

BALTIMORE KOREATOWN - TOWSON UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL MILESTONES 1965-2018

1965

Bong Joo Shin and his wife, Young An Bin, came to Baltimore and Shin became a professor in the Economics Department at Towson University

1969

Several auto body shops fired Korean immigrant mechanics, citing poor performance. Min acting as an interpreter in court for their dismissal cases, Bong Joo Shin was inspired to form a Baltimore-area Korean American Association

1973

Professor Ock-Kyung Lee served as Curator (Director) of the Asian and African Art Collection at Towson University through 1976

1975

James Fisher, President of Towson University, became an advisor of the Baltimore Korean American Association

1966-67

The Baltimore Korean United Church rented space for their worship services from Lowly Lane Methodist Church, located at 22nd and St. Paul Street, becoming the first Korean congregation in Baltimore



1972

In March the Korean Society of Baltimore, the predecessor of the Korean Society of Maryland, was founded and had its first general meeting at Towson University with about 100 Koreans participating

The Korean Society of Maryland was founded by John Jung-Uh Chang

Bong Joo Shin established the Korean American Business Research Center at Towson University

1974

Towson University Professor Bong Joo Shin arranged for Young Sae Kim, chairman of the opposition party against President Jung Hee Park, to receive an honorary doctoral degree from Towson University. This was the first honorary degree Towson University had ever given to a citizen of a country outside the U.S. Mr. Kim later became President of the Republic of Korea

After renting space from the American Methodist Church in Green Baffle for their services, the Baltimore Korean Methodist Church moved to the Wilson Memorial Methodist Church on University Parkway near Johns Hopkins University

1981

Mr. Kim opened a small restaurant located on 20th Street in Station North, which included one corner for selling homemade rice cakes, and another one dedicated to a homemade display of Korean traditions

1991

Maryland established a sisterhood relationship with the Korean province Kyung Sang Nam Do

H. Smith, President of Towson University, became the chairman of the Maryland-Kyung Sang Nam Do Sister States Committee

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Baltimore set up a sisterhood relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Busan, Korea through Bong Joo Shin of Towson University



1994

"Koreatown" in central Baltimore was thriving, with diners, shops, and Korean signs. Three hundred Koreans gathered in front of the library at Towson University to demand a re-trial of the case of Jae Hwan (Ae) Lee's death.

Towson University placed a marker on campus and hosted a ceremony to commemorate Jae Hwan (Ae) Lee

1989

Towson University presented an honorary doctoral degree to Mr. Soik Park, the former president of Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee

TU's Asian Arts & Culture Center (AAACC) held an exhibit, The Horizon of Inspired Beauty, featuring Korean abstract expressionists Choon-ki Yi and Jae-In Kim

Towson University presented Music from Korea, Yesterday and Today, a concert of classical and contemporary Korean music organized by Professor Ahn of the Peabody Conservatory

1993

Jae Hwan (Ae) Lee, a 21 year old senior majoring in Computer Science at Towson University, was killed at the way to see his friend at an apartment complex in downtown Baltimore.

Towson University presented an honorary diploma to Jae Hwan (Ae) Lee's family

1995

TU's Asian Arts & Culture Center (AAACC) held the exhibit, Flower of Meditation, featuring batik painting by fabric artist Park Hyang Soek

2002

TU's Asian Arts & Culture Center (AAACC) held the exhibit, Interview: Recent Work by Sanghee Kim, with curatorial support by TU Professor Ock-Kyung Lee

Anhee Kim presented a musical concert on the gayageum

2006

Mr. Seajoo Cheng, CEO of Dongliuk Steel Mill Co. and TU student in Economics, received an honorary doctoral degree from Towson University for his leadership in the growth of the Korean steel industry and the development of the economic relationship between the U.S. and Korea.

Multiple Korean artists participated in the AAACC "Many Moons Festival"

2010

Dr. Ock-Kyung Lee curated the exhibit, The Myth and Symbols in Korean Art, works by regional contemporary artists, in conjunction with the "Many Moons Festival."

Gyeong Mi Cha's Gayageum (Korean zither) ensemble performed at AAACC's "Many Moons Festival"



2014

In spring of 2014, Hendrik Bekisch, an artist, participated in Open Walls Baltimore 2. He painted a mural of Jae Hwan Kim's father, owner of Seoul Rice Cakes, in Station North.

Ms. Gabby Cha, a middle fielder of Women's Lacrosse Team of Towson University, was named CAA (Collegiate Athletic Association) Rookie of the Year



2018

The Arisang USA Community was established to support the unity and prosperity of the Korean community and present a strong sense of cultural identity among young Korean Americans in Maryland.

Dr. Choo Kim, Professor Emeritus in Mathematics and Computer Science Department at Towson University, was appointed as a standing advisor to the Arisang USA Community

Establishment of the TU Korean Professors Association (TKPA)

2012

AAACC presented music by the Sonajong Project. AAACC presented the exhibition Aggregations by South Korean artist Kwang Young Chun



2015

Department of Religion Studies at Towson University invited Dr. Kah Kyung Cho, Emeritus Professor at the University at Buffalo, SUNY to share his expertise in existential philosophy and phenomenology



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