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NEWS RELEASE

March 2, 2009

Contact: Yan To Cheung, UM International Student Association president, 406-396-4170, yantocheung@hotmail.com; Mona Mondava, festival coordinator, UM Foreign Student and Scholar Services, 406-243-6059, mona.mondava@umontana.edu.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE, FOOD FESTIVAL SET FOR MARCH 15

MISSOULA -

"Showcasing Our World - Sharing Our Food" is the theme of this year's International Culture and Food Festival to be held The University of Montana on Sunday, March 15.

The festival, which will take place from noon to 5 p.m. in the University Center, offers a chance to travel around the world without leaving Missoula. Participants can enjoy food such as jap chae from Korea and dolmas from the Middle East, as well as didgeridoo music from Australia, mehndi hand painting from Bangladesh and more.

Admission is \$2 for the general public and \$1 for children under 12.

Events kick off at noon with a parade of flags, followed by the opening of the food booths, display tables, culture shows and Children's World. About 20 food booths will feature authentic recipes from many different parts of the world. Dishes are priced at 50 cents to \$4. The food goes fast, so hungry guests are advised to show up early.

This year's festival will partner with the Missoula Food Bank to accept donations of nonperishable food and/or cash. The festival theme incorporates this new initiative to support community members in need.

This year's festival also is dedicated to the memory of Evelyn Peterson, honoring her

many contributions to the well-being of international students and her active involvement in the Missoula International Friendship Program.

More than 30 countries will be represented at the festival, which is sponsored by UM's International Student Association and Foreign Student and Scholar Services.

Food choices will include pasta al forno alla siciliana from Italy; gyudon and oyakodon from Japan; souvlaki, spanakopita and baklava from Greece; chicken satay from Indonesia; gulasch and red cabbage from Germany; chicken curry and beef stew with lemongrass from Vietnam; cold noodles and pearl milk tea from Taiwan; crepes from France; chili verde pork burritos and enchiladas from Mexico; and fufu, allococo, fried bread and bissap from various regions of Africa.

The culture show, which will take place on the third floor of the University Center, offers nearly two dozen traditional and contemporary performances throughout the day. Performances include dances from Romania, Georgia and Tajikistan; belly dancing; an African dress show; Uruguayan tango; Polynesian drumming and dancing; European dances; and music from Australia and Bhutan.

Children's World offers events and activities designed especially for kids, such as origami and calligraphy, youth hand drumming, a chopsticks game, storytelling, "Wonders of the World" face painting and a chance to create decorated bookmarks, flags and maps. Children will be issued passports and encouraged to visit festival activities to earn prizes.

Information booths will present literature, maps and photographs of individual

countries, making the festival perfect for those planning a trip abroad.

A silent auction of international arts and crafts will be held on the third floor of the University Center. Proceeds will benefit the Missoula International Friendship Program so that Missoula can continue to be a welcoming place for UM international students.

For more information, call Foreign Student and Scholar Services at 406-243-2226.

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