ISSO Welcomes New Team Member!

Shannon Sterner,
Cultural & Educational Programs Coordinator,
International Student Association Advisor

Shannon, originally from Cape May, NJ, attended The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she earned her degree in Fine Arts. After graduating, she was hired to teach art at the same school she attended as a child. For the next 13 years she worked in various schools, teaching art while working as a professional artist. Prior to coming to TU, she worked for the Y of Central Maryland as Camp Director, where she honed her skills creating meaningful programs for young people.

She finds the prospect of developing creative programs that will bring students together, both international and domestic, inspirational. “People from different parts of the world who want to better their education and immerse themselves in new culture; what is more fearless and inspiring than that?! A self-professed “people lover,” Shannon is excited to develop programs that bridge the gap between international and domestic students and plans to involve our campus partners, like the Counseling Center and Career Center.

“It isn’t enough to say ‘my door is always open.’ I have been meeting with different departments to gain insight into what we can learn from one another’s experiences. We are currently collaborating with several partners to offer a very exciting ISSO New Student Orientation on August 24th. Stay tuned!”

Shannon looks forward to working with the ISA as their new adviser. She has been meeting regularly with ISA president, Joy Costa, to learn more about the needs of the ISA and TU’s international students. “The ISA is more than a club—it’s an integral Towson University community that breaks barriers, and I look forward to being involved in its advancement.”

A fun fact about Shannon is that her favorite meal has been steamed clams since she was three years old! Please join us in welcoming Shannon to the ISSO team!

Important Reminders for International Students:

- You must register for your fall classes by the start of the semester.
- If you are traveling overseas you will need a travel signature on your I-20 to return. Complete the I-20 Reprint Request in the ISSO portal and select "Travel" as the reason for the reprint. You may make the request even if you have already left the U.S., because we will email you an digital copy you can print and sign before you come home.
- Be sure to review the most recent CDC guidelines for international travel so you are up to date on the latest regulations.
The International Student Association heads into the 2022-2023 school year with a new crop of officers. Joy Costa, a senior from Bangladesh majoring in Information Technology, will lead the association as its new president. Joy has been an ISA eboard member since October 2021. He sought to become president because he values the opportunities it will give him to get more involved on campus and with all the international students, also to learn about different cultures and make new friends. Joy believes he can use his people-skills to build connections and attract more members. He will take a creative approach to planning events and implement ideas to keep the club active. The other elected officers are Vice President Frances Ortiz, Treasurer Mohammed Isa Mir, Event Coordinator Damien Dje, Secretary Shreya Shahi, Community Service Chair John Purification and Social Media Manager Onyeoziri Ike-Amaechi. ISA looks to repeat popular events like Friendsgiving in November and the Networking dinner, but they are still in the planning stages for the rest of the year. They will hold their first meeting at the start of the fall semester, and all are welcome.

Follow ISA on Instagram (@towsonisa) for more information, or learn more by visiting https://involved.towson.edu/.
FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO IN MARYLAND OVER THE SUMMER

Summer is finally here! While the days are long and the nights are short, here are some things you can do to make for a great summer before the school year starts.

Book Thing of Baltimore
A bookstore in Baltimore, MD that relies on people donating books. This attraction only opens up once a month and you can go and pick up a book for free! Visit https://bookthing.org/

The Enchanted Forest Pine Tree Maze at Clark’s Elioak Farm
This 500-acre farm in Columbia, MD has a maze and a petting zoo. It also features popular fairytales such as Cinderella, Mother Goose, and more! Visit http://www.clarklandfarm.com/enchanted_forest.html

Arundel Mills Mall
One of the most popular malls in Maryland, this mall in Arundel Mills, MD is home to over 200 stores. There’s many restaurants as well as an Ancient Egyptian themed movie theatre and entrance! Visit https://www.simon.com/mall/arundel-mills

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens
While cherry blossoms are popular amongst people who visit Washington D.C, the pink and white lilies among more at this garden in Washington D.C are also a sight to see. They also stay in bloom for much longer as well! Visit https://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.htm.

FOURTH OF JULY IS COMING...

Fourth of July, also known as "Independence Day", is one of America’s most celebrated holidays. A lot of Americans take this day to barbeque and gather with friends and families and at the end of the day watch fireworks! Here’s some ideas for what you can do on this day!

The Fourth of July Race and Parade at Towson
A bike race, a parade route, music, and entertainment all within walking distance from the university! Monday, July 4, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Visit https://www.towsonparade.com/home for details.

Star Spangled Celebration in Baltimore City! Free!
4th of July festivities are returning to the Harbor! From 4-9:30 p.m., enjoy live musical performances from the Navy Band Comodores, the BSO and Wordsmith. Then, enjoy a spectacular firework show from the Waterfront Promenade at 9:30 p.m. For a full schedule of the day’s events visit https://baltimore.org/event/baltimore-4th-of-july-celebration/