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11-27-2006

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Recommended Citation

University Relations, "First Year Seminar Jamboree: Exploring human diversity" (2006). *Campus News Archive*. 887.

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First Year Seminar Jamboree: Exploring human diversity

Summary: Human diversity will be illustrated in a variety of ways by 27 sections of First Year Seminar students during the annual First Year Seminar Jamboree. The event will be held throughout the Student Center on Thursday.

(November 27, 2006)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will present its annual First Year Seminar (FYS) Jamboree Thursday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Oyate Hall of the Student Center. Students will present, in a fun and creative way, what they have learned in their section of First Year Seminar. There are 27 sections of First Year Seminar that cover a variety of topics, but all surround the theme of human diversity.

Topics for this year's FYS are Insects in YOUR Life: Culinary Hurricanes and People Outdoor Game on Global Warming Are We There Yet? Equality in American Schools Sexy Symmetry School and Diversity A I-Movie Show of East Asian Elements Colonizing Jamboria Legacies of Imperialism The Omnivore's Dilemma Equality in the United States The Garden of Forking Paths: How Diverse is the Web? Out of Africa-The Peopling of Europe, Asia and the Americas Power and the Moving Body: Perspectives in Dance and the Martial Arts American Roots Music: Dance, Performance, Radio and Fun! Explaining the Inexplicable: Twentieth Century Genocides The Family Soap Opera and Geometry in Life.

First Year Seminar is a required course for all incoming freshman at UMM. The course meets twice each week throughout the entire first semester. Each course is designed for only 14-16 students, which differs from larger lecture courses. The First Year Seminar started at UMM in 1999, and has since become a tradition for UMM students. Pareena Lawrence, co-coordinator of the First Year Seminar Program, stressed the importance and value in First Year Seminar: "One of the goals of the class is to get to know each other, build that group identity and create a space for freshman. It's a space in which students can come and talk about their day for the first few minutes before class begins."

Olivia Yonkin, Waconia, is a student in Lawrence's course on equality in the United States. Yonkin said, "I feel like I really learned a lot about the world and what's happening in it." This is exactly what Lawrence hopes students will gain in the courses, "Another one of the goals of First Year Seminar is to understand what human diversity means along with the whole idea of critical thinking."

The FYS Jamboree will be held primarily in Oyate Hall. "The Family Soap Opera" will be performed from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and the "Power and the Moving Body: Perspectives in Dance and the Marial Arts" from noon to 1 p.m., both in Edson Auditorium. Two FYS sections will present in Louie's Lower Level.

Photo by Tom Foley: Students during a previous year's First Year Seminar.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow 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.