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First Year Seminar Jamboree this Thursday

Summary: The University of Minnesota, Morris will hold its annual First Year Seminar Jamboree this Thursday, Dec. 6. The Jamboree will feature a variety of presentations, all by first-year UMM students, in various venues throughout the Student Center.

(December 3, 2007)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will hold its annual First Year Seminar Jamboree this Thursday, Dec. 6. The Jamboree will feature a variety of presentations, all by first-year UMM students, in various venues throughout the Student Center.

The First Year Seminar (FYS) introduces entering UMM students to a college level seminar where discussion and individual performance largely take the place of lectures and tests. FYS is organized in sections of about 15 students each, and is designed to be an introduction to the liberal arts at UMM. FYS sections stimulate critical thinking, active engagement in issues and learning about different points of view.

Early in the semester, all sections participate in a common event. Then each section explores a specific topic over the course of the Fall Semester. Finally, all sections come together near the end of the semester for the FYS Jamboree, at which each section shares their semester's work through posters, plays, games and other performances.

The 2007 Jamboree will exhibit projects on topics ranging from "War and Peace: Experiencing Wars through Cultural Prisms," in which students will impersonate villains and heroes of various wars while trying to convince visitors to take their side on an issue, to "Music: Name that Country," where visitors will have the chance to listen to music from other countries and enter a contest to win an iPod.

Other displays will portray Dance Between Cultures: Reflections on Immigration and Cultural Identity in Latino and Chicano Writers, Insects and Human Culture, My Wonderful Life, Out of Africa: The Peopling of Europe, Asia and the Americas, RACE is a Four-Letter Word: Critical Issues in Human Diversity, Exploring Whiteness to Combat Racism, Storytelling: Keeping Our World Whole, Culture in East Asia-KOREA, Life South of the Border, and The Empire Strikes Back: Europe Confronts the Colonial Past.

Some students will showcase what they've learned via performances staged in Edson Auditorium. Topics include Myth: From the Page to the Stage, Keeping on the Same Page: Literacy in a Changing World, and Power and the Moving Body: Approaches in Dance and Martial Arts.

The public is invited to attend the First Year Seminar Jamboree between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. December 6.

Photo by David Nieves '10, El Paso, Texas: Students give a dance demo during last year's Jamboree

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intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.