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***¡Ask a Mexican!* author to open Convocations series**

*Summary: Questions about 'America's spiciest and largest minority' will be answered during a presentation by Gustavo Arellano. The award-winning journalist and a contributor to The Los Angeles Times will open the 2008-2009 Convocation Lecture Series September 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Edson Auditorium.*

(September 19, 2008)-Questions about “America’s spiciest and largest minority” will be answered during a presentation by Gustavo Arellano. The award-winning journalist and a contributor to *The Los Angeles Times*, as well as the author of the best-selling book, *¡Ask a Mexican!*, will open the 2008-2009 Convocation Lecture Series at the University of Minnesota, Morris on Monday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center’s Edson Auditorium.

The event and Arellano’s book are based on his irreverent, nationally syndicated column in which he answers readers’ questions in *OC Weekly*, an alternative newspaper in Orange County, Calif., where he is a staff writer. His book, which was published on Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for fifth of May) 2007, has been the subject of press coverage in various newspapers and television talk shows such as Mexico City’s *El Universal* newspaper, The Today Show and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s The Hour. He has also appeared on Southern California’s liberal and conservative radio talk shows where he discusses local and national issues. Arellano was a finalist for the 2005 PEN USA Literary Awards for Journalism for his profile on a disabled Latino veteran of the Iraq War.

Past convocations at the University of Minnesota, Morris have included presentations by renowned figures such as Maya Angelou (1998), Sherman Alexie (2000 and 2008), Ralph Nader (2003), Nadine Strossen, the president of the American Civil Liberties Union (2005) and Mythbusters (2006).

This event is made possible with funds from the UMM Student Activity Fee. The views expressed by the visiting speakers of the CAC Convocations Series do not necessarily reflect the views of the regents of the University of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, Morris, Morris students, staff or faculty or the UMM Convocations Committee.

For more information about this event or other Convocation speakers, contact CAC Convocations at (320) 589-6080.

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