having different traditions and customs helps to define a culture.



Desi Music group Khayal performs during Student Government's Cultural Fusion Fest on Sunday in the Pegasus Ballroom.

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The event started with a performance from Ballroom Knights as well as Royalty Dance Troupe. Knights Khayal, a Desi music group on campus, also performed a traditional song from India that embraced Indian theater and pop music.

Senior economics major Milagros Camargo grew up in Panama and never realized how different her culture was until she moved to America.

“I feel like Orlando is a very diverse place, and you get to experience different cultures

here while still being in the U.S.,” Camargo said.

After a dinner intermission where food such as mahi-mahi, plantains, yellow rice, chicken and pad thai were served, the ladies of Sweet Soul performed a heartfelt Filipino song with meanings of love behind the lyrics. Knights Nakshatra also performed a lively routine involving three different dance styles to a mixture of four songs from various Indian movies.

The Ballroom Knights performance team performed an energetic piece inspired by the action show "Avatar: The Last Airbender." The dancers were dressed in beige, green, blue or red representing wind, earth, water and fire.

The event ended with a closing performance from Knights Kangna, a new dance group on campus that combines hip-hop, classical, contemporary, Bollywood and South Indian moves into their dances.

“Your culture sets you apart; you won’t always be the same as the person next to you because of it,” Montanez Perez said.