

Traditional Arts in Upstate New York

THE TAUNY CENTER

Showcasing the folk culture and living traditions of New York's North Country

TAUNY is the only organization in New York's North Country dedicated to showcasing the folk culture and living traditions of the region. The nonprofit was established in Canton in 1986 to research, interpret, and present the area's living traditions. Today, with a team of professional folklorists, TAUNY celebrates the richness and diversity of North Country life.

TAUNY's newly renovated home on Main Street in downtown Canton is an easy walk from campus. The TAUNY Center offers a destination to explore and discover the traditions and treasures of our region – from the St. Lawrence River to the Adirondack Mountains. The Center – and the TAUNY staff – provide a wide array of resources and opportunities for St. Lawrence University faculty and students.

Orientation to the North Country

A visit to The TAUNY Center and North Country Folkstore, which features products made by regional artists and artisans, offers a snapshot of the people and places of the North Country. The TAUNY Center is a perfect place to start for students in first-year programs and for students, faculty, and their families who wish to better understand the region. TAUNY staff are available to offer orientation presentations on a variety of topics and to accompany students and classes on field trips across the region.

Each year we present two **major exhibitions** in The TAUNY Center's main gallery. Based on the research and field study of our staff folklorists, and in partnership with regional and national scholars and professionals, recent exhibits have focused on regional folk art, the Amish, homestead architecture, and Adirondack packbasket making. The first exhibit of 2013 features traditional artists from the Northern Forest region of Maine, Vermont, and New York.

We also develop a number of **mini-exhibits** that are displayed on a rotating basis throughout the year and the upstairs gallery houses the **North Country Wall of Fame** – photographic portraits of TAUNY's North Country Heritage Award recipients.

These exhibits, and interpretive information developed to accompany them, provide images and information that help visitors understand life in the North Country. Guided tours and exhibit discussions with TAUNY staff are available.

Public Meeting & Presentation Space

The TAUNY Center's 9,000 square feet have been renovated into flexible spaces suitable for multiple purposes. Our large, sunny classroom can accommodate 75 to 100 people; our conference room holds 30. Several areas of the building accommodate small exhibits. TAUNY has hosted student presentations, photo displays, and readings. The space is completely handicap-accessible and easy to reach from campus.



www.TAUNY.org



Internship Opportunities

Over the years, TAUNY has hosted dozens of interns from North Country universities and graduate programs in folklore. Internships range from two weeks to a full semester. Recently, St. Lawrence students have completed short internships for the Adirondack semester and the sustainability program.

TAUNY is committed to providing a meaningful experience for students. Student interns attend staff meetings, support ongoing programs, accompany staff on fieldwork, and complete an independent project. Students have the choice of developing their own project from scratch – a recent student put together an anthology of traditional stories – or working as a team member on one of TAUNY's ongoing research projects.

In 2013, TAUNY projects will include an oral history project for the Raquette River Blueway Corridor, a regional effort to publish the Adirondack folk song collection of Marjorie Lansing Porter, an investigation into the changing nature of work on North Country farms, and a regional program to help artisans create viable businesses from their skills.



Faculty Collaborations, Course Instruction

TAUNY folklorists have earned advanced degrees in folk studies from well-respected programs across the nation. Over the years, St. Lawrence faculty from many different disciplines have invited TAUNY staff to their classrooms to lecture on a wide range of topics: folk art, back-to-the-land architecture, the creative process in community life, sense of place in local culture, and how to conduct an oral history project, among others. As St. Lawrence expands its commitment to community-based learning and heritage studies, the possibilities for TAUNY to collaborate on curriculum increase. In addition to offering instruction to students, TAUNY has also worked with scholars who collaborate with us to bring their research to a public venue. Most recently, Dr. Carolyn Schwarz at SUNY Potsdam curated an exhibit on the occupational lore of Adirondack trail crews.



Extra-Curricular Activities

TAUNY offers a wide range of programs and activities that are just plain fun and interesting. Try out a social dance. Come to a sugaring-off party. Learn to make a wood-carving. TAUNY would like to work with theme houses and student activities to sponsor programs and to increase student participation in downtown life.



In Our Archives

Over the years TAUNY has accumulated a significant collection of primary materials from our own research projects and from contributions of folklore scholars who have worked in the region. The collections include audio and video tapes, photographs and slides, interview transcripts, student research projects, and books. These are the primary materials upon which we base our own projects, such as exhibits, publications, and radio programs.



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