

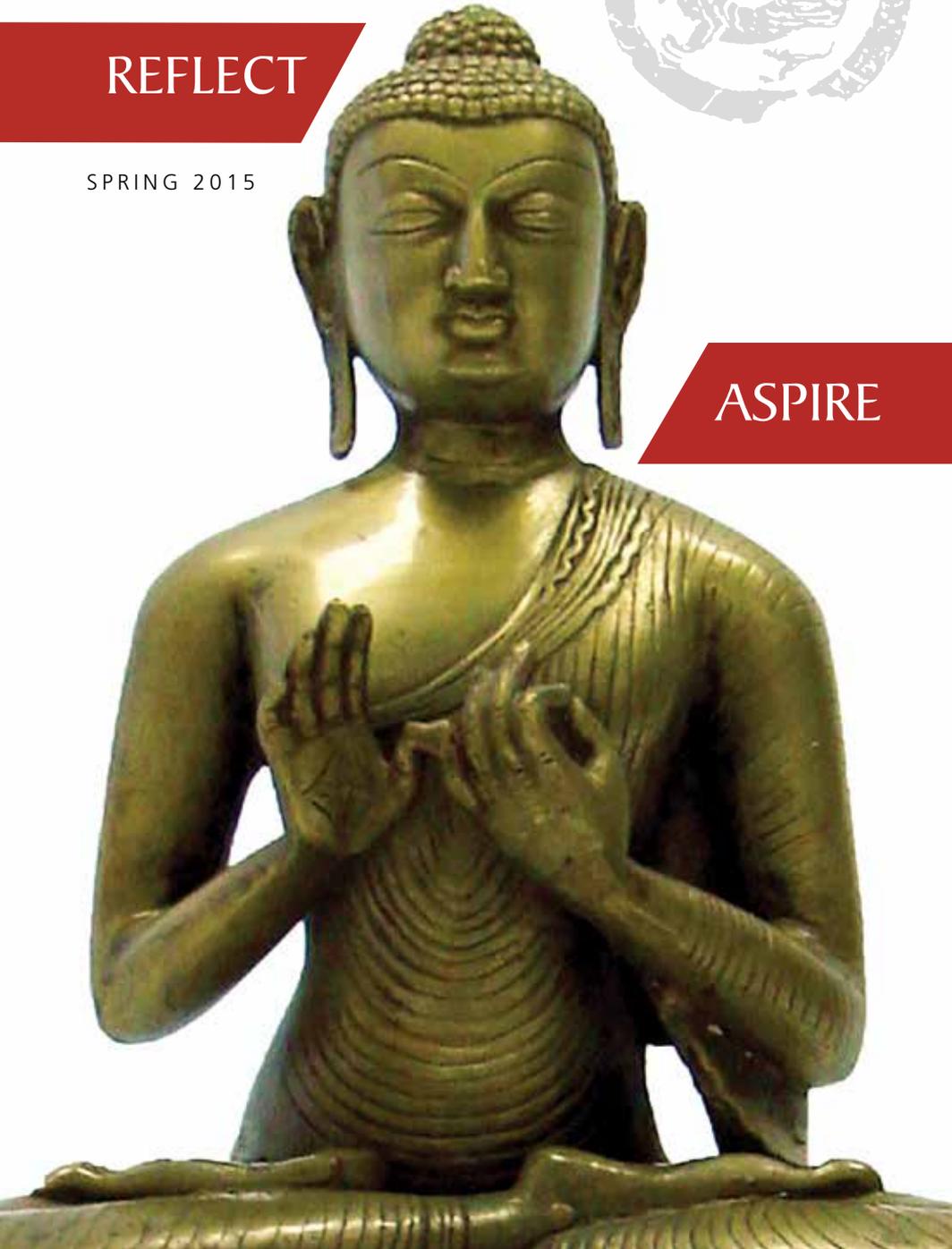
ASIAN ARTS & CULTURE CENTER



REFLECT

SPRING 2015

ASPIRE





# REFLECT



## Meditation

**September 12 – December 13**

**Center for the Arts Asian Arts Gallery**

1500 visitors explored the diverse traditions, histories, purposes and approaches to meditation through objects from the Asian Arts & Culture Center's permanent collection and more. Goals for the show included experimenting with diverse approaches to:

- Interpreting the AA&CC collection
- Interacting with exhibitions, their objects, and ideas
- Broadening the appeal of and engagement with AA&CC exhibitions by TU students and the local community

The Asian Arts & Culture Center expresses its gratitude to John Ford for contributing his curatorial and design expertise to this exhibition. We also thank John and Berthe Ford for lending two beautiful Tibetan thangkas to the exhibition. We thank Theresa Esterlund for her guidance with the interactive gallery elements and Joseph Grace for his expert work on lighting the show.

- 91% of survey respondents reported that the exhibit increased their understanding of Asian art and culture
  - 82% of survey respondents were TU students
  - 23% of survey respondents liked the interactive elements of the exhibition most
- “The interactive nature of the beads, pillows and journals caused me to do more personal reflection than I typically would have done.”
- “The exhibit makes me want to learn more about Asian arts and culture.”

This exhibition theme was inspired by the Center's performance by Taiwan's U-Theatre, held on October 18. The group integrates meditation and introspection into its training.

**Coming Soon! Online version of this exhibition.**

**Thank You** Tierney Gormley, *AA&CC intern*; Daniel Cannella, *Photographer*; Jackie Durbin, *Director of Content Strategy*, TU Marketing and Communications; and Ashley Arnold, *Information Architect*, TU Marketing and Communications.

## AA&CC Members Cocktail Reception

**Sunday, September 21, 1 - 3 p.m.**

**Center for the Arts Asian Arts Gallery and Atrium**



This special event, for Crane Level members and above, featured an exclusive presentation by Hindustani [North Indian] classical vocalist Samia Mahbub Ahmad.



## U-Theatre: Sword of Wisdom

**Saturday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.**

**Stephens Hall Theatre**

Through a fusion of drumming, martial arts, and meditation, Taiwan's U-Theatre performance troupe presented *Sword of Wisdom*, a story of courage in the face of life's challenges, to 250 audience members.

*Presented with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, and the Overseas Community Affairs Council-Republic of China (Taiwan); a program grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant community where the arts thrive, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; the citizens of Baltimore County; McCormick & Co., Inc.; Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd.; the Ro and Marius P. Johnson Charitable Legacy, Inc.; and the Hanlin Chinese Culture Association.*

## Mid-Day Meditation

**Thursday, November 6 & Monday, November 10, 1 - 2 p.m.**

**Center for the Arts Asian Arts Gallery**

TU Counseling Center therapists, Jaime Fenton and Sheila Graham, led free meditation sessions in the Meditation exhibition for TU students, faculty and staff.



## Family Art Days



**Saturdays October 11, November 15 and March 14**

**Center for the Arts Atrium and Galleries**

The Asian Arts & Culture Center partnered with TU's Community Art Center to host family-friendly hands-on and gallery activities related to current exhibitions. Thank you to our volunteers who made these days successful!



## Art Collection Acquisition

In November 2014 the AA&CC accepted a generous gift of a Song Dynasty (960–1368 AD) Qingbai porcelain bowl with a beautiful, semi-abstract wave-like floral pattern from Mr. & Mrs. Stephen C. Walke.

We thank Mrs. Jeannette Walke for thinking of the AA&CC as a new home for this exquisite bowl.

## Dress to Express Museum Module

The AA&CC is proud to participate in Local Learning's pilot of the Dress to Express online learning resource exploring dress and adornment across time and cultural groups. The resource offers strategies for interdisciplinary lessons linking museum collections to communities and students' lives.

The three pilot modules were created by educators at the Arizona State Museum, the Michigan State University Museum, and the Asian Arts & Culture Center. They are housed at Local Learning's online Discovery Studio: <http://locallearningnetwork.org/index.php/guest-artist/dress-to-express-museum-modules/>

The AA&CC plans to work with Towson University students to create additional collection-based modules for the resource and to create a direct link to the resource from its website.

Local Learning is a national network of professionals interested in connecting young people to folklore and traditional and local culture. Local Learning and the Dress to Express project are supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.



*Japanese Woodblock Print of Kabuki Actor, Otawa-ya Onoe Matsusuke, as Oboshi Yuranosuke In the Play, The Forty-seven Samurai Asian Arts & Culture Center Collection, P-026*

## DeVos Arts Management Program

The AA&CC is excited about its acceptance into the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, a two-year arts management training and consultancy program for 20 arts and culture organizations in the Greater Baltimore area. Through the program, Capacity Building: Baltimore, AA&CC will gain training in several areas such as strategic planning, board development and engagement, and fundraising. The DeVos Institute of Arts Management is based at the University of Maryland, College Park.

DEVOS INSTITUTE  
OF ARTS MANAGEMENT  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

CAPACITY BUILDING BALTIMORE  
AN INITIATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Capacity Building: Baltimore is made possible with the support of the University of Maryland. Organizing Support for Capacity Building: Baltimore is provided by the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance and the Maryland Humanities Council.

## Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World

February 5 - May 2, 2015 • Center for the Arts Asian Arts Gallery

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 12, 7:30 - 9 p.m.

2179 visitors have enjoyed this exhibition of photographs by Kip Fulbeck exploring the master craftsmanship and ongoing influence of traditional Japanese tattooing. Curated by master tattoo artist and author Takahiro Kitamura, the exhibition presents the work of seven internationally-acclaimed Japanese-style tattoo artists: Horishiki (Chris Brand), Horitaka, Horitomo, Junii, Miyazo, Shige, and Yokohama Horiken.

"The exhibit allowed for a more personal connection to Asian art by its use/ expression with body art.



*"I enjoyed seeing artwork that I could connect with as a tattooed person. It is refreshing to see tattoos being promoted as artwork."*

The traveling version of Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World is organized by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California, and is supported, in part, by Mariko Gordon and Hugh Cosman. The Asian Arts & Culture Center also appreciates the support of the Towson University Marriott Conference Hotel, The Citizens of Baltimore County, Maryland State Arts Council, Towson University Student Government Association, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Pepsi, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd, McCormick & Co., Inc., Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, Bruce MacKenzie, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication – Diversity Committee, Susan & Karl Behm, and Sandra & Dean Esslinger



## Zero Hour's Tokyo Rose: History and Theater

**Monday, February 9, 1 - 1:50 p.m. | FREE**

**College of Liberal Arts, LA 4110**



Forty TU students, faculty, staff and AA&CC members explored the intersections of some of the facts and fictions of the historical “Tokyo Rose” incident through a conversation with artist Miwa Yanagi, writer and director of the play, *Zero Hour: Tokyo Rose’s Last Tape*, and Towson University professor of history Dr. Erik Ropers.

## Zero Hour: Tokyo Rose’s Last Tape

**Friday, February 13, 7:30 p.m. • Stephens Hall Theatre**

Two hundred fifty audience members enjoyed *Zero Hour: Tokyo Rose’s Last Tape*, a visually stunning theatrical adaptation of the story of “Tokyo Rose,” written, developed and directed by the internationally-known contemporary photography artist Miwa Yanagi.

“Very visually arresting. Interesting topic explored in a way that made you think and engage with the characters.”

The North American tour of *Zero Hour* is produced and organized by Japan Society, New York and supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in the fiscal year 2014, The Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN Program and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Miwa Yanagi is supported by the Asian Cultural Council for *Zero Hour’s* North American tour. The re-staging of *Zero Hour* for the North American tour is supported by Shiseido and the KEN FAMILY, and is made possible with assistance from Kanagawa Arts Theatre, Rissei—Cultural Town Commission, Kyoto University of Art and Design/Kyoto Performing Arts Center and Community Arts Center Platz/Kinosaki International Arts Center.

The Asian Arts & Culture Center also appreciates the support of The Citizens of Baltimore County, Maryland State Arts Council, Towson University Marriott Conference Hotel, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd., McCormick & Co., Inc., Daisy Jones, TU Division of University Advancement, Anthony & Bonnie Montcalmo, TU Center for Student Diversity – Women’s Resources, Baltimore Kawasaki Sister City Committee, Susan & Carl Behm, Carol & Dan Young, Sandra & Dean Esslinger.

## AA&CC Members Perseverance Gallery Talk

**& Reception with Dr. Greg Kimura  
for Crane Level members and above**

**Sunday, February 15, 1 - 3 p.m.**

**Center for the Arts Asian Arts Gallery**



Dr. Greg Kimura, President and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, introduced the Perseverance exhibition and provided insight into Japanese tattoo as an indigenous, full-fledged art form.



## Perseverance Student Mixer

**Thursday, March 26. 6pm**

**Center for the Arts Atrium  
& Asian Arts Gallery**

Thirty TU students joined the AA&CC and the Student Government Association to celebrate our new partnership with an evening of art, music, food and fun.

## Tattoo Fest!

**Wednesday, April 15, 5 - 9 p.m.**

**West Village Ballroom**

One hundred fifty TU students, faculty, staff and community members explored the diversity of tattoo art and culture from Asia and beyond at Tattoo Fest! on April 15.



*Presented by the Asian Arts & Culture Center, TU Center for Student Diversity, and the TU Student Government Association.*



MARYLAND STATE  
ARTS COUNCIL



THE CITIZENS OF  
BALTIMORE COUNTY



## Tattoo Fest! (cont'd)

Tattoo fest participants made, discussed, learned about and acquired tattoos of diverse cultures including traditional ink, henna, and airbrush. They also shared their tattoos and thoughts about them at the event photo booth and a Twitter feed.



71% of survey respondents were TU students  
74.2% of survey respondents were in the 18-24 year-old age range



*Participant responses included:*

**What interested you most about the event?**

*"The interactive learning as well as vendors"*

*"Opportunity to see and experience new things"*

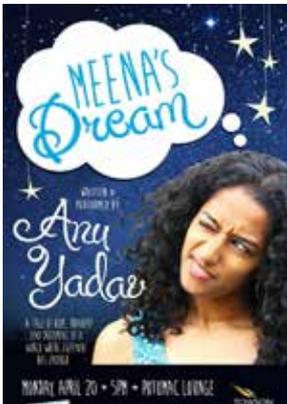
*"Asian culture, diverse experience, and henna art"*



**Other:**

*"Broadened my perspective on Asian culture"*

*"The event was really awesome and I like every thing that it had to offer!"*



## Meena's Dream

**Monday, April 20. 5pm**

**Potomac Lounge, University Union**

AA&CC co-sponsored this Center for Student Diversity-Women's Resources program, a one-woman show by playwright/actress Anu Yadav. Audience members joined Yadav on a young girl's fantastical quest to face her fears and still dream of a world where everyone, including her family, can have enough.

# 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, at 410-704-2718 or [jpecore@towson.edu](mailto:jpecore@towson.edu) or visit <http://www.towson.edu/asianarts/support/index.asp>

## Making Connections

In the coming year, the AA&CC will continue to facilitate and inspire cross-cultural dialogue across three key target audiences: the Towson University community, the local community, and the educational community.

Approaches to achieving this include:

- Creating a student advisory committee
- Creating programs with and for key target audiences
- Initiating the Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural Connection
- Producing online resources related to AA&CC collections, exhibitions & programs
- Providing opportunities for university students to gain practical non-profit work experience

## The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project

This ongoing project will highlight exhibitions, performances, workshops, and artist residencies featuring local Asian American communities and their artistic and cultural work. It will also incorporate The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project through which Towson University students and community scholars will assist the Center in documenting the history of the cultural life of Asian communities in Maryland. This research will assist the Center with creating community bridges and inform our future programs.

In fall 2015, we will initiate the “Connection” with an exhibition, performances, workshops and artist residencies introducing local audiences to the living Khmer art and culture in the Mid-Atlantic region.

## The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project (cont'd.)

In spring 2016, we will initiate the Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project with an interdisciplinary studies course in Towson University's College of Fine Arts & Communication. The course will be open to students across campus. The course combines ethnography and oral history to explore, understand and document Asian arts and culture in Maryland. Students will use interdisciplinary approaches such as ethnographic field work and oral history interviewing to generate primary-source documentation on the history of the cultural life of Asian communities in Maryland. Students will also work with the Center to develop professional museum-quality public presentations from project resources.

### PROPOSED FOR FALL 2015

#### THE ASIA IN MARYLAND (AIM) CULTURAL CONNECTION: CAMBODIAN ARTS & CULTURE

#### Sounding the Spirit of Cambodia: Khmer Music and Dance-drama in a Mid-Atlantic Community

This exhibition explores stories of art and immigration through the experience of musicians, dancers, and community members who practice and support Khmer classical dance-drama in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia. Through the voices of the artists and community members themselves, the exhibition will explore 1) the transformations and continuity of the tradition as it has traveled across geographical and cultural boundaries, and 2) the roles that the tradition plays in keeping the participants connected to Cambodia. The exhibition will highlight not only the beauty of the classical dance-drama tradition, but it will also illuminate the important roles that Khmer music and dance-drama activities have played in creating and maintaining community networks in the United States.

#### 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 Ngeek, 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.



## Cambodian Classical Dance Intensive

The Department of Dance and the Asian Arts & Culture Center will collaborate on semester-long technique class involving master Cambodian dancers living in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Dancers will introduce the classical dance tradition; teach the basic moves and gestures of the four main character types: female, male, monkey and demon; and discuss the symbolic meaning behind these gestures and roles.



## Classical Dance and Music Performance by the Cambodian American Heritage, Inc.

The Cambodian-American Heritage (CAHI), based in Arlington, VA, perpetuates the traditional culture of Cambodia through music and dance instruction, performances and workshops. Master instructors include Sam Ouen Tes, former court dancer of the Cambodian Royal Ballet and 1998 NEA National Heritage Fellow; Devi Yim, Cambodia's prima ballerina in the 1980s; and master musician Ngeek Chum, 2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow.

## Classical Dance and Music Performance by the Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. Culture Group

The Cambodian Buddhist Society Culture Group (CBSCG), based in Silver Spring, MD, preserves and transmits the traditional culture of Cambodia through music and dance instruction, performances and workshops. Master instructors include Masady Mani is a 1987 graduate of the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Heng Vipass, former performer with Cambodia's Royal Palace, and master musician Ngeek Chum, 2005 NEA National Heritage Fellow.



## Family Art Day Performance by the Young Students of Cambodian American Heritage, Inc.

In collaboration with Towson University's Community Arts Center, the Asian Arts & Culture Center will host a family-friendly performance by the youngest students of the Cambodian American Heritage, Inc.

## Family Art Day Performance by the Young Students of Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. Culture Group

In collaboration with Towson University's Community Arts Center, the Asian Arts & Culture Center will host a family-friendly performance by the youngest students of the Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. Culture Group.

## Cambodian Classical Music.

In collaboration with the Department of Music, the Asian Arts & Culture Center, will host a hands-on Cambodian classical music workshop, under the direction of Cambodian master musician, Chum Ngek, for students at Towson University

## Cambodian Classical Costume-Making

In collaboration with the Towson University Department of Theater, the Asian Arts & Culture Center, will organize and host a one-day classical Cambodian costume-making intensive with master costume-maker, Sochietah Ung. Ung will introduce the basic crowns, masks, jewelry, and clothing for each of the main character types: female, male, monkey and demon. The workshop will be open to both Towson students from all disciplines and to the local community.



## Family Art Day: Cambodian Jewelry-Making

In collaboration with Towson University's Community Arts Center, the Asian Arts & Culture Center will host a family-friendly hands-on Cambodian jewelry making session with master Cambodian costume-maker, Sochietah Ung.

## PROPOSED FOR SPRING 2016



### Bridging Communities: The Work and Play of Asian Culture Student Groups

Produced in collaboration with Asian culture student groups at Towson University—such as the Asian Student Association, the Chinese American Student Association, the Chinese Student and Scholar Association, the Filipino Cultural Association, the South Asian Student Association, the Japanese Language and Culture Organization, the Muslim Student Association, and the TU Belly Dancing Club—this exhibition explores the history and activities of these clubs, Asian, and Asian American students at Towson University.

### Collaboratively Planned Performances with Asian Culture Student Groups

While planning the spring 2016 exhibition with Asian culture club students, the AA&CC will organize related performances with the students, featuring a diverse range of performers from professional to novice.

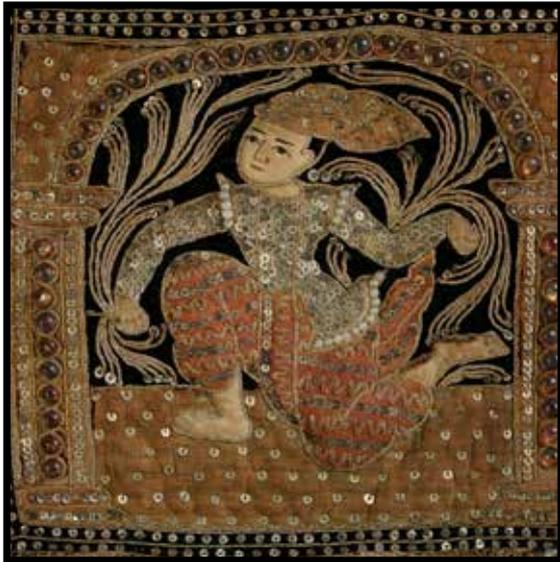


## Community Project: Stories of Many Cultures: Family Storytelling Festival

A multi-cultural family event at the Towson branch of the Baltimore public library exploring local and global stories, including performances, workshops, and hands-on activities.

Collections Access: 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 Spring 2015 Team

**Nerissa Paglinauan • Program Manager**



## **What are you studying at Towson University?**

I'm doing my Master's in Professional Studies - Art History.

## **What do you do at AA&CC?**

As a Program Manager, I have a part in every aspect of running the center, working with Joanna, from administrative work to programming.

## **How did you first get involved with AA&CC?**

Back in 2012, I was working for a non-profit and our grant wasn't renewed, I was searching for a job, and AA&CC was a good fit. I've been working in the non-profit sector since 1999. Until 2005, I worked at National Public Radio in DC, doing administrative work for Performance Today, and websites for music programs, and ended up being an editorial and production assistant as well. In 2007, I started working part-time for the Living Classrooms Foundation, and then worked full-time from 2009-2011. I ran a STEM program called Voyage of Exploration, which served inner city youth. I went to the AA&CC after that.

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

All the different things we get to do from visual arts to performance to music to films. There are so many things we can do, and because our focus is not just on East Asian culture, but broader, there's no limit to subject matter. Art and culture is our only limit, which is limitless. I've always been involved in the arts; I did studio art growing up, and studied piano and voice. I feel in my element here.

## **What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

I want people to know that AA&CC is not just a gallery. Just because someone isn't Asian, it doesn't mean they won't be interested in our exhibitions and the events we present. They can still find meaning in it for themselves.

## **What would people be surprised to know about you?**

People are always shocked to know I have a 10-year-old son. I have two boys, 10 and almost 8. I'm Filipino, and people mistake me for my sister all the time.

## **What is your favorite place in the world?**

Right now it's a tiny private island off the coast of Maine. It's beautiful, and peaceful, there's a particular path there with pine trees that always smells like Christmas. The water is so clean, and the sunsets are spectacular.

**Chris Anderson • Gallery Attendant**



## **What are you studying at Towson University?**

Computer Science.

## **What do you do at AA&CC?**

I'm a gallery guard. I make sure that everyone stays in the general area and doesn't mess up the artwork.

## **How did you first get involved with AA&CC?**

Three years ago, I was going to get a different job in the building, and I went into the wrong office (the AA&CC), and the director here, Suewhei, offered me a job! I accepted it, and I'm so glad this happened.

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

The best thing is that we have a different exhibit each semester, so it is always changing and I like that.

## **What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

How cool the different artwork is. A lot of people think it's student artwork, so they're not interested, but we have established artists. If they knew that, we'd be more popular. Some people want to see student artists too, so maybe we should have a mix in the future. Also, the Perseverance exhibit is my favorite so far. I've been here for so long, and this one is the best one.

**Dorian Andrews • Gallery Attendant**



**What are you studying at Towson University?**

International studies major, and a film minor.

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

I'm a Gallery Assistant. I oversee the gallery as well as help with various tasks, calling people or making spreadsheets, doing all kinds of work with people at the office.

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

I went to a job fair in freshmen year, and AA&CC was the first place I went to, and I thought this place was the best compared to others.

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

It's not just based on one culture, and it's not catered to one specific Asian group. It sheds light on the whole spectrum. It's also a good work environment.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

They hire people! I want people to know that there are a lot of big things coming up in the future. We have exhibits coming up specialized for students.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

People are surprised when I tell them I am a singer. I've been singing since I was around the age of 14, and I participated in my high school's show choir. I also received acceptances into various All-State Choirs and Scholarships into multiple schools during my experiences! I ultimately chose to decline the college offers and accepted Towson University...and I have no regrets! I currently sing at my new-found church home, The Tabernacle at Greater Bethlehem Temple (under Pastor and Stellar Award-winning singer and song-writer Jason Nelson).

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

Heaven. People view it as a place you go after you die, but I believe it's when you're at peace with yourself, and just content with life.

**Daisy Bawuah • Gallery Attendant**



**What are you studying at Towson University?**

I'm a Biology Major.

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

Gallery guard; I make sure everything in the gallery is okay. I also tell people about upcoming events.

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

I was in a program in high school where I had to take an extended art program, for two years. When I came here, I wanted to continue doing that, so I looked for places on campus, and stumbled upon AA&CC.

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

The best thing is the variety of the exhibits, and the different cultures. It allows you to learn something new all the time.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

I wish people knew it's about the different cultures, and not just that Asia is a continent. There are different styles of art in different countries.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

People are surprised to know that I actually love art, even though my major is not Art.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

Where I'm from, Ghana.

### Rachel Chapman • Intern



#### What are you studying at Towson University?

I'm an Anthropology major, and a Museum Studies minor.

#### What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm a programs intern. For the past month, I've been tying loose ends from the Meditation exhibit; generating reports for all the reports that visitors fill out and observation forms that gallery guards fill out. This is to help us figure out what types of interactive elements worked out, what attracted the most attention to the exhibition. I'm also helping out with Tattoo Fest that's happening in April.

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

I needed an internship for my minor. I talked to the director of museum studies, she's my advisor, and she said the AA&CC might be a good option. The program being prepared for 2016 is perfect for me, falls along the lines of my major.

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

I like being challenged. I'm doing things that I've literally never done before. It's intimidating at times, but I'm really learning. I'm not doing random things; I'm doing things that are helping me grow in my field. It's very rewarding. I also like the freedom I get to just learn on my own. The people here trust that you're going to get it done.

#### What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?

I wish people knew we are here. I only knew it was here because I have classes in this building and my sister was a gallery guard. There are many wonderful things we're doing, and it's so frustrating trying to tell your friends to come here and get them excited.

#### What would people be surprised to know about you?

I feel like I'm an open book. When I first came to Towson, I was an Anthropology major concentrating in archeology. I wanted to work on archaeological

sites; work on ancient things, instead of contemporary culture. I did Field School, which was awesome. It was an amazing experience. There's this moment'm in the pit, slowly shaving off centimeters of dirt so I don't miss anything, and I come across several pinched-off bits of unfired clay from pottery making. One had a perfectly imprinted fingerprint. I just felt this connection with another human being who probably lived around six hundred years ago. It was an amazing experience. However, I didn't see it sustainable. I had reservations about working in academia, which is inescapable with Anthropology. I didn't want to spend my whole life just traveling, crouched in pits. I'm still passionate about it though, but not as a career.

#### What is your favorite place in the world?

I admire nature, especially the woods. I love backpacking, especially in Appalachia where the mountains are so old. I'm planning on backpacking mid-July to August, on the Long Trail in Vermont. I love the peace of it; it's nice to get away from the craziness of life in general. Your physical surroundings are so beautiful. There's an innate calm and stillness in the mountains, like nothing else I've ever felt. It's like pressing the restart button, everything just wiped clean.

### Mariely Cruz • Gallery Attendant



#### What are you studying at Towson University?

Early Childhood Education major, and a Biology minor.

#### What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm a gallery guard; I make sure that during the exhibits people don't touch anything, and make sure that the artwork is right where it's supposed to be. When the exhibits are over, I help in taking them down and putting the new ones up.

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

I went to the career fair, Fall 2013, I applied for this job, and later on I got it.

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

I really like that we always have different exhibits and events, and there's always something happening around.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

I wish they actually knew there were events that are happening all around the school year, and they're not all about the same thing, but about different countries and different themes. There are always different things going on.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

People think I'm African American, but I'm actually Hispanic.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

My favorite place in the world is my country, Dominican Republic. We have nice beaches and good food!

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

I was browsing the postings for Graduate Assistant jobs on the Towson University website, and came across the Asian Arts and Culture Center. I was intrigued by the multicultural focus of the AA&CC, and felt that the exposure to a different cultural experience would be immensely beneficial in my pursuit of a career in psychology.

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

I have to say that my coworkers are the best part of being at the Asian Arts and Culture Center. As part of the newsletter project, I have interviewed everyone working here. Every person is genuinely passionate about what they are doing with the AA&CC, even the gallery guards!

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

What everyone says- I wish other people knew it is here! I see people come into the gallery and they are fascinated by the work.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I was a computer science major for a year in undergrad, and then a business major, before I finally settled into psychology. I used to really like playing computer games, and thought computer science would be a good career, but I wasn't passionate about it. So I chose psychology because I had always been interested in human behavior, and wanted to learn more.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

Aswan, in Egypt. It is a beautiful, relaxing place on the Nile River. I spent two weeks there once, just on vacation with family and friends. Aswan just captured my heart; the people there are so kind and generous, and the food is amazing! On top of all that, it is physically stunning to witness- just an absolutely gorgeous place in the world. It inspires and captivates the body and soul, and I know I will return one day.

**Yomna Farag • Graduate Assistant**

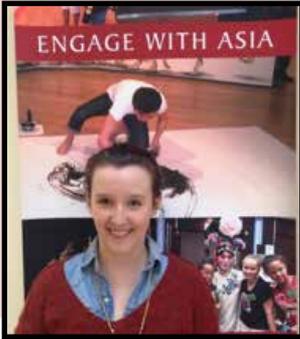
**What are you studying at Towson University?**

I am a graduate student in the Counseling Psychology program. I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

I am one of two Graduate Assistants at the Asian Arts and Culture Center. My responsibilities are currently focused on maintaining and expanding the social media campaign at the AA&CC. I have been updating and managing the Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts, as well as working on the newsletter. In addition, I am part of the team dedicated to developing the 2016 exhibition program.

**Tierney Gormley • Intern**



**What are you studying at Towson University?**

Art History major, and museum studies minor.

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

I'm an intern. I work on more than one area. Right now, I'm working on getting the Meditation exhibition online. I'm a programming intern. So, I'm working on a family fun day and a student reception for Perseverance exhibition.

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

I thought it would be a good internship for my minor. My academic advisor recommended that I check it out. This is my first semester. Also, the Freer is my favorite Smithsonian museum and I realized it's the museum Joanna came from.

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

As an intern, I like the fact that I'm left responsible to complete my own projects. The guides are indispensable, but I'm still able to make my own creative choices.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

I wish people know that we're on campus. The student body is taken into consideration when we select the programming. Students can really benefit from the exhibitions.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I have particular interest in the Meditation exhibition. I practice meditation and mindfulness exercises.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

My favorite place in the world is the Olympic National Park in Washington State. I love backpacking. It's nice to be reminded there's a place in the middle of nowhere that you can find peace.

**Maryanne Jokoh • Gallery Attendant**



**What are you studying at Towson University?**

Computer Science.

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

I'm a gallery guard, I make sure no one touches the artwork, and I clean up when I'm done.

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

I actually came to one of their exhibits during my freshmen year, and I got interested in the work. Dorian told me they were hiring so I applied.

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

It's a very quiet, slow, and chill environment.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

That we're having an exhibit, because a lot of people just don't know what this is.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I'm a twin. My twin doesn't go here though.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

Japan, but I haven't been there yet. It's really different from American culture.

**Laura Latis • Graduate Assistant**



**What are you studying at Towson University?**

I'm in the Professional Studies graduate program, under the Art History track. I already have a Master's in Museum Studies, and the current program offers courses that are complementary to my profession, such as collections management, and grant writing.

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

I'm a graduate assistant (GA). I work with the collections as a registrar, and also keep track of the Center's membership program. I'm re-housing and organizing the collection, and working on collections care policies and procedures.

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

My advisor posted a GA vacancy, so I applied and went for the interview. I was excited to get a position at a cultural institution. It is a great opportunity to have a GA in your field.

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

The people and the collection are the best things about AA&CC. I like the challenge that the collection provides.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

I wish people knew that it has a collection! The Center is famous for its wonderful programming, and not a lot of people know about the collection. The collection should facilitate the programming more.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I'm an international student, from Romania and Hungary. Also, people are surprised to learn that I already have a Master's in Museum Studies.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

Where I am in the present.

**Valeria Miranda • Gallery Attendant**



**What are you studying at Towson University?**

I'm studying Mass Communication with a track in Public Relations and Journalism

**What do you do at AA&CC?**

I'm one of the Art Gallery assistants. Our job is to make sure everyone feels welcome, introduce people to the gallery, and answer their questions.

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

It was spring of freshmen year when I started working here, I was looking for a job and I was very interested in Museum studies so I applied here.

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

The best thing I like about AA&CC is that it's always changing, there are always many different people coming in. It gives you the opportunity to appreciate art from other cultures.

**What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?**

I wish people would know where we are! I wish they could see the open space and where we are so that more people would come. If people knew where we are they'd definitely come, we're so different than all the other galleries.

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I come from a very big family and I'm the first to go to college.

**What is your favorite place in the world?**

The Zoo in DC, I used to go there a lot with my grandpa, every single day during the summer.

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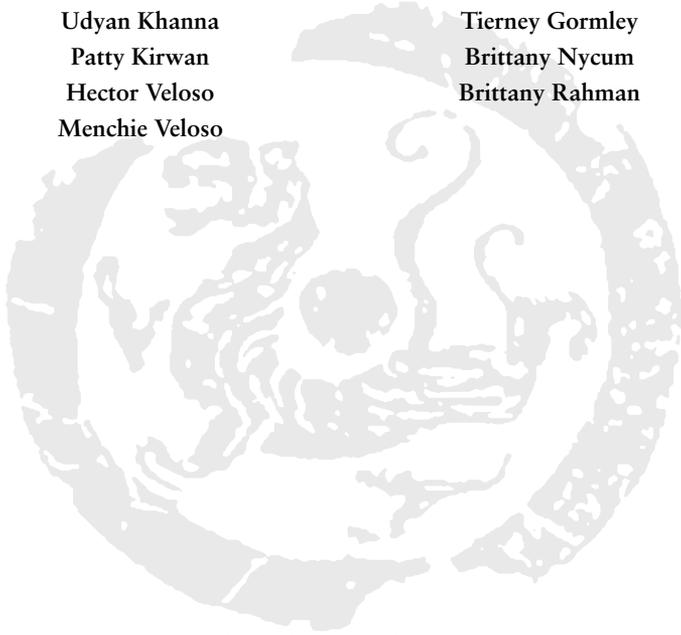
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