

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

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## International students share culture, food, crafts

April 8, 2010 by [Managing-Editor](#)  
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**By Shea Yarborough / Senior Staff Writer -**

Waving flags, international students wearing native dress and the sound of African drums will signal the opening ceremonies of UNT's International Week on Monday.

The drums will be led by Gideon Alorwoyie and the UNT African Ensemble at 11 a.m. in the Shrader Pavilion. Guest speaker Mayor Mark Burroughs will follow them, said Marco Magno, coordinator for International Week.

“It’s quite hectic these days,” Magno said. “There’s so much going on.”



International Week will have a plethora of jewelry presented along with crafts and presentations. (Photo by Maria Webster / Photographer)

Freshly prepared exotic cuisine and international melodies are just a few of the things on the agenda for the week long event, which has been a year in the making, Magno said. Most events are free, but some will require an entrance fee.

Boasting one of the most racially diverse campuses in the U.S., UNT has 2,500 students from 120 different countries, said Woon-tyen Lim, a musical therapy graduate student. It’s important for students to take in the cultural differences and eccentricities to get the full experience of the event, she said.

“It’s something we, the international students, can share with the people at UNT,” Lim said.

International Week will take place at several campus locations. Events at the Murchison Performing Arts Center, a Mexican fiesta at Discovery Park and educational outreach at Denton area grade schools are all on the to-do list, along with activities at other locations, Magno said.

Flavors and textures from 23 countries, including Malaysia, Taiwan, India and Turkey will be present Tuesday at the Baptist Student Ministries building at 1132 Union Circle, Lim said.

“The food won’t be expensive,” she said. “It’s the price of a quarter.”

Students will be able to purchase 25-cent coupons to exchange with the individual vendors once inside the building, but \$10 will buy you a really good meal, she said. They are all prepared by UNT students.

On Thursday, 16 performers representing music from China, Thailand, India and Latin America, are scheduled to take the Murchison Performing Arts Center stage, Lim said. Mu Phi Epsilon, a co-ed music fraternity, will open the evening with a Chinese folk-song called “The Dance of Yao.”

“It’s not often a group of Americans play a Chinese folk song,” Lim said. “It’s going to be a grand event.”

The World Culture Tour will take place at Tom Harper Middle School. Tables will be set up with pictures and presentations of different countries, with the hope of educating students and giving them a chance to speak with natives from each country, Magno said.

“Even children will be able to go from table to table and ask questions about those countries,” he said.

The week represents a blending of the cultures, Magno said, and will conclude with the International Education Awards Banquet. Henry Louis Taylor Jr., author of “Inside El Barrio: A Bottom-up View of Everyday Life in Castro’s Cuba: Havana, 1989 to 2006” will be the guest speaker at the closing ceremony, at 7 p.m. Monday. Reservations are required.

“We are dedicating this week to international students while also integrating American culture,” Magno said.

For more information, visit [www.international.unt.edu](http://www.international.unt.edu).

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By Alex Cheatham / Staff Writer –

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