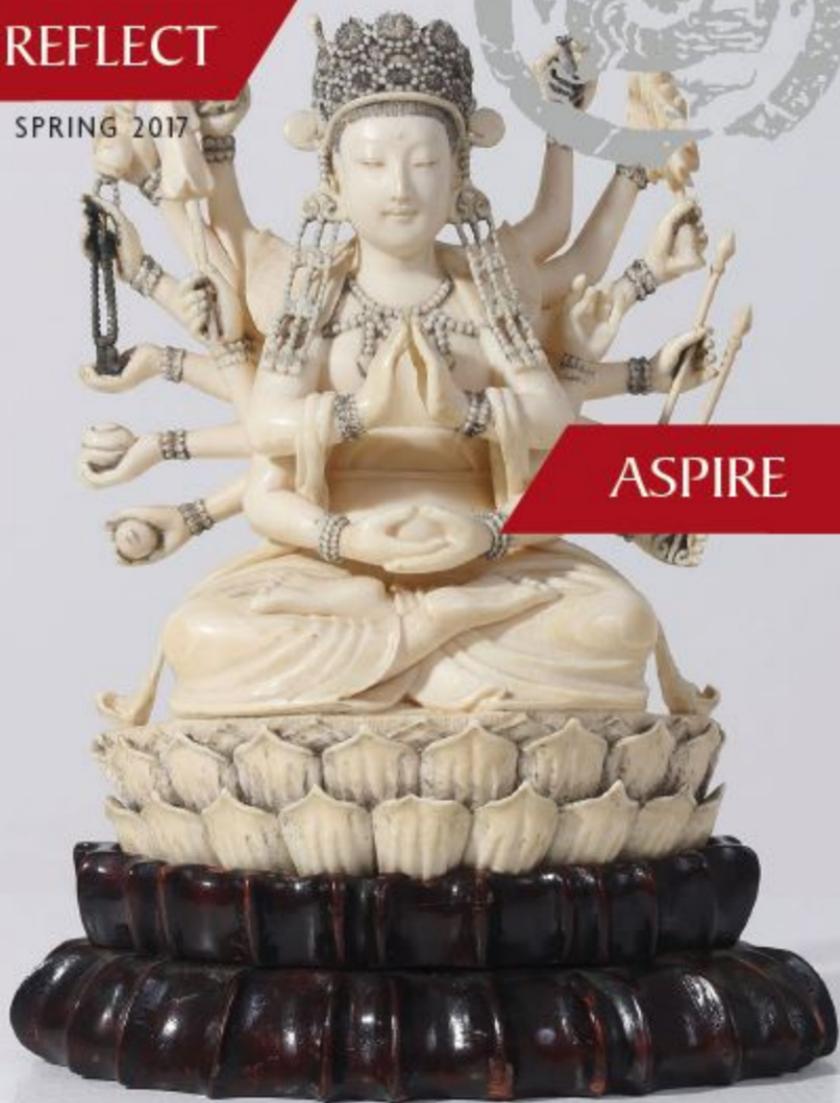


ASIAN ARTS & CULTURE CENTER

REFLECT

SPRING 2017

ASPIRE



Asian Arts & Culture Center

The Asian Arts & Culture Center at Towson University engages the university and surrounding communities in cross-cultural dialogue through a broad range of artistic and cultural learning experiences related to Asia. Our programs increase understanding of the world's diverse cultures, challenge stereotypes, strengthen cultural competency, and offer unique perspectives on creativity and the human experience. We also offer opportunities for university students to learn practical skills needed for working in non-profit cultural institutions.



Asia@Towson

Our Asia@Towson programming highlights the diversity of Asian-related activities and resources on Towson University's campus. We create programming with and for the campus community, including students, faculty, staff and alumni. Programs encompass student-produced exhibitions, Asia-inspired learning events, alumni performances, student mixers, internships, graduate assistantships, volunteer opportunities, and more.



Asia in Maryland

We connect campus and local communities through programs that bring Maryland-based artists and cultural specialists to campus to share their art, culture, and experiences through exhibitions, performances, workshops, artist residencies, and more. Students in our Asia in Maryland Cultural History Project course go off-campus to identify, meet, and document Asian artistic and cultural activities throughout the state. Their research informs our programs. Maryland-based Cambodian master musician leads the TU Pin Peat Ensemble.

Asia Everywhere

AA&CC presents artists and exhibitions representing diverse Asian arts and culture from around the world: Tibetan mandalas, Japanese tattoos, karaoke, global music and dance, folk and fine arts, the social and technical, the intellectual and fun. We even have our own art collection of several hundred historical and contemporary art objects from throughout Asia. Hundreds of local residents enjoy exploring Asian arts and culture at our Family Arts Days each semester co-presented with TU's Community Arts Center.

Asia Online

Objects from our art collection, past exhibitions, and other digital resources are available on the AA&CC website.



REFLECT

"It deepened my curiosity toward Asian arts and culture."



"I didn't know this kind of pottery wasn't being documented. It made me appreciate the art and documentation more."

Chinese Folk Pottery: The Art of the Everyday Exhibition

September 8-December 10, 2016
Center for the Arts, Asian Arts Gallery

1,130 people from the Towson campus and local communities attended our fall exhibition, Chinese Folk Pottery: The Art of the Everyday, exploring folk ceramics created by diverse communities in China.

This exhibit was made possible by the generous support E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd., TU Marketing & Communications, Capital Services Group, Karla Niehus, Angela Donati and Jessica Chen.

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MARYLAND
STATE ARTS
COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
100 BALTIMORE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Inspired by Tradition: China's Precious Folk Pottery Educator Workshop

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Ten participants joined an educator workshop, Inspired by Tradition: China's Precious Folk Pottery, to examine the art, history, traditions and cultural politics behind the pottery in the Chinese Folk Pottery exhibition. This event was led by Frances Klapthor, Associate Curator for Asian Art at The Baltimore Museum of Art and Yu Luo, Postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of California Berkeley. It was co-presented with the TU Department of Asian Studies and the TU Department of History.



This workshop was made possible with the generous support of the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Citizens of Baltimore County, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Maryland State Arts Council, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd., Mid-Atlantic Region-Association for Asian Studies (MAR-AAS), Capital Services Group, TU Asian Studies Program, and TU Department of History.

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Earthy Expressions: Making Everyday Objects with Clay Workshop

Thursday, November 10, 2016

15 participants joined local potter, Richard Holt, for a tour of the Chinese Folk Pottery exhibit followed by a hands-on workshop. In the workshop participants hand built vessels resembling a pitcher from Shanxi.



This workshop was made possible with the generous support of the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Citizens of Baltimore County, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Maryland State Arts Council, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd., and Capital Services Group.

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Folk Pottery of Asia Mini-Exhibit

Fall 2016

Intern Angela Donati curated and installed a mini-exhibition in the AA&CC corridor vitrines: Folk Pottery of Asia. This exhibition complemented our exhibition, Chinese Folk Pottery. Angela is an M.A. candidate in Professional Studies-Art History and Museum Studies.



Baltimore Collects: The Collector's Perspective Panel Discussion

Saturday, September 25, 2016

35 people attended Baltimore Collects: The Collector's Perspective panel discussion convening nationally recognized art collectors from the Baltimore/Washington region to discuss their passions and share their Asian art collections with the public. Panelists included Stephen Fisher, Japanese cloisonné enamels; John & Beth Ford, South Asian art; and David Reh fuss, Vietnamese ceramics. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Robert Mintz, Deputy Director, Art & Programs, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.



"Opened my eyes to a side of Asian art that I was not familiar with."



Special thanks to Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota and Capital Services Group for their generous support of this program.

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

October 31-November 3, 2016

4000 people attended opening and closing ceremonies, lectures, and the creation of an Akshobya mandala for peace and conflict resolution by monks from Tibet's Drepung Loseling Monastery.



"A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"Fascinating to watch, appreciate the impermanence of life, and ability to be present."



These programs were made possible by the generous support of the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Citizens of Baltimore County, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Maryland State Arts Council, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Capital Partners Securities, Co., Ltd., TU Student Government Association, Capital Services Group, and the COFAC Diversity Committee.

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Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival

Saturday, June 6, 2016

AA&CC set up a booth at the Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival at The Creative Alliance in Baltimore introducing our work to hundreds of festival goers. Cambodian costume artist, Sochietah Ung, led two hand-on Cambodian jewelry making workshops and demonstrated the art of Cambodian crown making in our tent. AA&CC staff and volunteers engaged visitors throughout the day with a hands-on rangoli making activity.



Thank you, Maryland Folklife Program, for sponsoring our activities!



FAMILY ARTS DAY

November 5, 2016 and March 11, 2017

Five hundred people enjoyed drop-in art activities, performances, interactive gallery experiences, workshops, and story time on these two dates. These events were co-sponsored by Pepsi.

November 5:

Visitors explored the Chinese Folk Pottery exhibition with a family gallery guide investigating dragon kilns, the Chinese zodiac, and animal symbolism as well as encouraging close-looking at inventive clay creations. Attendees also created clay animal figures inspired by toy whistles from Guizhou.



March 11:

Attendees encountered the diverse history and culture of karaoke through gallery activities, live singing, and making innovative tambourines.

Co-presented with the TU Community Art Center and the TU Department of Art + Design, Art History, and Art Education Galleries.

Thank you to our volunteers who made these days successful!



Karaoke: Asia's Global Sensation Exhibition

February 13-May 13, 2017

1525 people enjoyed this community-produced interactive gallery installation exploring the diversity and commonalities of karaoke customs on a local and global scale.

Here are some of the comments we received on the interactive "Share Your Karaoke Story" wall in the exhibit:

- When I'm stressed with exams especially, that's when I turn to karaoke!
- I've had a similar experience as the people in this exhibit. I have always been and still am too self-conscious to sing in public, even among friends. Recently, two close friends and I went to Korean style karaoke in Ellicott City. I told myself I'd finally get the courage to sing and I did!
- Experiencing the authentic karaoke atmosphere in Japan was one of my best experiences while there. It was a blast and nothing compares to it here!
- When I was on karaoke stage I thought of someone I missed and hoped he was in a good place since I thought being in karaoke was a good place



"A well-researched, engaging exhibition."



"It was fascinating to learn the history of karaoke."

This exhibit was made possible by the generous support E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, TU Student Government Association, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Maryland Traditions Folklife Program, PNC Bank, Capital Partners Securities, Ltd., TU Center for Student Diversity, Capital Services Group, TU Marketing & Communications, COFAC Diversity Committee, Bmore Karaoke, The Singing Machine Company, Inc., Baltimore-Xiamen Sister City Committee, Brooke Abercrombie, Suk Choi, Odile Cole, Nelson de Lara, David Gaines, Kate Hanson, Susie Horn, Xinli Ji, Lijun Jin, Jo Jo Kesforvop, Nicole Lanciotti, Qing Li, Rudy Lizardo, Sangeeta Mathur, B.J. McElderry, Anthony Montcalmo, Jimmy Nalley, Justin Nguyen, Nerissa Paglinauan, Teodulo Paglinauan, Steven Phillips, Angela Pohlen, Niles Rodgers, Sudhir & Sonali Seth, David Sim, Manoj & Geeta Singh, Henry Smith, Shannon Smith, Brittany Ton, Kendra Wallace, Sean Wickham, Kira Wisniewski, and Kevin Xue.



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Karaoke: Global Technology, Local Practice Panel Discussion

Thursday, February 16, 2017

25 people attended a panel discussion among five local karaoke jockeys (KJ's), exploring questions about KJ careers and roles, as well as their views on karaoke culture and changes over the past decades. Panelists included Brooke Abercrombie, David Gaines, Susie Horn, Rudy Lizardo and Jimmy Nalley. The discussion was moderated by Byrd McDaniel, karaoke scholar at Brown University.



*“Expanded my understanding
of the impact karaoke can
have on people’s life.”*

Thank you for making this event possible!

E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, TU Student Government Association, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, Maryland Traditions Folklife Program, PNC Bank, Capital Partners Securities, Ltd., TU Center for Student Diversity, Capital Services Group, TU Marketing & Communications, COFAC Diversity Committee, Bmore Karaoke, The Singing Machine Company, Inc., and the Baltimore-Xiamen Sister City Committee.



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Tiger-oke Cabaret Student Mixer

Friday, March 10, 2017

Fifty Towson students, faculty, staff and friends enjoyed free food, karaoke, and a “Kiraoke” karaoke-gram booth where they video-recorded karaoke performances and sent them to friends and family, near and far. Co-hosted by the TU Center for Student Diversity and TU Student Government Association.



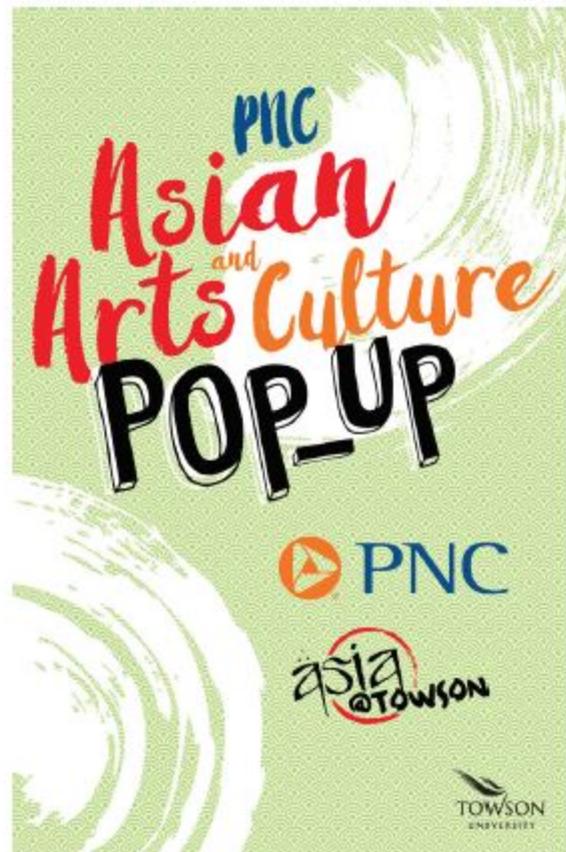
Special thanks for Bmore Karaoke for volunteering for this event!

PNC Asian Arts and Culture Pop-ups

Wednesday, March 1 and April 19, 2017

University Union and West Village Commons

Fifty Towson students, faculty, staff and friends participated in two karaoke-themed “pop-up” events near campus PNC Bank branches and ATM locations. On March 1, Brooke Abercrombie led karaoke in the University Union, and Kira Wisniewski set up her “Kira-oke” booth in West Village Commons.



The Roya Ensemble

Natural Fusion Lecture Demonstration: The Music of Ancient Persia and the Spanish Flamenco

Wednesday, April 26

Musician, Roya Bahrami introduced thirty-five people, including the TU World Music Ensemble and other guests, to the many ways the music of ancient Persia and Spanish flamenco are connected.

Roya Ensemble Performance:

Sunday, Apr. 30

One hundred thirty attendees experienced a spellbinding fusion of Persian, Flamenco, Latin, and jazz music with Roya Bahrami and her ensemble.

*"Wonderful
mix of sound
and texture.
Very dreamy."*



The Asian Arts & Culture Center appreciates the generous support E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Maryland State Arts Council, TU College of Fine Arts & Communication, Citizens of Baltimore County, Yoshinobu & Kathleen Shiota, Ro & Marius P. Johnson Legacy Charitable Fund, PNC Bank, Capital Partners Securities, Ltd., TU Marketing & Communications, TU Student Government Association, TU Department of Music, Capital Services Group, and COFAC Diversity Committee.

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Asian Heritage Month Festival, Frederick, MD

Saturday, May 6, 2017

AA&CC joined the Asian Heritage Month Festival in Frederick, MD introducing our work to hundreds of attendees. We teamed up with OTS Productions and the Baltimore Kawasaki Sister Cities Committee to present performance demonstrations of live Japanese calligraphy with Setsuhi Shiraishi during the day.



The Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project

We offered our Asia in Maryland (AIM) Cultural History Project interdisciplinary studies course again in spring 2017. Students used ethnography and oral history research tools to explore, understand and document Asian arts and culture in Maryland. Their research assists the Center with creating bridges between Towson University and the local community and informs 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!

Towson University Pin Peat Ensemble

The AA&CC and TU Department of Music teamed up to establish the TU Pin Peat (Khmer classical music) Ensemble led by master Cambodian musician, Chum Ngek. TU students expand their artistic and cultural horizons while contributing to the preservation and longevity of a tradition that was nearly decimated during the Khmer Rouge era in Cambodia.



Special thanks to the Maryland State Arts Council, Citizens of Baltimore County, and AA&CC members for making this initiative possible!

Online Resources

This year the AA&CC made these resources available online:

- Objects from our art collection (This will be added to over time.)
- Meditation online exhibition
- Dress to Express museum module
- Perseverance audio tour



Art Collection Acquisition

In September 2016, the AA&CC accepted a generous gift of a Han Dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE) fanghu vessel from Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cumming. This fanghu has a simple shape with a smooth surface, intricate decorative lid, and ring handles with a taotie (stylized mythical animal mask) design.



We thank the Cummings for thinking of the AA&CC as a new home for this stunning vessel.

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 or visit www.towson.edu/asianarts/support/index.asp

AA&CC is working to achieve sustainability and expand upon its various and other efforts for greater campus and community impact. In addition to developing our Asia in Maryland, Asia@Towson and online programming, we aspire to implement the following projects.

Proposed for Fall 2017

The Korean Wave! Exhibition

This exhibition will offer insights into the connections between the “Korean Wave”---including music, drama, film, food and fashion---and the traditional arts and culture that inspired them. It will include an exploration of these internationally-loved creations built around key Korean cultural concepts, such as jeong (affection that binds communities) and heung (joy and excitement).



Washington Samulnori Performance

Maryland-based Washington Samulnori presents exciting folk rhythms of Korea. This Korean traditional percussion performing troupe is dedicated to performing and preserving “Samulnori”. The Korean words “sa” and “mul” mean “four things” and “nori” means “to play.” In the case of SamulNori, it refers to the four musicians playing four different types of percussive instruments: the changgo (hourglass-shaped drum), the buk (barrel drum), the jing (large gong), and the kkwaenggwari (small gong). The origins of their music can be traced to farmers’ band music (“nong-ak”) and ceremonial music. The repertoire of SamulNori also integrates the influences of folk and religious music and their intricate rhythms have become uniquely their own.



Proposed for Spring 2018

Asia's Healing Arts

The healing arts of Asia are all around us: yoga, Ayurveda, tai chi, acupuncture, reiki, qigong, shiatsu, Chinese medicine, and more. They are gaining increasing global acceptance and popularity. In fact, they are becoming so common that many people are not even aware of the Asian roots, histories, and philosophies they emerged from.

In spring 2018, the AA&CC will offer an exploration of these traditions—especially their philosophies and histories—globally and in Maryland, through an interactive exhibition, workshops, family arts day activities, and a family gallery guide. AA&CC will co-curate the exhibition and programs with Maryland-based specialists.



Koto 360° Performance

AA&CC proposes presenting Koto 360°, an exploration of the versatility and transformations of Japanese music through the koto (13-string zither) and shakuhachi (bamboo flute) with newly composed music, unique instrument pairings, and diverse collaborations. The performance will feature John Kaizan Neptune, shakuhachi master and accomplished jazz artist and composer; Masayo Ishigure, koto virtuoso who performs worldwide, including on the soundtrack of "Memoirs of a Geisha;" Emma Wylie, award-winning tap dancer; guitarist Michael Gilsinan, who has performed worldwide; the New York-based Miyabi Koto Ensemble; and local musicians on flute and percussion. The performance will be followed by an interactive question and answer session.



Other proposed and in-progress projects

Online Resources

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



We are also preparing versions of these past events for online access: Inspired by Tradition teacher workshop, Baltimore Collects panel discussion, and Karaoke: Global Technology, Local Practice panel discussion.



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.

Asian Artist Residencies



We envision creation of Asian Artist Residencies in all arts disciplines in TU's College of Fine Arts and Communication with the objective of transforming TU into a place where anyone can learn Asian art forms and exchange ideas cross-culturally. The residencies

will have the added benefit of supporting the work of resident artists, including many who are the bearers of traditions that are struggling to survive. Part of the sustainability plan will include opportunities for resident artists to teach in public schools with the assistance of TU students trained to co-teach with them.

We have initiated this work by establishing the TU Pin Peat Ensemble in collaboration with the Department of Music.

Our Stories: Family Storytelling Festival

We hope to create an annual multi-cultural family event produced in collaboration with the Baltimore County Public Library exploring local and global stories through performances, workshops, and hands-on activities.



Meet Our Newest Team Members

Maklene Dzadey
Gallery Attendant



What are you studying at Towson University?
Nursing.

What do you do at AA&CC?
I'm a gallery attendant. I welcome people in to the gallery and make sure the displays are correct.

How did you first get involved in with AA&CC?
I was looking for a job and they were hiring at the job fair, so I applied.

What's the best thing you like about AA&CC?
I see art every day!

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?
It's open to everyone and you don't have to be Asian to appreciate the art there.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
I'm from Ghana.

What is your favorite place in the world?
The library.

Ashley Ford
Gallery Attendant



What are you studying at Towson University?
I am a sophomore and I study Biology.

What do you do at AA&CC?
I'm a gallery attendant. I greet people when they come in, make sure everything is in order and teach people about karaoke.

How did you first get involved in with AA&CC?
I found the job at Hire@TU. It sounded like a really interesting position.

What's the best thing you like about AA&CC?
The ability to express yourself, how you can just start singing in the gallery.

What do you wish other people knew about AA&CC?
I don't think most people know it's here or we have this exhibit. I feel everyone should at least come look at it once because they could sing or learn about the history of karaoke.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
I'm obsessed with animals. I have 2 cats and a dog.

What is your favorite place in the world?
I really like being on the beach, somewhere really relaxing.

Carmen Gilliam

Marketing Intern



What are you studying at Towson University?

I am a senior here at Towson University, graduating this May. I am majoring in business with a marketing concentration.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I am the marketing intern. As the marketing intern I focus on reaching out and involving students and the community with our projects here at AA&CC. I am in charge of our social media pages and spreading the word about upcoming events.

How did you first get involved with AA&CC?

The last marketing intern, Kendra, was in my business fraternity. Since she was graduating, I asked her if she knew if the department she worked in would need another marketing intern to take her position. She said yes, and here I am!

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

The people! I was a music major before I transferred to Towson. Being back in an arts building is bringing me back to my roots. I love hearing people singing and playing music when we have our door open—it makes me want to go out and sing with them!

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

We're a small team, but we're a mighty team! We may not be a large department but we offer a lot. I want people to know how interactive our exhibit is right now.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Either that I have six siblings, or that I was a vocal performance major.

What is your favorite place in the world?

New York and Disney World. Ha ha. They are complete opposites, but I think I like them because of that. Both places, a lot of people want to go and visit at some point in their life.

Nicole Lanciotti

Graduate Assistant



What are you studying at Towson University?

I am a graduate student in the Counseling Psychology program.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm a GA. I focus on student outreach, developing a team of students to get involved and help plan our future exhibits and programs. Additionally, I help prepare for upcoming exhibits and I file so that we can send information to the library archive.

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

My program sent out a post for the GA position here and I thought it would be perfect for me since I grew up with a mother who was an art educator for many years, and I love learning about different cultures!

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

Everything. I love being a part of the hands on experience of mixing culture with art and introducing that to people. I like getting students, families, and the community involved in the arts. No matter what degree a student is studying, we should all have an appreciation for the arts.

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

I wish students on campus, their families, friends, and the community knew we were here and the amazing things we offer. Going to museums and special exhibits can be costly and time consuming. This is right on campus and free. Pop in, and take a look around!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I received my cosmetology license before attending UMBC to get my bachelors and coming to Towson to get my masters.

What is your favorite place in the world?

Santorini, Greece. The colors there are unbelievable. Everything is so crisp, clear, and colorful. The water and sky are so blue. I'd love to have a house on the side of a mountain overlooking the gorgeous water, and just paint all day.

Pratisha Pradhan

Gallery Attendant



Tell me about your background.

I am studying environmental science and studies.

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm a gallery attendant. I make sure everyone who comes in is signed in and if anyone has questions I help answer them.

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

I was at the job fair and found out about it.

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

Bringing past and current art forms from different cultures and informing people about the art and history.

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

I would want other people to know about the art we have here and come explore the different types of art displayed in the gallery, as well as the many exhibits/workshops we host throughout the year.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I'm a shy person. If I meet you for the first time, I'm not that open.

What is your favorite place in the world?

My home country, Nepal.

Edmund Savage

Gallery Attendant



What are you studying at Towson University?

I am a freshman here at Towson and I'm studying English and Electronic Media & Film (EMF).

What do you do at AA&CC?

I'm a gallery attendant. I greet guests, maintain cleanliness, help with equipment for the exhibit, and make sure nobody touches anything they shouldn't.

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

I found the position on Hire@TU.

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

Definitely the current exhibit! It's very interactive, since its karaoke.

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

I would want more people to come and participate in our interactive exhibit. Not a lot of people know about it.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I write poetry every night before I go to bed.

What is your favorite place in the world?

Being with my family and friends. They make me feel happy and like I can be myself.