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### International culture and food festival set for March 11

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 20, 2007

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### **INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND FOOD FESTIVAL SET FOR MARCH 11**

#### **MISSOULA --**

It's a small world after all, and it's even smaller when you get to shed the winter blues and eat international food from African Fu Fu to Korean Bulgogi at UM's 2007 International Culture and Food Festival.

The event will take place from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 11, in the University Center. Admission is \$1 for anyone under 12 and \$2 for anyone older.

The theme of this year's festival, organized by UM's International Student Association and the Office of Foreign Student and Scholar Services, is "Missoula World Tour '07: Explore Our World in Five Hours."

"The International Festival is a great way to share and experience the cultural diversity that exists in Missoula," said Kofi Abaidoo, president of the International Student Association. "With the various performances and the different delicacies from around the world, we will be able to appreciate the act of living together."

The festival will begin with a parade of flags in the UC, followed by the opening of the food bazaar, display tables, culture show and childrens' world. This year more than 40 countries

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will have representation, including nearly 20 booths at the food bazaar, featuring many different cuisines to tingle your taste buds -- from an Estonian berry cream float to American Indian fry bread and tacos. Food booths will be located in the UC Atrium, and dishes are priced anywhere from 50 cents to \$3.

Also represented at this year's festival are Missoula-based international groups such as Sons of Norway, the Japan Friendship Club of Montana and Kumamoto Plaza, the Sweden-Vasa Lodge and the town's Greek community.

Nearly two-dozen traditional performances will take place throughout the day as part of the festival's culture show. The events will be in the third-floor UC Ballroom and will feature everything from Tajik and folk dances from Saudi Arabia to belly dancing.

In the second-floor UC Commons, activities created with kids in mind will be featured at various booths, including African storytelling, Japanese origami folding, fan painting and more. Children who participate will receive "Explorer Passports" and are encouraged to visit festival activities from "around the world" for opportunities to earn prizes.

Finally, display booths in the UC Ballroom will showcase literature, art, maps and photographs from individual countries.

For more information, call festival director Mona Mondava at 243-6059.

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