

Invitation

The English Programme of the School of Liberal Arts would like to invite you to join our **“21st Century Gen Halloween challenge”**.

Date: Wednesday 30th October 2019

Time: 13:00 – 17:00 (Registration opens at 12:30)

Venue: Ground Floor, Thaiburi Building

Schedule (tentative):

Time	Activities
12.30 - 13.00	Registration
13.00 - 14.30	Halloween Costume Contest & Group Presentation
14.30 - 16.00	- Bob Apples Activity - Trick or treat game, bob apples and more
16.00 - 16.30	Award presenting

Rules of the Challenge:

1. Compete in a team of no more than 5 members.
2. Using a maximum of 200 baht per team, create costumes and makeup to show creativity that represents the Theme "21st Century Gen Halloween Challenge".
3. Each team must demonstrate their ability to use English as a medium for learning and disseminating culture on Halloween.
4. The winning team will use the least budget and display the greatest level of creativity.

For more information, please contact:

Facebook: English Program, Walailak University
Telephone number 075 -672-656 (P' Sakao)

All WU faculty members and students are welcome to join **“ 21st Century Gen Halloween Challenge” on the ground floor of Thaiburi Building from 0 1 . 0 0 - 0 4 . 0 0 p.m. on Wednesday October 30.**

During this event there will be costume challengers from School of Liberal Arts' English Program students and lots of fun games for everyone. You are welcome to dress yourselves up for Halloween. During the event, everyone will have the opportunities to enjoy English communication in a friendly environment. And below is the interesting Halloween history shared by Ajarn Simon Moxon, English Program, School of Liberal Arts.

Halloween Historical Information

The origins of Halloween date back over 2,000 years to ancient Celtic times. The Celts originated in central Europe as early as 1,200 B.C. and were a collection of tribes that shared similar language, traditions, and religious beliefs.

It is believed that Halloween originated from one of the Celtic festivals called “Samhain” [sow-in]; the start of the Celtic new year on 1st November. The day marked the end of summer and the start of the cold, dark winter. As human deaths were associated with this time of year, the Celts belief was that this time was when the two worlds of the dead and the living became close and the ghosts of the dead would return to earth.

After being conquered by the Romans around 43 A.D., Samhain became combined with two Roman festivals. The first was Feralia, which was a day the Romans commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was to honour the Roman goddess of fruit and trees, Pomona. The symbol for Pomona is the apple, hence the use of apples in the bobbing for apples game. “Pomme” is also the French word for apple; “pomo” is the Italian word for apple.

With the later influences of Christianity by the 9th century, the church made 2nd November “All souls’ day” or “All saints’ day”. This was also known as “Hallowmas”, which was also a day to honour the dead. All souls’ day was also called “All hallows day”. The night before All hallows day was, therefore, called All hallows’ Eve, which became Halloween.

Traditions

Pumpkin / Turnip heads: These heads are faces carved into hollowed out pumpkins or turnips. They would be left at the doors of houses to ward off spirits. There are also other stories claimed to be the origin of these heads, which are also known as “Jack-o-lanterns”.

Costumes: It is believed the scary costumes were originally worn to protect from evil spirits. The idea was that if you looked like one of the evil spirits you would be safe.

Trick or treat: Treats were originally left at the doors of houses. There is belief they were to help guide spirits back to their own world, and another belief that they somehow protected the house from evil spirits. The trick side of trick or treat came from the merging of this tradition with the fun tricks that would often be played on people during the festival, such as stealing the garden gate.

Witches: Legends state that witches would gather twice a year as the seasons changed; once on 30th April, and again on 31st October. They would gather to celebrate parties hosted by the devil. It was said that to meet a witch you had to put your clothes on (inside out) and walk backwards on Halloween night. Then at midnight you would see a witch.

Bob apple and toffee apple: as already detailed, apples were marked as the symbol for the goddess Pomona. Today, we still use apples at Halloween in games, such as bobbing for apples, and as a treat, toffee apples. Toffee apples are an apple on a stick, dipped into boiling toffee and left to set. Bob apple has two forms. The first has apples suspended from string; the more common form consists of apples floating (bobbing) in a container of water. The origin of bobbing for apples is associated with fertility rituals and finding love. The apple is also associated with carrying spells in witchcraft (like in Snow White). There is also some association between bob apple and the test to prove if someone is a witch; to tie their hands and feet and dunk them in a lake. If they did not die from drowning, they would be burnt to death for being a witch.