

TASA night market promotes and highlights Taiwanese culture

The Taiwanese American Student Association at the University of Maryland held their 11th annual night market at Stamp Student Union Friday as an homage to the original night markets in Taiwan.

“The purpose of the event is to spread Taiwanese culture,” said TASA senior officer and journalism and Chinese double-major Teresa Lo. “It’s the same atmosphere as the actual market nights in Taiwan. We have the same type of food and events.”

“We want to take you on an adventure reminiscent of the famous Taiwanese night markets,” said Vania Chen, co-president of TASA.

The carnival-like event included activities such as calligraphy, paper cutting, hacky sack, raffles and a pineapple cake-eating contest.

The night market also included performances by UMD’s martial arts group, TerpWushu, Tianyi Dance Team, a Chinese yoyo group from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and even a dance number by TASA.

TerpWushu dazzled the crowd with their acrobatic kicks and punches along with their swords and three-section staff skills. Their performance included solos from almost every member of the team.

The Chinese yoyo group from UIUC provided another highlight of the night. Their performance included an impressive array of advanced yoyo tricks that kept the crowd engaged throughout. They performed a trick in which they used a giant string in order to make a yoyo roller coaster.

With an estimated 1,000 people in attendance, the Grand Ballroom was jam-packed with action throughout the evening.

The prime objective of TASA is to “promote awareness of Taiwanese/Taiwanese-American culture, language, history and current affairs,” according to the group’s website.

“We started the night market here 11 years ago in [University of Maryland’s] TASA’s first year,” said TASA senior advisor Patrick Hsieh. “It’s something a lot of TASA’s in the Northeast do. It helps connect people to Taiwanese culture.”

Various tables were set up around the ballroom with food including minced pork fried rice, sweet egg rolls, bubble tea, scallion pancakes and Taiwanese chicken.

“I came for the food and entertainment,” said Information Systems graduate Bodin Kengskool. “I got invited on Facebook, and my friends are here so I figured I should come.”