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Multi-Ethnic Mentorship presentations

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Multi-Ethnic Mentorship presentations

Summary: Students who have participated in the Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program at UMM over this academic year gave oral and poster presentations April 3 on a variety of topics.

(April 4, 2006)-Students who have participated in the Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program (MMP) at the University of Minnesota, Morris over this academic year gave oral and poster presentations April 3 on a variety of topics, ranging from "The Colonialist Manifesto" to "UMM's Attractiveness" and from "Memories of War" to "Feverfew: Herbal Remedy of Just a Plant?" UMM Multi-Ethnic Student Program and MMP coordinator Fang Du introduced the program and Sandy Olson-Loy provided concluding remarks.

The MMP program, described as a nurturing, insightful and supportive process, "connects students with a faculty and/or staff member to work on a project or research that enhances the student's interests in a particular field of study or in graduate or professional study. This mentoring relationship helps create a community that promotes academic success while developing a greater involvement between mentor and mentee in out-of-class activities." Students of color with second-year standing at UMM can participate in the program.

"Research suggests that the second year of college usually is a defining moment for a student to think about academic majors and careers," said Fang Du. "The Multi-Ethnic Student Program is designed to help the students through this process through an insightful and nurturing relationship with a faculty/staff mentor. Student participants choose a program or project of interest to them, and implement it with a UMM mentor.

"Many students have benefited from the program over the years," continued Du. "One student mentored by a Spanish faculty member during the 2003-2004 academic year at UMM wrote: 'This project has been a great help to me. It gave me the time and resources to explore teaching as a career option. Without this experience, I would still not know if teaching is really what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. This project has helped me realize that I want to be a teacher in the future and I love working with students of all ages.'

"MMP is also a demonstration of the devotion of MMP faculty and staff who spend many hours mentoring students through a lot of life-changing experiences," said Du.

Students who presented, their topics and mentors were:

Nii Anyetei Akofio-Sowah
The Colonialist Manifesto
Sarah Buchanan, French

Simon Franco
The V Republic...on Going Revolution?
Chris Lee, political science

Noe Lopez
UMM's Attractiveness
Bryan Herrmann, admissions

Linsey McMurrin
A Tribal Research: Past, Present, and Future
Julie Pelletier, anthropology

Miracle Obeta
The Tom McRoberts/Miracle Obeta Administrative, Organizational and Rhetoric Strengthening Project
Tom McRoberts, Continuing Education

Mina Ounchith
Through My Lens
Jess Larson, studio art

Latrice Robinson
Reasons Why Minorities Leave Morris
Pareena Lawrence, economics/management

A Thao
Memories of War
Fang Du, Multi-Ethic Student Program

Lao Yang
Kids, Parents and Community
Randi Peterson, athletics

Kyung Mee Lee
Microwave Spectroscopic Investigation of Atmospheric Molecules
James Togeas, chemistry

Delaine McKenzie
Feverfew: Herbal Remedy or Just a Plant?
Joe Alia, chemistry

Cecila Thao
Cultural Identity Within the Hmong Community
Jennifer Rothchild, social science

For more information about the Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program at UMM, visit
www.morris.umn.edu/services/msp/mmp.htm

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.