

Lunar New Year Invitation

January 27, 2009

The Confucius Institute invites the Texas A&M campus and the Bryan-College Station community to the 2009 Lunar New Year Celebration on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. The event will begin at the plaza in front of Sbisa, and then proceed to Sbisa Dining Center for an authentic Asian New Years feast.

Joining the Confucius Institute in sponsoring the event are International Programs, Institute for Pacific Asia (IPA), the Office for International Outreach, Texas A&M Dining Services, Vietnamese American Student Association, and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA).

In the traditional Lunar New Year celebrations, family and friends visit each other's homes and exchange gifts in red envelopes symbolizing fortune. Former Ambassador to South Africa and new Vice President for Global Initiatives, Eric M. Bost said this is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to have a cultural experience and get to know our Asian students and faculty.

"We are delighted to introduce this significant piece of Asian culture to our increasingly diverse campus and community," said Bost. "I hope everyone will take advantage of this local international experience."

The evening festivities will include a traditional Drum and Lion Dance preformed by the *Shaolin Kufu Academy in Houston*, Kung Fu demonstration, traditional Mongolian folk dance, and interactive cultural displays provided by the Vietnamese American Student Association and the Chinese Students & Scholars Association, and many more.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated in Asian countries, such as China, Korea, Vietnam and Singapore. Also know as Spring Festival in Chinese, the Lunar New Year is arguably the most important celebration among the Asian community. This is the year of the Ox, the second animal in the New Year calendar, which is said to represent prosperity through fortitude and hard work.

Like a lot of festivities in other parts of the world, Lunar New Year is all about food, fun, and family. This event is open to the public and we encourage members of the university community, as well as the local Bryan/College Station community, to join us for this celebration.

Underwriting for the event is generously provided by Wells Fargo Bank, Department of Multicultural Services, International Programs Office and Office of International Outreach. Tickets for the dinner buffet are available at the door for \$8.88 (meal plans are allowed); and children under 3 eat free.