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### A Taste of Asia

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**A Taste of Asia**

*Summary: The “Many Faces of Asia” will be the focus during Asian Awareness Week, January 22-27 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. “Everyone is invited to learn about the different people in Morris as well as a lot about the countries that UMM students are from.”*

(December 21, 2006)-The “Many Faces of Asia” will be the focus during Asian Awareness Week, January 22-27 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. While all of the details are not yet finalized, planning for a busy week of activities is already underway, said Cecilia Thao, president of the Asian Student Association (ASA) at UMM who coordinates the week. All events are open to the public and most are presented at no charge.

“There will be more activities this year than in the past,” said Thao. “Everyone is invited to learn about the different people in Morris as well as a lot about the countries that UMM students are from.”

The romantic comedy “Tou and Mai” will kick off the week’s celebration at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in Edson Auditorium. The film tells the story about a rascal named Tou who is given one last chance to prove himself as a responsible and respectable man when his uncle offers him a job as a tutor for new refugee arrivals. The film, which features an original soundtrack by Hmong musicians, was released in July 2006.

Three workshops, which will showcase and share information from Asian countries, will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, each from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Oyate Hall of the UMM Student Center. Tuesday’s focus will be on China, Japan and Korea. Sri Lanka and Indonesia will be the focus on Wednesday. Thailand, Vietnam and the Hmong culture will be the focus of Thursday’s session. Each workshop will include a presentation by ASA members and small group discussion.

The annual Taste of Asia, a cultural extravaganza featuring traditional dances, a silent auction, fashion show and dinner, will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in Oyate Hall. Kazoua Kong-Thao, vice chair of the St. Paul school board, will speak about the different ethnicities in Minnesota.

Cost for Taste of Asia is \$6 for each person in a group of five or more, \$7 for one ticket purchase in advance and \$8 for one person with a ticket purchase at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance in the Student Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout Asian Awareness Week.

For further information contact the Asian Student Association at [ummasa@morris.umn.edu](mailto:ummasa@morris.umn.edu).

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