Christmas greetings in many languages at MSU

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The words are different but the spirit is the same in every land where the Nativity is celebrated - and on Montana State University's cosmopolitan campus, students will be wishing each other the joys of the season in many languages as they start their Christmas vacation this week.

The Christmas greeting is "Tavalode, Masie Khosh-Bad" in the ancient tongue of Persia, or in a more modern version that has crept into the language, "Christmas Mobarak-Bad," according to Arashmidos Monjazeb, a sophomore from Tehran, Iran. Constance Cheng, Samuel H. C. Cheng, and Thomas Y. Chen, students from China, will greet their friends with "Sheng Tan K'uai Lou," while Hideo Kimura and Michio Kitahara, who hail from Japan, will say "Kurisumasu O-Medetoh."

Jorge E. Bonsembiante and Roberto Skibsted from Argentina, Hans H. Krause from Venezuela, Elizabeth Mortimer from Chile, Eva Neisser from Peru, and B. M. del Carmen DaCosta Gomez, Gonzales F. Guillermo, Graciela Rubio Mojica, and Martha J. Sanchez, all from Mexico, will salute fellow students with a version of "Feliz Navidad."

Joseph K. Dietrich, Hans-Joerg Gudegast, Hans Martin, Henry Meier, and Luise Wachtel, all from Germany, will say "Frohe Weihnachten"; and Armin Wernisch and Peter Kohlweg from Austria will sound very like them when they say "Froehliche Weihnachten."

Adding variations to the theme will be Hari Om Agrawal, Khurshed A. Ansari, Amiya Benerjea from India; Ali Al-Saadi, Issam G. Mahboub, and Anwar A. Rahman from Iraq; Rosa Ekern from the Philippines; Nitasana Chareowmit and Suthi (more)
Christmas Greetings in Many Languages at MSU, Page two

Harnsongkram from Thailand; Maung Maung from Burma; Hans W. Mauritzen from Norway; Liliane Mercer from Luxembourg; Yang Ho Park and Gyn Whan Lee from Korea; Hong-I Yang from Formosa, and Ahmad K. Zuberi from Pakistan.

Anthony J. Ayto from England will probably just say "Merry Christmas."

Vacation leave-takings may confuse the monolingual majority on campus. But out of the babel of tongues one message will be clear: Peace on Earth.

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