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**TRADITIONAL INDIAN DANCES WILL BE PERFORMED AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) – Uma Tadopalli, who shares her Indian culture and traditions through dance demonstrations and lectures, will perform in the Sharp Theater of Ramapo College of New Jersey Monday, March 14 at 1 p.m. The performance is free and open to the public.

In the program, Recess: Dancing In Indian, Tadopalli will demonstrate both the Bharatha Natyam and Kuchipudi dance styles. She will perform a variety of dances and explain their meaning in Indian life.

Bharatha Natyam is one of the oldest forms of dance and is based on the ancient text on dance. Bharatha stands for mood, music and rhythm and is considered poetry in motion. Movement, mime and music are given equal importance in this dance form. The costumes are elaborate, with dancers dressed in specially designed colorful silk costumes. Dancers also wear head ornaments, necklaces and bangles.

Kuchipudi, a dance drama, is a combination of dance, gestures, speech and song. The Kuchipudi dancer is a multiple person on stage and this multiplicity is achieved by the swift change of gestures. The solo repertoire of Kuchipudi includes a number of dramatic poems rendered in a musical style.

The Sharp Theater is located in the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts. For information, call 201.684.7844. This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

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