



SMU students offer ideas to help displaced people retain culture

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Refugees often face the loss of their culture when living in new communities. Challenges include maintaining religious traditions, connecting with other refugees and following cultural practices.

Students in Faith Nibbs' "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" class at [Southern Methodist University](#) invited former refugees from [Bhutan](#) and [Burundi](#) to share their experiences in refugee camps. The Bhutanese are Nepalese in origin but have lived as immigrants in southern Asia for centuries because of discrimination. Burundi, in Africa, has experienced civil war, forcing many to flee.

The students and former refugees worked together to create a Living Village, a hands-on exhibit that showcases how to preserve culture. The public is invited to visit the exhibit at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. There will be a program with a choir performance, two talks and dinner. Admission is free. Visit [eandhweek.org](#).

Tibetan monks

Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery are visiting the Crow Collection of Asian Art through Sunday. This is the monks' 13th visit. While here, the monks are creating a Tantric Buddhist mandala sand painting by placing millions of grains of colored, crushed marble into an intricate design.

Events that focus on their visit include Crow After Dark from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, meditation at noon Sunday and a closing ceremony from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. The museum is at 2010 Flora St. in Dallas. Call 214-979-6430 or visit [crowcollection.org](#).

Engineering degree

Officials at [the University of Texas at Arlington](#) signed an agreement Tuesday with representatives from [Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications](#) to offer a joint master's degree in software engineering. The partnership will bring 15 to 20 Chinese students a year to UTA starting in [the fall](#) of 2013. Dr. Yonghe Liu, an associate professor of computer science and engineering at UTA, will manage the program with assistance from Rong Zhang, a software engineer. UTA officials said the joint degree will spur other collaborations with Beijing University, a leader in the field of software engineering. Visit [uta.edu](#).

Bonsai program

The Bonsai Society of Dallas started in 1965 as the first bonsai club in Texas. Interest in the art form that replicates trees in miniature has grown, and Texas enthusiasts now hold annual conventions. This year's will be April 27 and 28 at the Sheraton Dallas North, 4801 LBJ [Freeway](#). The event includes a bonsai exhibit, workshops and demonstrations by three bonsai masters — Kathy Shaner, Michael Hagedorn and Ryan Neil. Admission is \$5. Call 972-679-8861 or visit [bonsaisocietyofdallas.com](#).

CALENDAR

Thursday

DFW International will hold Dinner with the Mayors at 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard St. The speaker will be Anousheh Ansari, the first astronaut of Iranian descent. \$100. 972-661-2764.

Friday

Indian Fine Arts Academy presents a Carnatic vocal concert by Nithyasree Mahadevan at 7:30 p.m. at Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. [ifaadfw.org](#).

Saturday

The Indian Cultural Heritage Foundation presents a dance program by Priyadarsini Govind at 5 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St. in [Garland](#). 972-960-9706.

April 26

The Japan-America Society will hold its 2012 Sun and Star Legacy Award Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Four Seasons Resort and Club, 4150 N. MacArthur Blvd. in Irving. \$175, \$200. [jasdfw.org](#).

