

8-1-2011

## "This I Believe"

Deborah Mills  
dlm043@bucknell.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.bucknell.edu/believes>

---

### Recommended Citation

Mills, Deborah, ""This I Believe"" (2011). *Bucknell Believes*. Paper 46.  
<http://digitalcommons.bucknell.edu/believes/46>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by Bucknell Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bucknell Believes by an authorized administrator of Bucknell Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [dcadmin@bucknell.edu](mailto:dcadmin@bucknell.edu).

Deborah Mills  
Bucknell University  
"This I Believe" Essay  
8/15/11

### This I Believe

I can honestly say that seventy percent of my closest friends are from the opposite side of the world. Granted, all of these friends are from either Taiwan or South Korea; however, these two countries have cultures vastly different from mine. They think, live, work, eat, and sleep differently than I and all other Americans do. They have their own way of life – and I am eager to learn all I can about it. I love and believe in different cultures.

Without different cultures, the world would be entirely too mundane. Except for business purposes there would be no reason to travel. Why? All the cities throughout the world would be the same. They would have the same architecture, cuisine, language, technology, fashion, etiquette, and lifestyle. The only actual differences would be the cities time zones and locations. If this were the case for the world, I would be, probably, one of the most bored, lonely persons in it. I love to travel! But if every area of every country were the same I would have no reason to travel because it would be as if I flew across the world to be somewhere that looked exactly like my home. Not only would I not travel, but I also would not have that seventy percent of friends that I have now. Why not? My friend's families would have seen no purpose or advantage for sending their children to the United States to study. Their hometown would be exactly like the towns in America. Their education system would be the same. Without these various cultures, I would be lost. I believe in different cultures.

I believe that it is all people's duty to learn about other cultures. There is much to learn about why other nations treat their elders with respect, why they use a different dialect according to social order, or why they find certain gestures to be rude. I know I have learned many of these things from my friends. I believe these insights have helped me to realize the impact each culture has on others. For instance, when a behavior is considered rude in one country and polite in another, many situations can come into play where this behavior may occur; the people of the country that finds it rude may then believe that all people from the other country are ill-mannered and discourteous. To me, it only makes sense that, in order to avoid situations like this, everyone should make an effort to learn all they can about a culture they may soon enter.

Finally, I believe that, although people live in separate countries with different societal rules, no specific culture is superior to another. I agree with the American Declaration of Independence when it says, "...all men are created equal." I believe that people in Asia, Africa, South America, and everywhere else in the world are equal. No culture is either superior or inferior to another – but all are indispensable.

This I Believe.