

Students receive chance to taste dishes from around world at fair

By Maria Elena Saade
Reporter

About 1,000 people got a chance to taste dishes from around the world at the MSC Wednesday night at the International Food Fair.

Thirty-five countries were represented at Food Fair, one of the various activities of International Week. Tina Watkins, international students adviser, said,

Watkins said students representing each country have to make three different kinds of dishes, each serving 300.

Seven judges tasted the dishes, trying to choose the best-represented country.

Best country will be announced at the International Students Association Party Saturday night at the College Station Community Center, according to Hamed Shahkshir, L.S.A. officer.

Other awards will be presented Saturday to best cultural display and best talent show, said Sarina Cohen, a sophomore management major from El Salvador.

Judging is based on presentation

of the food and depiction of the country, she said.

Jack Speer, Food Fair judge from the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, said he admires the great effort students put into the fair.

"I had no idea of the great number of different nations represented in A&M," he said. "I enjoyed the food; it was delicious."

Dr. Larry Wolken, Food Fair judge from A&M's Department of Finance, said it was very difficult to choose the best food.

"The students put a lot of effort both in terms of decorations, cooking and dressing up in their native clothing," Wolken said.

Watkins said International Week has been going on since 1980. Before, she said, it used to be just a cultural day.

Bruno del Rio, Food Fair committee chairman from Mexico, said everybody has been very cooperative.

"It's an interesting experience to coordinate," del Rio said. "Food is related to culture and the way people are. It goes beyond politics and ideologies. Everybody eats."

Del Rio said some countries will be serving typical drinks. He said drinks can count as a dish.

"We don't know of any other university that has a structured week like we do," del Rio said. "It is very organized."

Maria Sugranes, a freshmen environmental design major from Nicaragua, said cooking for Food Fair is fun. She said the whole Nicaraguan group cooks together while they have a party.

Sugranes added, "It takes a lot of time because you cook for a lot of people."

Shah Zaman, a graduate student in physics from Bangladesh, said cooking didn't take his group much time.

"We did it all Tuesday evening," Zaman said. "The more people we get to cook, the faster it goes."

Martha Centeno, a graduate student from Nicaragua said, "You learn more about the people through the food."

Shahkshir said Food Fair is very nice. He added it helps everyone to find something new about other parts of the world.

Shahkshir commented, "It helps other international students as well as Americans learn about other cultures."

Enrique Zebede from Panama said his group really came through this year.

When the person who was supposed to cook got sick, the Panamanians had to call someone else to cook.

They finished cooking around 6 p.m. Wednesday, one hour before the fair, according to Zebede.

Each country's booth was decorated with the nation's flag or typical things. Three people served in each booth.

Some servers were dressed in native dresses from their countries. People who attended the fair were given 14 tickets to exchange for bite-size food portions from the country of their choice.

Cultural Display was held in the MSC Monday and Tuesday. The talent and fashion show will be held Friday evening at Rudder Auditorium.

Biosciences base helps draw industry

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — What started as an embarrassing defeat in 1983 turned into a valuable lesson for city leaders bent on molding this tourism mecca into a high-technology research center.

Gen. Robert McDermott and Mayor Henry Cisneros had done their best to lure Microelectronics and Computer Technology Inc. to the Alamo City, but they failed in part because the city lacked a graduate engineering base.

After Austin landed the MCC research consortium, McDermott, one of San Antonio's most influential businessmen, and Cisneros decided to funnel their energies toward building on the strengths of a biosciences base that had already garnered international respect but little local attention.

Their efforts and those of other businessmen are taking shape in the Texas Research Park, a 1,500-acre site which someday will combine the talents of academic and private researchers in commercial bioscience projects.

"The Texas Research Park has a definable and important place in our hierarchy of programs for the biomedical industry in San Antonio," Cisneros said. "It is going to be the driving rationale for a major expansion of the job base in the years ahead."

Texan enjoys missionary life despite bugs, snakes, heat

ANGLETON (AP) — A jungle rain forest with giant bugs and poisonous snakes located in another hemisphere is not the place where most Americans would choose to live.

Yet, after 2 years of missionary work in the Ivory Coast in West Africa, 35-year-old West Columbia native Dara Gallemore has come to love the country so much she wants to spend the rest of her life there.

"I am a Westerner and I always will be," Gallemore said with a soft, Texas twang. "But I become more and more African every day. I am trying to learn to think the way they think."

Gallemore, a Southern Baptist missionary home for a six-month furlough, said she never dreamed when she was a student at Columbia High School that she would become a missionary.

When she was about 22 years old she decided she wanted to go into some sort of mission work, but not until much later did she realize she wanted to get on the "gut" level of working with people in a foreign country.

The Ivory Coast, called Cote d'Ivoire in its national French language, is a country about the size of New Mexico with about 10 million inhabitants.

Gallemore lives in the country's former capital of Abidjan, a coastal city built on a group of islands with a population of about 2.5 million people.

The country is divided into two geographic regions: the coastal section being a tropical rain forest and the inland part being savannah grassland.

Gallemore said the rain forest where she lives can be described in three words: heat, humidity and "lots of big bugs."

Tropical vegetation provides a lush backdrop for monkeys and exotic birds.

Huge snakes slither freely and are so dangerous outside the city limits that no one goes anywhere without a machete, she said.

The largest snake that Gallemore saw, which luckily was dead, was 32 feet long and as big around as a tree trunk.

But Gallemore said she has adjusted to the Ivory Coast environment, and has overcome a previous fear of snakes.

The bugs never bothered her much because, after living in South Texas, "big bugs aren't really a big deal," she said, laughing.

The country is beautiful, but it is really the people, called Ivoirians,

that intrigue Gallemore so much.

"The people are always happy. They're open and warm and patient. They love to eat and dance and sing," Gallemore said. "They're just such a happy people. Even someone who you know doesn't have a thing they're always happy and always have a smile on their face."

The Ivory Coast is a peace-loving country, Gallemore said. In the cities, almost everything proclaims the words of the country's president: "Peace is not just a word; it is an attitude."

By American standards, the country is poor, with the average family income at about \$110 a month.

Most homes do not have plumbing or electricity.

But by West African standards, the Ivory Coast has the highest standard of living in the region. It is one of the main producers of coffee and cocoa, and also exports much of the world's hard woods like mahogany.

Chiefly an agricultural nation, food is plentiful. However, Gallemore said if a family does not eat rice once a day, they think they are starving.

Religious education is Gallemore's primary job as a missionary. She said in the churches she tries to teach adults how to teach the children.

2.50 ADMISSION
1. Any Show Before 3 PM
2. Tuesday - All Seats
3. Mon-Wed - Local Students With Current ID's
4. Thur - KORA "Over 30 Nite"

SCHULMAN 6
2002 E. 29th 775-2463

TAFFIN R	7:10
FATAL ATTRACTION R	7:18

\$ DOLLAR DAYS \$

DIRTY DANCING PG-13	7:15
OVERBOARD PG-13	7:10
THROW MURDER FROM THE TRAIN R	7:25
Eddie Murphy's RAW R	7:35

*DENOTES DOLBY STEREO

PLAZA 3
226 Southwest Pkwy 693-2457

*THREE MEN AND A BABY PG	7:25
*GOOD MORNING VIETNAM R	7:15
*A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF JIMMY REASON R	7:35

MANOR EAST 3
Manor East Mall 823-8300

*FRANTIC R	7:15
THE LAST EMPEROR R	6:10
*SHOOT TO KILL R	7:35

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