



SU Explores 'Expressions Of Spirituality'

The theme for SU's Cultural Affairs Office's 2016-2017 offerings was "Expressions of Spirituality," exploring the relationship between spiritual expression, creativity and the arts.

Leading the fall events were a Tibetan singing bowls demonstration and a Flying Mystics concert. One of the foremost dance companies of India, Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, made a return visit to SU. Also performing was tabla player Bickram Ghosh and his group Drums of India.

In the spring, for the sixth time, the Tibetan monks from the famed Drepung Loseling Institute were in residence at SU to create a beautiful sand mandala. The series culminated with a high-energy show from the legendary Shaolin Warriors, masters of Chinese martial arts.

Beyond performances, the University offered several participatory events, including meditation classes designed to promote relaxation, develop compassion, patience and forgiveness; a series of tribal belly dancing classes; and energy-balancing yoga on the campus' front lawn.



New Ward Museum Facilities Open

SU's Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art showcased two new additions to its waterfront facility on Schumaker Pond.

The museum held a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony for the John A. Luetkemeyer Sr. and Thomas F. Mullan Jr. Legacy Center, which was quickly followed by a re-dedication ceremony for the museum's Richard A. Henson Education Center. Some \$1.75 million was raised through a capital campaign for new classroom additions and renovations throughout the museum. The Luetkemeyer and Mullan Legacy Center adds 2,200 square feet to the facility.

It is equipped as a 21st-century learning center and will be used as an education center and flexible meeting space to serve the growing needs of educational and cultural programs for all ages. The Henson Education Center also serves as classroom space for the museum's growing public programs.

Beyond its commitment to education, the Ward Museum features the world's largest and finest public collection of decorative and antique decoys.



Ruth Starr Rose Exhibit Illuminates Area History

SU presented a multi-gallery exhibition, "Ruth Starr Rose (1887-1965): Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World," throughout the fall.

Despite having her artwork in the collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and regular correspondence with Harlem Renaissance artists such as Prentiss Taylor, Ruth Starr Rose may not yet be a household name in the art world. Her legacy, however, remains an important part of Eastern Shore and African American history.

The early- to mid-20th century artist spent the bulk of her career painting scenes from the Shore's African American community. The dignity and compassion with which she portrayed her subjects – from sail makers, to crab pickers, to soldiers, many the descendants of abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman – provides a rare look at African American life on the Delmarva Peninsula during that time. She also painted vivid interpretations of Negro spirituals.

Political Leaders Discuss Elections And Global Issues

The University added to its long roster of visiting political heavy hitters by three during 2016-2017.

Steven Shepard, POLITICO's chief polling analyst and editor of *The POLITICO Caucus*, visited SU to discuss the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

SU's Bosserman Center for Conflict Resolution inaugurated its 25th

anniversary celebration with a visit from Nobel Peace Prize recipient José Ramos Horta. The former prime minister and president of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (Timor Leste) spoke as part of the center's "One Person Can Make a Difference" lecture series. He also received SU's President's Medal for leadership and service.

Also honored with the President's Medal was Irina Bokova, director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She too was a presenter in the "One Person Can Make a Difference" series and discussed "Preventing Violent Extremism in the 21st Century: Fostering a New Generation of Global Citizens."



Fearless Alumna On Wall Street

The iconic bull statue on Wall Street may have met his match when a bronze model of a little girl with high-tops and a ponytail was unveiled for International Women's Day.

"Fearless Girl" is the creation of SU alumna Kristen Visbal.

The little girl standing down the bull quickly became an international phenomenon, and Visbal was inundated with media requests, business propositions and touching emails from women around the world.

For 19 years, Visbal has been building a reputation as a public artist with an impressive portfolio of large outdoor sculptures. She is currently moving forward with her next major commission: Alexander Hamilton for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.



(Photo Credit: Federica Valabrega)