

CoMo is Where the Heart Is

A global little city. That's how Charles Davis, MU journalism professor, describes Columbia in an international student recruitment video. Our colorful town in the heart of the Show-Me State is a cultural oasis of art, food, music and film. ¶ Downtown, you can smell and taste an array of international cuisine, stroll past galleries and music venues that have featured artists from every continent, and take in some of the finest foreign (and domestic) films at a one-of-a-kind cinema-cafe. ¶ CoMo's diversity makes it unique, and Mizzou continues to shatter international student recruitment records. ¶ "With a population of 110,000 and a major university that has 120 countries represented, those countries stand out," says John Wilkerson, assistant director of international recruitment. "It's a less diluted international population than it is in Boston or Chicago, and students notice that. It shows in our restaurants, cultural programming, campus events, community events. There's always an international flavor to what's going on in Columbia." ¶ STORIES AND PHOTOS BY MIZZOU STAFF

The Market Is Open

With Columbia's population growing more diverse, international markets bring a taste of home to the dinner table.

When you walk into Meechu's Filipino Market, you'll find owner **Jun Gatica** scurrying around, wiping down counters, unpacking boxes and ringing up customers. His wife, **Maria**, will wave you past the rows of purple yam jam, milkfish and frozen calamansi juice to the grab 'n' go kitchen in the back of the store. Over a hot stove, she'll prepare a plate of caldereta (beef marinated in tomato sauce and coconut milk until tender), pork adobo and chicken adobo (meat cooked in soy sauce) served with jasmine rice, a staple in Filipino cuisine. Then there's her cake to try; it's a decadent blend of grated cassava root, coconut milk and butter, and her atchara, a sweet-and-sour pickled papaya salad. "I love cooking," she says. "Especially when I see the smile of the people."

The Gaticas opened the market and kitchen in northeast Columbia five years ago to bring a slice of the Philippines to the growing Filipino population in Columbia. "A lot of Filipinos in America migrated because they married an American," Maria says. "And in some families, they don't like to cook or don't know how. So I bring it back."

Meechu's Filipino Market • 1301 Vandiver Drive, Suite J



Marketing in CoMo



Chong's Oriental Market 701 E. Locust St.

What you'll find: boxes and boxes of ramen, and not the ramen college students buy in bulk at Wal-Mart. Chong's offers Asian varieties such as spicy chicken, Korean kimchee, soybean paste and Chinese onion. Most frequent shoppers walk past the more unusual things on the shelves — silk worms and dried black fungus strips — and head straight to the snack aisle, says owner Daewun Sin.



Kea International Market 705 Vandiver Drive, Suite J and K

What you'll find: Cambodian, Vietnamese and Thai foods, along with an assortment of curtains, clothes, incense, plates and DVDs. Owner Karen Ta Kea and family moved to Columbia in 1980 with the help of Columbia's United Church of Christ. In 1993, the Keas started growing and selling food at the Columbia Farmers Market. In April 2001, they opened Kea International Market to meet the demand for Southeast Asian foods they saw at the farmers market. Along with five deep freezers stocked with more types of fish than you can name, they also sell their garden harvest.



Natasha's Euro Market 705 Vandiver Drive, Suite H

What you'll find: Eastern European delicacies, from Russian vodkas to Hungarian salami, Bulgarian feta to Ukrainian rye and European chocolates. Lots and lots of chocolates.

Los Cuates Latin Store 2908 Paris Road

What you'll find: ingredients for one serious fiesta, complete with mole sauce for your tamales stuffed full of one of the 20 meats behind the counter, and some tamarind pulp candy flung from a piñata for dessert.



Hong Kong Market 3510 Interstate 70 Drive SE, Suite D

What you'll find: everything you need to make a stir-fry. Start in the rice and noodles aisle, pick up some beef shank or pork belly, grab gai lan (Chinese broccoli), shanghai bok choy and oyster mushrooms, and top it off with fish sauce (the market has plenty to choose from).



World Harvest Foods 3700 Monterey Drive, Suite K

What you'll find: the fixings for an elaborate wine and cheese party. It is truly a world market with more than 100 cheeses (try the Leyden with cumin seeds from Holland), 21 types of olives (try the Nicoise from France) and an impressive selection of oils and vinegars (try the 30-year-old balsamic from Italy), plus individual aisles dedicated to Mexican, Indian, Japanese and Thai cuisines.

Taj Emporium 1400 Fellows Place

What you'll find: comfort foods such as pani puri, Indian savory snacks filled with tamarind, chili, potato, onion and chickpeas, and a variety of chutneys.



A & Y Global Market (formerly Campus Eastern Foods) 15 N. Fourth St.

What you'll find: a 2,400-square-foot store, more than three times its former size, with falafel mix and fresh pita bread to satisfy Middle Eastern cuisine cravings.

PARTY ALL YEAR LONG

Columbia residents have several chances to celebrate their diversity

International students and scholars receive a warm welcome every August when the Missouri International Student Council hosts the annual **International Student Welcome Party** at the MU Student Center.

To return the favor, international students offer up bits of their own cultures — food, drinks and cultural displays — to the community at the **International Bazaar** in September on Lowry Mall.

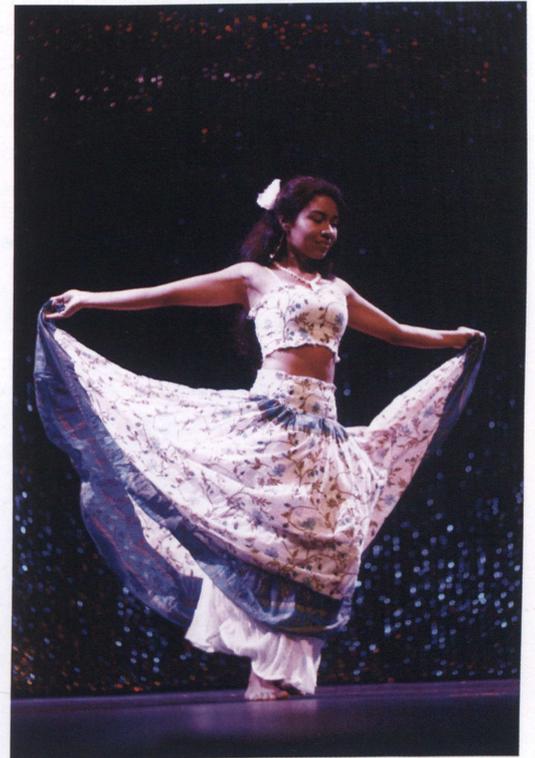
India-Nite, hosted by the Cultural Association of India every November, fills Jesse Auditorium with music, dance, drama and elaborate costumes.

The International Center plans MU's **International Education Week** every November to celebrate the international communities represented, and the activities and initiatives offered, on MU's international campus.

The Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars hosts **China Night** in Jesse Auditorium in February to show off traditional Chinese dance and music.

Every April **Africa Week**, presented by the African Students Association, brings films, trivia, food, lectures and parties.

In April, the Thai Students Association rings in the Thai New Year with the **Grand Songkran Festival** on Carnahan Quadrangle. The celebration includes authentic Thai food, performances and displays of artifacts.



† Different international organizations on campus perform at Jesse Auditorium for International Night.



Art for All

Alumni artists enliven Columbia's landscape

Just as nature abhors a vacuum, painter David Spear, MFA '12, detests a blank facade. "It's depressing when I look at an empty wall. I want to see something on it!" Spear started solving that problem in 1998 when he painted a trio of 4-by-8-foot panels at Cicero's nightclub in St. Louis. Since then, he has been adorning infrastructure with large paintings as well as creating over-the-sofa sized art for private collections.

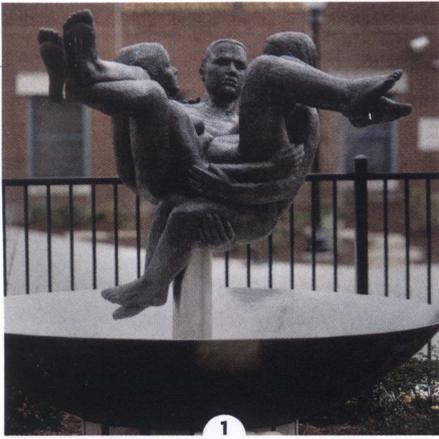
Spear draws stylistic inspiration for his public art from famed regionalist painters John Steuart Curry, Grant Wood and fellow Missourian Thomas Hart Benton. Several local buildings feature his take on topics including dancers (Sophia's, 3915 S. Providence Road), bartenders (Addison's, 709 Cherry St.), bus passengers (Wabash Station, 126 N. 10th St.), Memorial Union (first-floor lounge) and the Columbia skyline (Boone Hospital Center, 1600 E. Broadway).

The artist's latest large-scale work is taking shape on the exterior of Alleyway Arts, his studio-gallery in the alley east of 10th Street between Walnut and Broadway. "The idea is to paint downtown as if I'm looking through the wall of my studio and seeing the city," Spear says. "It's like a map of the area. It's meant to be aesthetically amusing, and I hope people will use it to locate themselves in the city."

Across town, MU alumni and faculty artists have created more public art, turning CoMo into an outdoor museum of sorts.

→ **David Spear** poses in his Alleyway Arts gallery at 1107 E. Broadway. Below, he works on a mural of Columbia on the north-facing exterior wall of the gallery, located in the alley behind Willie's at 1109 E. Broadway and behind DSport at 1034 E. Walnut St.

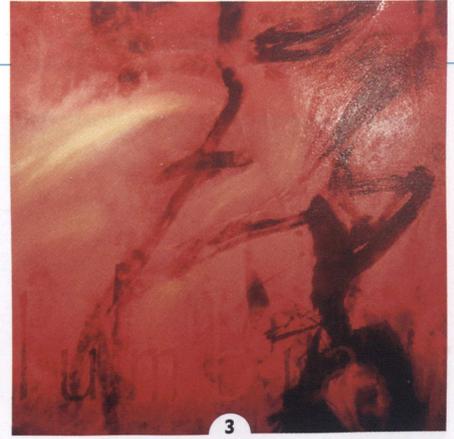




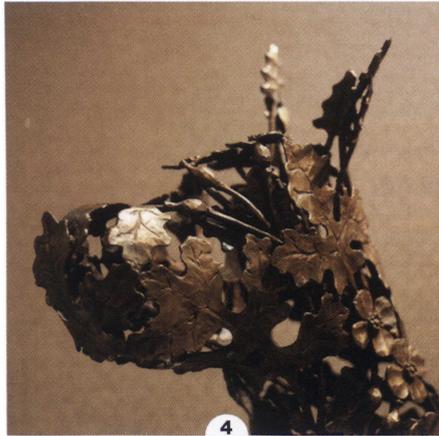
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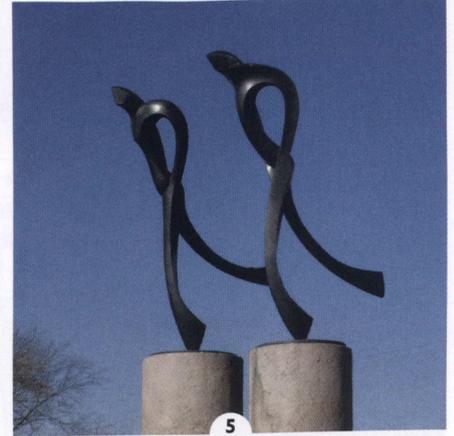
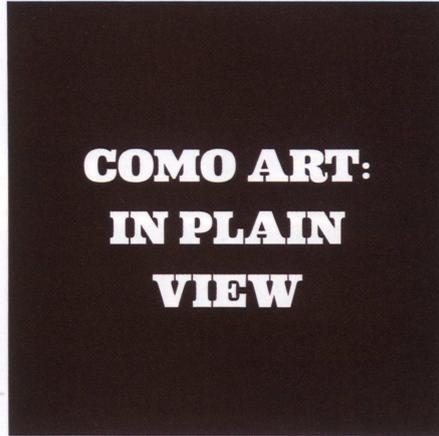
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1 First Born
1986, bronze
Boone County Courthouse Square, Walnut and Eighth streets
Don Bartlett began this piece, completed in 1996 by **Sabra Tull Meyer**, BA '49, MA '79, MFA '82, and **Mike Ruble**, MFA '86. The three figures suggests the importance of family across generations.

2 Jamboree
1996, bronze

Boone County Courthouse Square, Walnut and Eighth streets
Jim Calvin, associate professor of art at MU, and **Andy Davis** depict a musical quintet — gecko, hare, alligator, cat and frog — celebrating diversity and harmony.

3 Convergence
2011, acrylic and mixed media
Columbia City Hall, 701 E. Broadway, second floor
Lampo Leong, professor of

art at MU, layers Chinese calligraphy and English letters to represent Columbia's diversity.

4 Birds/dogs
2012, bronze
Columbia City Hall, 701 E. Broadway, third floor
Chris Morrey, MFA '09, creates figures using a variety of forms, including flowers and foliage.

5 Marathoners
2007, bronze

Flat Branch Park, 400 Locust St.
Larry Young, Arts '77, a two-time Olympic medalist in racewalking, created the 6-foot figures and placed them on 8-foot pedestals.

6 Beetle Bailey
1992, bronze
Reynolds Alumni Center, 107 Conley Ave.
Mort Walker, BA '48, and son Neal unveiled the cartoonist's iconic sculpture during Homecoming 1992.

7 The Shell Seeker
2007, bronze
Columbia Public Library, 100 W. Broadway
Sabra Tull Meyer created this life-sized sculpture of a boy holding a seashell and book.

8 In Gratitude
2009, bronze
Fire Station No. 7, 400 Green Meadows Circle
Jane Bick Mudd, MFA '94, depicts citizens expressing gratitude for the work of first responders.



Female Filmmakers Festival

† Citizen Jane Film Festival's marquee beckons from the Stephens College Columbia Foyer at 1405 E. Broadway. The event is set for Oct. 4–6, 2013.

Even celluloid aficionados might have the misconception that women are well represented on the business end of Hollywood. After all, didn't Kathryn Bigelow win best director and best picture Oscars for *The Hurt Locker*, the 2009 Iraq War film?

Unfortunately, Bigelow's achievement is the exception, not the rule.

"The area of film in which women are the most poorly represented is narrative fiction films, the kind that go to Hollywood theaters," says Citizen Jane Film Festival founder and co-director Kerri Yost, BA '94. "There are a lot of women in documentary and experimental media but very few making big-budget films."

Citizen Jane was started in 2005 in Columbia to help educate people about that inequality and build enthusiasm for the artists. In 2011, women made up only 5 percent of all directors working on the top 250 domestic grossing films, so the festi-

val invites up-and-coming as well as established filmmakers to CoMo to promote their movies. Sponsored by Stephens College, Citizen Jane screens about 20 films throughout the three-day event at the Missouri Theatre, Ragtag Cinema and various campus venues.

Lena Dunham, Golden Globe Award-winning actress and creator of HBO's hit series *Girls*, showcased her film *Tiny Furniture* at the 2010 installment. In 2012, three-time Academy Award nominee and festival "godmother" Julia Reichert presented her series *From the Archives* to enlighten viewers about the history of women behind the camera.

"We also have a series of short films made by young women from around the world called *The Secret Lives of Girls*," says Yost, who teaches film studies at Stephens. "The perception from the audience is that it's going to be a bunch of kids films, but they are profound and deeply felt."

ROCKING, GAWKING AND DOC-ING



Roots N Blues N BBQ

Sept. 20–22, 2013
rootsnbluesnbbq.com
 Music lovers from 35 states enjoyed 29 acts on three stages for two nights at the popular festival in 2012. For six successful years, the aroma of smoked meats and the tunes of legends such as Al Green, Taj Mahal and Robert Cray have filled the autumn sky in downtown Columbia. Art exhibits, a gypsy busking crew and a user-friendly smart-

phone app debuted in 2012. The festival moves to Stephens Lake Park in 2013.



True/False Film Fest

Feb. 28–March 3, 2013
truefalse.org
 Columbia's favorite film festival turns 10 in 2013, offering dozens of mind- and perspective-altering documentaries from around the world. The event transforms CoMo into a small-town cinematic utopia, complete with parades,

live music and quirky parties throughout the four-day event. Director Dan Lindsay, BS BA '01, showcased his Oscar-winning football film *Undefeated* in 2012.



Ninth Street Summerfest

thebluenote.com
 Multiple times a year during the warm months, Summerfest shuts down the block of Ninth Street between Broadway and Walnut for the evenings of outdoor revelry. Presented by The Blue Note, acts such

as Ana Popovic, Girl Talk and Primus performed in 2012.



Art in the Park

June 1–2, 2013
artintheparkcolumbia.org
 Local artists and artisans sell paintings, sculpture, jewelry, clothing, ceramics and more on the first weekend of June beside scenic Stephens Lake. As with every CoMo festival, live music, performance art and food vendors abound.



Earth Day

April 21, 2013
columbiaearthday.org
 Columbia's funky and fabulous festival takes over Elm Street between Ninth and Sixth streets each spring. Mid-Missouri's celebration of Mother Earth includes live music, performances by local elementary schools and dance troupes, games, a kids park, booths with products for sustainable living and tons of great food.

- Treat your pooch to a warm weather romp at one of Columbia's six off-leash parks.
- It's patio time! Enjoy a meal al fresco at your favorite restaurant patio.
- Experience the taste of mid-Missouri at one of our Farmers Markets.

SPRING

- Cool off at Stephens Lake Park where you can enjoy the swimming beach, fishing lake or spraygrounds.
- Enjoy a cone at Sparky's Homemade Ice Cream in downtown Columbia.
- Taste a locally brewed beer at Flat Branch Pub or Broadway Brewery.

SUMMER



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I'll Have What *They're* Having

What are local chefs and restaurateurs ordering when they eat international food?



Jina Yoo

Owner of Jina Yoo's Asian Bistro, 2200 Forum Blvd., Suite 108. The eponymous culinary entrepreneur studied piano and pipe organ at Indiana University Bloomington. She transformed her musical talent to create symphonettes of sushi. Among her signature rolls: Cadillac, Sin City and Monkey Goes Nuts, which includes smoked salmon, mango puree, sautéed cashews and eel sauce. Yoo orders pho noodles at **Chinese Wok Express, 422 E. Broadway.**



'The menu at [Jina Yoo's] Asian Bistro manifests a fusion of various tastes from throughout Asia and the West.'

— *The Columbia Daily Tribune*



Daniel Pliska

University Club executive chef, Reynolds Alumni Center. Pliska can create anything in his own kitchen, and with the University Club's Global Cuisine Nights — a Thursday night rotation of dishes from South America, India, Spain and Greece — he gets plenty of practice. When he does dine out in CoMo, he sometimes enjoys the dynamite and dragon rolls at **Kampai Sushi, 907 Alley A.**

◆◆◆◆ **INTERNATIONAL NIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB** • **SOUTH AMERICAN NIGHT** featuring Brazilian barbecue • **MEDITERRANEAN NIGHT** featuring foods from the Riviera and salad Nicoise tossed table side • **EXOTIC FLAVORS OF INDIA** featuring U Club-made naan bread and condiments • **TOUR OF TUSCANY** featuring rustic Italian fare and family style pasta • **CRUISING THE GREEK ISLES** featuring souvlakia: beef, chicken and lamb kabobs grilled to order in the dining room • **CUCINA ITALIANA** featuring traditional family style food, pizza and calzones • **SPANISH TAPAS NIGHT** featuring a tapas buffet and family style seafood paella ◆◆◆◆



Mohamed and Elizabeth Gumati

Owners of the International Café, 26 S. Ninth St.

For more than 20 years, the couple has operated one of Columbia's favorite destinations for gyros, kabobs and baklava.

The Gumatis don't have to go far to enjoy **Bangkok Gardens, 811 Cherry St.** Elizabeth loves "anything with the peanut sauce," especially the **Street Side Sa-tay**, grilled chicken marinated in yellow curry and coconut milk.

Eric Cartwright

Executive chef for MU Campus Dining Services

MU won the coveted Ivy Award — an honor also bestowed upon the Four Seasons, Emeril's and Ritz-Carlton — when Cartwright was an assistant manager and sous-chef. He suggests the Vietnamese spring rolls with shrimp and pork at **Saigon Bistro, 912 E. Broadway.**



'The days of buffet-line food service have been replaced with more selection, such as a made-to-order pasta station, a create-your-own pancake bar, a grill with multiple options and various pizzas that rotate out daily.'

— *Mizzou Weekly*, about MU Campus Dining Services



INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

Here's more international CoMo cuisine to make your mouth water

India's House

1101 E. Broadway

A daily buffet provides a taste tour of Indian delicacies, including Tandoori chicken (in yogurt sauce), lamb curry and fragrant naan bread. Request items spicy if you like.

Geisha

804 E. Broadway

For a dramatic presentation, kimono-clad servers deliver boats of sushi billowing dry-ice clouds. Try the "Golden Girls" shrimp tempura roll customized with your ingredient selections.

Casablanca

501 Elm St.

Rick, Ilsa and Sam would have approved of this Mediterranean favorite just off the northwest edge of campus. Regulars love spinach pie and home-made soups.

44 Stone

3910 Peachtree Drive

You'll find English-inspired fare as well as unusual plates including lamb sliders, a pork roast Reuben and smoked Berkshire pork belly sandwich. Watch the tap cams at 44stonepub.com to survey the daily beer options.

Kui Korean BBQ

22 N. Ninth St.

Using oak charcoal and authentic Korean

grilling techniques, Kui has been serving spicy beef, chicken, pork and more since June 2011. Lunch specials include salad, soup, your choice of barbecue meat with veggies and unlimited rice.

Okii Mama

3709 S. Providence Road, Suite C

Mizzou Taiwanese students rave about this pan-Asian sensation. Try the beef shank noodle soup or Bao Zi (stuffed buns).

UKneadSweets

808 Cherry St.

Owners Allen and Helena Shih, BS BA '83, have spent the past 30 years working in her family's Jefferson City, Mo., restaurant. Now she has realized her dream of opening her own bakery, where she makes delicate treats such as French macaroons, green-tea tiramisu and peanut butter mousse domes.

Agave

901 Safari Drive

Now in its fifth year, Agave brings a taste of Mexico to the north side of town. You'll find all the traditional favorites, including fajitas, enchiladas, fish tacos, burritos and — of course — margaritas.