GETTY VILLA 2015

AN ARCHEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

This document summarizes the findings and experiences of Toyon residents during two concurrent visits to the Getty Villa Museum in Pacific Palisades, California in November 2015.
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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE GETTY VILLA MUSEUM TRIP
Each year, the Resident Fellows (RFs) of Toyon Hall, Professors Marie Louise Catsalis (Music) and Grant Parker (Classics), lead a trip for about 20 residents to visit the Getty Villa Museum in Pacific Palisades, California. The trip has been consistently successful, boasting zero no-shows since its inception. Residents not only have the opportunity to travel and interact with ancient art for little to no cost, but most importantly, the opportunity to foster community with the RFs and fellow Toyonites at the start of the academic year. 2015 marks the third iteration of the trip, and hopefully, the birth of a Toyon tradition.

ABOUT THE GETTY VILLA MUSEUM
The vision and originally the collection of oil magnate, Jean Paul Getty (1892-1976), the Getty Villa opened in 1974 on Getty’s ranch home property. The museum is designed as a “near replica of the Roman Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, Italy, which had been buried in the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.” The museums incorporate the study of history, art, and culture of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. With roughly 1,200 pieces on display, the museum is home to nearly 45,000 artifacts including sculptures, drawings, pottery, and much more. In keeping with Getty’s desire for the museum to be an educational resource for the public, the museum also engages in a variety of educational efforts including research, publications, and conservation in addition to its free admission and exhibitions.
METHODS
AN OVERVIEW OF PLANNING AND EXECUTION

The trip has three compulsory components: preparatory events, the visit, and reflection & presentation. This three-tiered approach is used to not only increase engagement and retention of residents since sign up occurs more than a month before the trip’s date, but also to offer residents more opportunities to connect with other Toyon community members, as well intellectual and creative stimulation, discovery, and growth.

PREPARATION

Nearly 40 students signed up to attend the Getty trip this year, but only 34 students were selected. Due to this high demand, two trips were scheduled: November 7 (led by Marie Louise) and November 14 (led by Grant). In order to secure their spot on the trip, residents had to participate in two mandatory events prior to trip dates. The first was the introductory house meeting, during which Grant leads a discussion of Jean Paul Getty, his accumulation of wealth, and ultimately how his collection habits gave birth to the the Getty Museum. The second event required residents to participate in one of two docent-guided tours of the ancient Greek and Roman collections at Cantor Arts Center. These tours were used to expose residents to the history and artistic styles seen often in pieces from the time period, and offer a sample of what to expect at the Getty. In the event that a student could not attend a scheduled tour (only two students this year), the student was responsible for attending Cantor when their schedule allowed and submitting a write up describing what they were most looking forward to at the Getty based on their exploration of similar pieces at Cantor.

THE VISIT

The itineraries for both trips began at 5:30AM. Yes, 5:30AM. Students were instructed to report to Toyon lounge for breakfast, ID checks, and a brief discussion of the schedule. After about 4.5 hours of traveling split between air and suffering through the two worst commutes known to man, Bay Area and Los Angeles traffic, the Getty docents awaited each group for a guided tour of the museum. Residents and RFs then gathered for lunch and bonding before breaking off for independent exploration. Students were given 3 hours and sketchbooks to use to explore the museum on their own. In addition to curating their own experiences, there were also a multitude of resources and activities students participated in to enhance their visit, including group tours and interactive exhibits. After exploration, students reconvened and traveled (more LA traffic) to Ristorante al Mare for dinner on Santa Monica Pier. Students were also given time to enjoy the pier or finish their reflection assignments before the return flight.
REFLECTION & PRESENTATION
In order to help commemorate their visit to the Getty (but also collateral for the deposit made prior to the trip), students were encouraged (read required) to submit a creative reflection of their choice upon completion of the trip. These diverse expressions were publicly displayed at Arrillaga Family Dining Commons during a separate Toyon event, Open Mic Night, which is a quarterly de-stress event for residents and the Stanford community. A few of these reflections are presented in the FINDINGS section.

FINDINGS

DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents who...</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signed up</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended compulsory Cantor Arts tour</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitted make-up Cantor assignments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required personalized roll-outs/wake up calls at 5:30AM</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgot their government issued ID</td>
<td>0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitted awesome reflections</td>
<td>34!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in at least one other dorm event**</td>
<td>~70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mid-way to the airport, a student alerted the Program Associate (PA) that they had left their wallet. After having driver make an illegal U-turn, student found wallet in pants pocket.

**To the PA’s knowledge through processing attendance lists for receipts and conversations with RFs and RAs.

EXAMPLES
Here are a few of those awesome reflections mentioned in the data table:

![Figure 1: Screen cap from "Thrilla At The Villa," by S. Slovic, D. Cable, B. Chu, T. Weitzman, and P. Aldape, which can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ13fBCqSzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ13fBCqSzI)
Figure 2 (above): Sketch by B. Whitely
Figure 3 (Below): Sketch by B. Diaz
“More than a mere museum, you must imagine it’s a home. Think of it in context, if it were in Rome. An architect’s truest fantasy manifested on a California cliff overlooking an endless stretch of sea. Inhale. Exhale. Take a moment to take a breath.”

**Figure 4 (Above): Excerpt from “A Poem” by M. Mahlock**

**Figure 5 (Below): Sketch by N. Bhattachali**
CONCLUSION
YES, THE END.

[BRIEF] P.A. REFLECTION
Experiencing the Getty trip with my RFs and the residents was an amazing experience, and definitely was a monumental step in introducing me to the Toyon community! The students were amazing, and I had a great time getting to know them and Marie Louise! I’m also really happy to see how many of the Getty trip students participate in the Toyon community through other events. Several residents greet me by name now as they walk by or stop in my office, which is located in Toyon. Apart from being blown away by the Getty’s beauty, I am grateful for the experience I gained by both planning and participating, and look forward to planning more awesome, community events for the dorm. ~Kadesia W.

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Toyon Residents

Arabella Napier, Program Associate/Super-heroine

Thien Thoang

Arrillaga Family Dining Commons Staff

Michelle Ho, Cantor Arts Center

Staff of Ristorante al Mare, Santa Monica, CA