

CULTURAL EVENTS



Dance, Orchestral Music & Wildfowl Art Are Honored

Long-time SU cultural institutions celebrated milestones and honors in 2010-2011. The SU Dance Company marked its 50th season with a retrospective concert in spring 2011. The performances included a lively look back at 50 years of music and dance trends in an ensemble work while also featuring guest choreographers, resident faculty, current members and company alumni. For 25 years, the community and SU have been making beautiful music together through the Salisbury Symphony



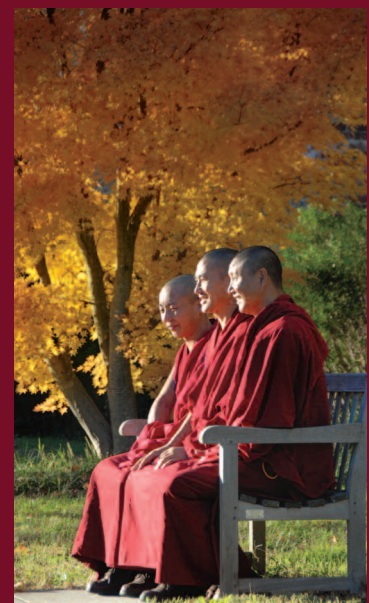
Orchestra. The SSO has thrived under the baton of Dr. Jeffrey Schoyen, conductor, and presented four concerts and hosted a gala for its silver anniversary season. The University's Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art was voted the "Free State's Finest" museum on the Lower Eastern Shore by *Maryland Life* magazine. Selection was made by the magazine's readers in a poll that received more than 1,500 ballots.

Cultural Series Explores India

Familiar guests and exciting, new performers came to the University as part of its "India and the Sub-Continent" cultural series. For the third time this decade, the monks of Tibet's famed Drepung Loseling Monastery (below) were in residence at SU to spread their message of peace and understanding. During their weeklong visit, the monks constructed an elaborate sand mandala, which they believe brings purification and healing. They provided a series of lectures and demonstrations, and concluded their stay with the famed "Sacred Music, Sacred Dance" concert. The unique sounds of the sitar, coupled with the taut percussion of the tabla, delighted audiences as musicians Alif Laila and Amit Kavthekar performed. Laila studied classical Indian music growing up in Bangladesh, and Kavthekar is on faculty at the New England School of Music and studied as a child with famed tabla player Ustad Allarakha. SU welcomed the Nrityagram dance ensemble (right) following a show at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Meaning "dance village" in Indian, Nrityagram is the country's first modern residential school for Indian classical dance instruction. Members of the Kalanidhi Dance Company of Washington, D.C., performed for Salisbury audiences Kuchipudi,



one of India's seven main classical dance styles. Company members have been trained in the rigors of the classical form and use it to explore new and creative ways to connect with diverse audiences. Renowned Indian percussionist Sandip Burman presented a tabla concert. A native of Durgapur, India, he is a disciple of the late tabla master Pandit Shyamal Bose and has played with Ravi Shankar and George Harrison.





Celebrating Chinese Art & Artists

In 2010-2011, China's cultural best was on display at SU. Eight of China's most highly regarded artists demonstrated that nation's traditional painting technique (right) by creating two large scrolls of calligraphy as a gift – and gesture of friendship – to SU. The remarkable visit followed a trip by SU educators to China during summer 2010. Although the names of the visitors – Qi Chunlan, Xu Huiquan, Chen Jianjun, Sun Junliang, Shen Minyi, Zhang Xiaofei, Dai Yunliang and Chen Weibing – may be unknown here, the beauty of their art, which often includes landscapes and people at work, struck a chord with Eastern Shore residents. The splendor of China's diverse nationalities were celebrated through high-spirited song and elaborately costumed dance during "Colorful China: A Celebration of China's Ethnic Communities" (above). The program is derived from research, collection and preservation of the country's 56 ethnic groups by the

Chinese National Museum of Ethnology, represented by 48 performers. Chinese dance drama came to SU with a performance by the award-winning Shanxi Vocational Art College Huajin Ensemble. The performance showcased folk Shanxi dance and music, puppet shows, architecture and the unique lifestyle and culture of this ancient finance center in north China.



Inspirational Lectures

SU guests brought messages of encouragement and hope. Cedric Jennings, subject of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League*, spoke to new students at fall convocation, discussing his difficult path from Washington, D.C.'s Ballou High School to Brown University. The Rev. Mpho A. Tutu, founder and executive director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage, shared her message of peace and faith. With her father, Nobel Peace Prize-winning anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, she authored *Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference*. Maryland State Senator Rob Garagiola, SU's 2011 John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow, is the latest legislator honored for public service to come to campus. With an impressive list of accomplishments in state government, he is a dynamic young role model with whom students can identify.



Cedric Jennings



Rev. Mpho A. Tutu



Senator Rob Garagiola



Latino Artists & Leaders

"Our diversity, I continue to believe, is the greatest strength of our nation." U.S. Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez (below), one of the highest ranking Latinos in the federal government, expressed this ideal and received a warm reception from a standing-room-only audience during his Latino Heritage Month and Constitution Day lecture. The Civil Rights Division leader praised SU for its credo that excellence and diversity go hand in hand. With colorful costumes, vibrant music and exotic dance, Ballet Folklorico "Quetzalli" de Veracruz brings



the history and culture of Mexico to life. Award-winning musicians from Grupo Tlen-Huicani joined the dancers at SU to provide an authentic flavor. As part of SU's third annual Classical Guitar Festival, area audiences had the opportunity to hear critically acclaimed classical guitarist Javier Calderón (top). He appears regularly in solo recitals throughout the world and as concert soloist with orchestras nationwide.

