



REFLECT

The AA&CC kicked-off two exciting new initiatives during the 2015-16 academic year:

The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural Connection, a new series featuring local Asian American communities and their artistic and cultural work. The year's AIM programs included an exhibition, two performances, and three workshops introducing Cambodian arts and culture in fall 2016. In spring 2016, we inaugurated the Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project interdisciplinary studies course combining ethnography and oral history to explore, understand, and document Asian arts and culture in Maryland.

Asia@Towson, programs and activities highlighting the presence of Asian arts and culture in the TU campus community. In spring 2016, we initiated Asia@Towson with an exhibition exploring the activities, passions, concerns and meanings behind the pursuits of students involved in clubs at TU that relate to Asia.

SOUNDING THE SPIRIT OF CAMBODIA:

Khmer Music and Dance-drama in a Mid-Atlantic Community

September 19-December 12

Center for the Arts, Asian Arts Gallery

One thousand visitors encountered the beauty, history, meanings, and transformations of an ancient Cambodian tradition in the lives of musicians, dancers, and community members in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC.





The exhibition also invited visitors to respond to the phrase "People around the world create art in order to ______"

Our intern, Alyssa DiNicolis, created this word cloud from the 200+ responses:



This exhibit was made possible by the Towson University Marriott
Conference Hotel, E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Citizens
of Baltimore County, TU Student Government Association, TU College
of Fine Arts & Communication, Maryland State Arts Council, Yoshinobu
& Kathleen Shiota, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, TU
Center for Student Diversity, Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, The Friends
of Khmer Culture, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd., TU Marketing
& Communications, Capital Services Group, and TU COFAC Diversity
Committee and Theresa Esterlund,









The E. Rhodes and Leona B.

CARPENTER

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THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Cambodian Classical Dance Intensive

Saturday, September 19

Participants used their bodies to gain a basic understanding of Khmer classical dance through a hands-on training with master dancers from Maryland and Washington, DC.

Co-presented with TU Department of Dance.



"The workshop broadened my knowledge on Asian performing arts; I had no idea how beautiful and intricate dance could be."

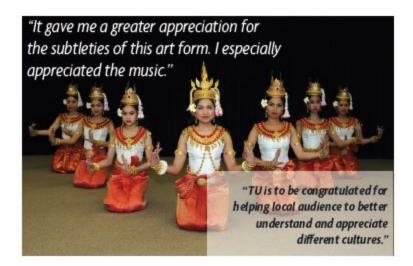


Classical Dance and Music of Cambodia

Saturday, October 3, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall, Center for the Arts

Maryland's Cambodian Buddhist Society Culture Group shared an elegant performance of Khmer classical dance and music with two hundred people. Co-presented with TU Department of Dance.

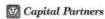


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The E Rhodes and Leona B. CARPENTER FOUNDATION



THE CITIZENS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Classical Dance and Music of Cambodia

Sunday, November 8, 2015, 3 p.m. Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall, Center for the Arts

One hundred forty-eight people experienced the celestial sights and sounds of Cambodian court dance and music as performed by Virginia's Cambodian American Heritage dance troupe and Master Chum Ngek's music ensemble.

"An enlightening experience."

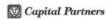


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Maryland State Arts Council

Cambodian Classical Costume-Making Intensive

Saturday, November 14.

Arts Gallery & Costume Shop, Center for the Arts

Participants joined master costume-maker, Sochietah Ung, for a full-day exploration of the intricate costumes worn in Cambodian classical dance-drama.

Co-presented with the TU Department of Theatre Arts



This program was made possible through a generous grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

> The E Rhodes and Leona B. CARPENTER FOUNDATION

Cambodian Classical Music Workshop

Monday, November 16.

Recital Hall, Center for the Arts

Eighteen people took a crash course in Cambodian pin peat music with Master Chum Ngek and his ensemble.

Co-presented with the TU Department of Music



FAMILY ART DAYS

October 10, November 7, and March 6 Center for the Arts Atrium

Five hundred people enjoyed drop-in art activities, performances, interactive gallery experiences, and story time on these three dates.

November 7:

Participants designed and crafted Cambodian jewelry making with master artist, Sochietah Ung, thanks to a generous grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Seventy-five people enjoyed a dance and music performance and hands-on dance demo by the students of Virginia's Cambodian American Heritage, Inc. This event was co-sponsored by Pepsi.







March 6:

Students from three clubs (Chinese American Student Union, Muslim Student Association, and Filipino Cultural Association at Towson) led art, music, dance, and Arabic writing activities.

Co-presented with the TU Community Art Center; NAEA Towson

Co-presented with the TU Community Art Center; NAEA Towson Student Chapter; and the TU Department of Art + Design, Art History, and Art Education Galleries.

Thank you to our volunteers who made these days successful!



The E. Rhodes and Leona B.
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Asia@Towson: Friendship, Family and Fun in Towson's Asian Culture Student Groups

February 11-May 14, 2016 Asian Arts Gallery, Center for the Arts

This evolving, student-produced exhibit introduces some of the rich and diverse Asian arts and culture-related activities taking place as part of some of Towson University's amazing clubs.

As of March 31:

- Approximately 700 people have visited
- Ten clubs are represented
- · Forty-nine students have worked on curating the exhibit

What interested you most about the exhibition?

- The interactivity
- It is student-run
- The creativity of students on our campus.
- The variety of cultures represented.

What new knowledge did you gain from your gallery visit?

- A better understanding of beliefs and traditions spread across Asia.
- . Towson has so many cultures and I never really realized it.
- · Great insight to the groups and people here at Towson.

What else would you like to share with us?

- It was an intriguing exhibit packed with various, unique info.
- There should be more exhibits like this one on Towson's campus.





This exhibit was made possible by the generous support of the TU College of Fine Arts & Communication; E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation; Citizens of Baltimore County; Maryland State Arts Council; Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund; Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota; Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd.; COFAC Diversity Committee; TU Center for Student Diversity Asian Pacific Islander Student Development Program; TU Department of Art+Design, Art History, Art Education; TU Department of Theatre Arts; TU Marketing & Communications; and Capital Services Group.

The E Rhodes and Leona B. CARPENTER FOUNDATION



MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Asia@Towson Student Mixer

Wednesday, March 9.

Asian Arts Gallery and Atrium, Center for the Arts

Two hundred Towson students enjoyed free food, music, and art and culture activities led and inspired by TU's extraordinarily diverse culture clubs.

Hosted by the TU Center for Student Diversity Asian Pacific Islander Student Development Program.





Jayamangala Music and Dance

Friday, March 11.

Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall, Center for the Arts

TU Alumna and award-winning dance master Shobha Subramanian and her troupe shared a performance of exciting rhythms, exquisite gestures, and ancient stories of Hindu gods and goddesses with one hundred seventy-two audience members.



"Exhilarating and highly informative."

Presented with support from the TU College of Fine Arts & Communication; E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation; Citizens of Baltimore County; Maryland State Ar ts Council; Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund; Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota; Capital Partners Securities, Co. Ltd.; TU Marketing & Communications; Capital Services Group; Daisy Jones; Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo; Susan Picinich & Stanley Max; John & Ber the Ford.

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. CARPENTER FOUNDATION



Maryland State Arts Council

The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project

In spring 2016, we initiated the Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project, an interdisciplinary studies course in Towson University's College of Fine Arts & Communication. The course combines ethnography and oral history to explore, understand and document Asian arts and culture in Maryland. Students generate primary-source documentation on the history of the cultural life of Asian communities in Maryland. Their research assists the Center with creating bridges between Towson University and the local community. It will also inform the Center's future programs.



Thank You Professor Stacy Spaulding and TU Department of Mass Communication & Communication Studies for collaborating with the AA&CC on this project!

ASPIRE

As a self-supporting department of Towson University, the Asian Arts & Culture Center relies on generous donations to accomplish its mission. To learn how you can help, contact:

Joanna Pecore

AA&CC Director

410-704-2718

jpecore@towson.edu

http://www.towson.edu/asianarts/support/index.asp

Proposed for Fall 2016

Chinese Folk Pottery: The Art of the Everyday

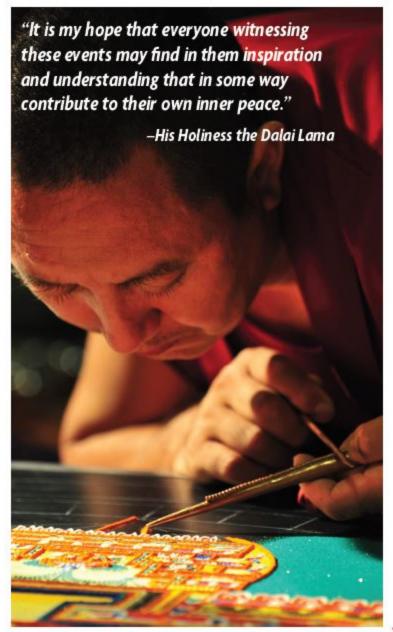


This exhibition explores the challenges faced by contemporary folk potters in China—including ethnic minorities and Han people—as the demand for traditional wares steadily declines in tandem with China's rapid modernization. As a result of this change, village potters

have migrated to the cities in search of more lucrative work, the dragon kilns that operated for centuries are cold and threatened by extinction, and the traditional knowledge and skills of contemporary folk pottery (minyao, peoples' pottery) struggle for survival. The exhibition showcases objects created for daily use collected through research trips by curator, Marie Woo, between 1995 and 2009 from Tibetan, Dai, Miao, Bai, and Han potters. It introduces an "alternative" look at Chinese ceramics (in contrast to the Chinese Imperial porcelain that is well-known throughout the world) and offers an opportunity to examine diverse aesthetics, functions, production values, and personal stories associated with these traditions that are part of China's 8000 year-old ceramic history.

Mystical Arts of Tibet: Residency, Ceremonies, Sand Mandala Creation & Lectures

The Asian Arts & Culture Center proposes a four-day Tibetan sand mandala painting residency, including opening and closing ceremonies; daily chants for world peace and healing; and lectures introducing the Tibetan Buddhist approach to healing, the Buddhist philosophy of emptiness and illusion, and the contemporary history of Tibet. These programs will be free of charge. Supported in part by the COFAC Diversity Committee.



Inspired by Tradition: China's Precious Folk Potters

The AA&CC will partner with Towson University's departments of History and Asian Studies and with the Mid-Atlantic Region-Association for Asian Studies (MAR-AAS) to host a workshop for K-12 teachers to integrate Asian arts and culture into their curricula. The workshop will involve a visit to the Chinese Folk Pottery exhibition, examinations of diverse pottery techniques, discussions about the forces contributing to cultural displacement, and group breakout sessions to develop lesson plans incorporating material from the workshop.

Baltimore Collects: The Collector's Perspective



Nationally recognized art collectors from the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan region discuss their personal histories in collecting Asian art and sharing their collections among educational and cultural institutions to benefit the community.

Proposed for Spring 2017

Karaoke Spring

In spring 2017, the AA&CC will illuminate the art and culture of karaoke, especially its Asian roots, in innovative and playful ways while engaging diverse audiences in dialogue about this rich worldwide phenomenon. We will foster dialogue and cross-cultural awareness across Towson University and local Asian communities while engaging them in producing and sharing an interactive exhibition and complementary public programs. Supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



Asian Traditions: Sita, Gentle Warrior



Students will be prepared for roles in a production of Sita, Gentle Warrior, which explores the identity of Sita, the heroine of the 2000 year-old pan-Asian Ramayana epic, from a contemporary, global perspective. While the traditional story is presented from the male point of view, this production recounts the journey from Sita's perspective, revealing her strength and

power as well as her identity as the universal mother of the earth. This universal view will be emphasized through participation by dancers from multiple Asian traditions, including Towson University student dancers. In partnership with the Towson University Department of Dance and Center for Student Diversity.

The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project

Building upon our success in spring 2016, the AA&CC will offer another semester of the Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project interdisciplinary studies course, combining ethnography and oral history to explore, understand and document Asian arts and culture in Maryland. A collaboration with the TU Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies.

Cambodian Classical Music Ensemble at Towson University

In collaboration with the Department of Music, the Asian Arts & Culture Center, will establish the first Asian music ensemble available as a for-credit course for Towson University students. Under the direction of Cambodian master musician, Chum Ngek, students will learn to perform pin peat, a Khmer classical music genre that has been performed for centuries as the driving force behind classical dance and for sacred, royal, and religious ceremonies.



Online Exhibitions



AA&CC is working to make these exhibitions available online: Meditation, Sounding the Spirit of Cambodia, and Asia@Towson.





AA&CC Art Collection Online

In collaboration with TU's Special Collections & Archives, Albert S. Cook Library, AA&CC is digitizing, cataloguing, and posting our art collection online in ways that are useful and relevant to teachers and students.

Meet Our Newest Team Members

Alyssa DeNicolis

Intern



What are you studying at Towson University?
I'm a junior, with a major in Communications, and a minor in Marketing.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm an intern. Some of the things I'm working on are: managing the membership and sponsorship programs, helping them distinguish between the two, drafting a letter of how members can renew/update their memberships, working on a list of Asian holidays, and writing down all the responses of this semester's interactive exhibit.

How did you first get involved in with AA&CC? I got an email because of my major. I looked on their website, and since I'm interested in Asian culture, and I work at a Chinese restaurant, I thought this is a good opportunity to fuse communications and arts.

What's the best thing you like about AA&CC?
I like that they're celebrating different art cultures, and
they also encourage you to share your own culture. They
want to include everyone and listen to everyone's story.
It's a very enriching environment.

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC? I wish people knew we existed I didn't know this place was here until I saw the Japanese tattoo exhibit last semester, and it was really interesting.

What would people be surprised to know about you? The always wanted to be a spy. I want to go into a criminology program, but I'm not stealthy in any way. The been to the Spy Museum in DC. I'm also into nuning I ran half a marathon in the summer.

What is your favorite place in the world? There's this place by my house; a creek. I go there to read, think, and draw. I like being surrounded by wilderness, and being outdoors.

Angela Donati

Intern



What are you studying at Towson University?
I'm in the Professional Studies Program-Museum Studies and Art History.

What do you do at AA&CC?

intern. I work with the collection. I build the housing for some of the objects. I update the database, put together survey results, and work with filing so that we can send all the information to the archive.

How did you first get involved in with AA&CC?

Dr. baacs is my advisor and she works with the other gallery, but she made the suggestion for me to look into this internship. I also heard about it from Dr. Koch, she had posted something on Rocebook.

What's the best thing you like about AA&CC?

The hands-on experience that I can gain. I'm doing exactly what I want to do when I get out of school. I'm enjoying it so much! This has verified for me that this is really what I want to do.

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC? I wish they knew the opportunities that they offer. I was here as an undergraduate and I didn't know they offer opportunities for students. If I had known earlier, I would have definitely wanted to be involved.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I can actually be very outgoing, I enjoy being quiet, but I just take time to warm up to people sometimes.

What is your favorite place in the world? Italy. I had done a study abroad in Italy 2012 so I want to go back. I like the culture, coffee, art, the weather, everything.

Leslie Kim Gallery Attendant



What are you studying at Towson University? Middle School Education: Math and Science

What do you do at AA&CC?

Gallery attendant. I check how many people came to the gallery, and it's my responsibility to make sure everything in the gallery is safe and not broken. I also keep up with the temperature and humidity.

How did you first get involved with AA&CC?
I take classes in this building, and as I was walking by I saw the flyer, and I also saw the ad on Hire@TTL I applied because it's convenient, I've taken art history before, I like this gallery, and I enjoy analyzing the artwork.

What's the best thing you like about AA &CC?
I liked the tattoo exhibition, and I remember seeing the meditation. My supervisors are really nice. I like the fact that I get to see these exhibitions by working here.

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC? I wish people know about our exhibits, and come fill out our surveys and evaluations.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I've been only living in America for five years, and my English is really good I started learning English when I was ten in South Korea.

What is your favorite place in the world?
I do miss Korea or Shanghai, I lived there for two years.
It was really fun living there. It's like a New York in China.

Elizabeth Martinez

Gallery Attendant



What are you studying at Towson University? Art Illustration.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm a gallery attendant. I greet people who come in, write down the humidity and temperature, answer their questions if they have any, and lock up.

How did you first get involved in with AA&CC?
I saw a posting at Hire@TU, and it was something I was interested in as it's related to my major.

What's the best thing you like about AA&CC?
I like that it's small and more intimate. The events are interesting.

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC? I wish that people knew about the Center.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I have six cats at home. I also have three dogs. And they all get along with each other. It's hard these days because I have two kittens, and they need different food, so I try to keep them away from the other cats so they won't eat the kittens' food. I walk one dog, because the other one is old, and the third one has three legs only.

What is your favorite place in the world?

My room, It's just a nice personal space where I have everything for myself.

Shannon Smith

Cultivation & Operations Assistant



Tell me about your background.

I have an undergraduate degree in Anthropology, and I recently completed my masters in Cultural Sustainability at Goucher College. I have about fifteen years of professional experience with non-profits including a focus in museums and cultural programs.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm the brand new Cultivation & Operations Assistant. Lassist staff with developing innovative community engagement activities and helping bolster some of the existing structures with membership and overall operational support.

How did you first get involved in with AA&CC?
I first became aware of it as a student at Goucher. The
graduate program has a community focused approach to
it, and it's something I really value. I was aware that the
Asian Arts & Culture Centerworks from that perspective.
I was interested in continuing that kind of work.

What's the best thing you like about AA&CC? I really like the staff. Everyone is on the same page with approaches and thinking about different things. I'm interested in learning about traditional and contemporary culture and when both come together.

What do you wish other people knew about AA.8.CC? Just the absolute amazing potential that exists right here. I think all of us working together is going to lead to some really cool things that will interest and engage a lot of people.

What would people be surprised to know about you? In the slant of cultural studies, I have red hair, but I'm not Irish. So, I think you can't judge someone's cultural background by how they look.

What is your favorite place in the world?
Museums and historic sites. I love a lot of different
museums; they are all genuinely unique places. One of
my favorite places in Tennessee is Historic Rugby. It is in
east Tennessee, it was founded as a Victoria utopian
society by Thomas Paine. My favorite part of it is a library
that just sat there unattended for decades. I believe it
was designed by Thomas Jefferson.

Brittany Ton

Intern



What are you studying at Towson University? I'm a senior, double majoring in Advertising and Art. I like the idea of solving problems with creativity.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm an intern. I focus a lot on the marketing and design aspects of promoting different events and programs. I also represent the Chinese American Student Union (CASU) for the Asia®Towson exhibit.

How did you first get involved in with AABCC?

I became aware of AABCC when I went to Tattoo Fest. I got to be more involved whenwe did the Asia@Towson brainstorming meetings. I got an essence of what AABCC does and I knew it would be a great thing to be a part of.

What's the best thing you like about AA &CC?
It's very unique compared to other things on campus.

It's very unique compared to other things on campus. They want to bring in these cultural aspects that a lot of people don't see every day, and encourage meeting people from different cultures. AA&CC challenges you to see things from different perspectives. It connects people and makes the world not seem so big.

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC? I wish people knew how amazing it is. AA&CC is a great resource; it's an opportunity to learn new things.

What would people be surprised to know about you? People are kind of surprised that I have tattoos. I think there's an Asian stereotype that Asian parents are strict about stuff. Having tattoos is expressive for me, especially since I'm an artistic person and my parents understand that.

What is your favorite place in the world?

Home, Whenever I go home to NY, I feel grounded again, like all of the negative stuff disappears. I think it's really just being around my family that makes my home my favorite place.

Interviews by Yomna Farag, AA&CC Graduate Assistant.

Thank You!

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Farewell and Thank you!

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Alyssa DeNicolis

Angela Donati

Yomna Farag

Leslie Kim

Laura Latis

Brittany Ton

