

# what i'm into

## Internationally minded Andrea Siouris

**RODNEY WILSON |**  
CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

When Andrea Siouris goes to work, she could spend her entire day in meetings. Or she could be hanging out on a riverboat cruise with a group of college students, dining on a full buffet, playing games and dancing to the sounds of a DJ.

As program coordinator for the University of Cincinnati's International Services department, Siouris plans activities for international students – and then goes out and does things with them.

"I love it," she says of her job, a position she's held for two months, although she's been employed by UC for four years. "The fact that I can expose international students to our university and our city and all the culture it has to offer to them is very rewarding."

Originally from Greece, Siouris knows a bit about what the international students feel when they come to Cincinnati from abroad, and she knows a thing or two about their feelings of displacement.

"I think being from a different country has opened me up and exposed me to different countries and how to view other cultures," she says. "Having that international background, you have an open mind (and) can relate to how the students who come to the university are feeling when they get here – overwhelmed, having to get acquainted with the city of Cincinnati."

Here are a few things that Siouris enjoys when she's not on the job.



DAVID SORCHER | CIN WEEKLY

Andrea Siouris works in the International Services department at UC.

### 1 What did you eat for dinner last night?

A friend and I were driving around looking for a place to eat, and we ended up at Romano's Macaroni Grill. I had the shrimp portofino. It's sautéed shrimp with mushrooms, pine nuts and spinach in a tangy lemon butter sauce. It was excellent!

### 2 What's the best drink in town?

Lindemans Lambic Framboise. It's a Belgian fruit beer that has a magnificent aroma and a clean, bubbly raspberry taste. You can get it at Beluga, and it's served in a flute-shaped Lambic glass.

3

**Are you exercise-crazy or exercise-lazy?**

I hate to admit it, but I am exercise-lazy. I have a membership to Jazzercise but have not been very faithful. I need to get back into it because I know when I work out, I sleep and feel better.

4

**You're in the car, the stereo is full blast. What song is playing?**

DJ Pantelis. He is a Greek DJ that takes popular Greek music and mixes them up into a techno, upbeat sound. Puts me in a really good mood.



5

**What TV show are you talking about this season?**

I love *CSI*. I watch it every Thursday night. I have not missed an episode since the pilot aired.

6

**What movie do you watch and rewatch?**

*Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*. I enjoy the archeological aspect of the film and the thrilling adventure it portrays.



7

**You've got front row tickets. What singer/band is on stage?**

U2. I saw the group years ago in Columbus and was amazed. I appreciate the band's music and how active they are in human-rights causes, especially in Africa.

8

**What book changed your life?**

*The Da Vinci Code*. I absolutely loved this book. It had me hooked more than Harry Potter. It was fascinating, exciting and fun to read – a great thriller and a must-read for those who have not read it yet.

9

**You're online. What sites/blogs are you checking?**

Facebook. I joined to keep connected with all the different organizations I am involved in and meeting new friends. It's a great way to be informed about all the social and cultural events around town.

10

**If you could raid anyone's closet, it would be ...**

Reese Witherspoon. She is gorgeous, elegant and smart. She exudes a healthy, down-to-earth beauty look. It's very appealing and appropriate.



# • what • I'm into

## Taft Museum of Art's Eric M. Lee

**RODNEY WILSON**  
CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

Art keeps Eric M. Lee very busy. As director of the Taft Museum of Art, he oversees everything from collections to café operations.

A recent hire – he started the job in January – Lee is also a new Cincinnati. He came to the Queen City by way of Oklahoma, where he put his Yale art history Ph.D. to work at the University of Oklahoma's art museum.

"I've had a passion for art all my life," says Lee, who's enjoying the plethora of cultural opportunities in Cincinnati. "The arts offerings are so remarkable here. It's amazing that a town the size of Cincinnati has three great museums, and a great symphony, opera and ballet."

The native North Carolinian is finding a lot of reasons to love his new home. "I love Cincinnati. It seems to combine the best qualities of a larger city and a smaller town. I feel very much at home here because it's at a crossroads of regions where I've lived in the past."

Most recently, Lee's been working on an important show that opens in May. "It features the work of Hiram Powers, who is the best-known 19th century American sculptor," he says. "He was based primarily in Florence, Italy, but he had many ties to Cincinnati, and it's only natural that we should do an exhibition. This is the first museum exhibition devoted solely to Hiram Powers."



DAVID SONCHER | CIN WEEKLY

Taft Museum of Art director Eric M. Lee has a taste for Velvet Underground, Alfred Hitchcock and, even though he's a North Carolina native, Skyline.



**1 What did you eat for dinner last night?**

Skyline chili.

**2 You're all dressed up for a night out - where do you go?**

An exhibition opening at the Taft. Phenomenal food prepared by Taft Café chef Mark Bowers, great wine and drinks and valet parking ... And whether I'm dressed up or not, you can't beat the Graeter's on Mariemont Square for a great family "night out."

**3 Are you exercise-crazy or exercise-lazy?**

I work out for an hour a day, five days a week. Is that crazy or lazy?



**4 You're in the car, the stereo is full blast. What song is playing?**

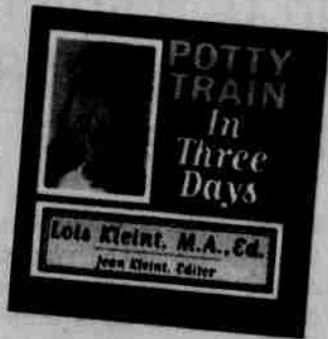
Something by the Velvet Underground, the Clash, Nick Cave, the Flaming Lips or Weezer. I don't play Leonard Cohen full blast, but I do listen to him a lot.

**5 What movie do you watch and rewatch?**

Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*. As a movie, it is just about perfect.

**6 Book that changed your life?**

Giorgio Vasari's *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects*, first published in 1550 in Florence. This classic from the Italian Renaissance led the way to the creation of art history. Also, *Potty Train in Three Days* greatly changed my daily life for the better!



**7 You're online. What sites/blogs are you checking?**

The Drudge Report ([www.drudgereport.com](http://www.drudgereport.com)) and [www.taftmuseum.org](http://www.taftmuseum.org).

**8 If you could raid anyone's closet, it would be ...**

The Taft's director emeritus, Phillip Long, for his collection of ties.

**9 Where do you love to shop?**

Barnes and Noble at Newport on the Levee ... And Williams-Sonoma. I don't cook at all, but this store makes me think that one day I will become a great chef.

# what i'm into

Meet Hugo Soria, an international visitor who's keen on the Cincinnati Art Museum

**RODNEY WILSON** |  
CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

When Hugo Soria says he likes Cincinnati, you'd better believe it - unlike many of the Queen City's residents, Soria has a well-developed frame of reference.

Among the other cities Soria can compare Cincinnati with is his hometown of Mexico City - he's a temporary Cincinnati. He's here for a two-year assignment for GE, where he works as an engineer.

"Actually, I kind of like Cincinnati," Soria says. "It's nice to live in, I think. I've had a chance to visit some other cities, and I think Cincinnati's not bad at all."

Soria hasn't wasted any of his time in Cincinnati - when he's not at work, you can find him trawling the city for cultural opportunities or volunteering at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

"One of the first things I did when I was here, I visited the art museum. I became a member before I even enrolled in some of the activities in the city," he says. "I was invited by Cindy Fink (director of external relations and marketing) to join the advisory committee for young professionals here. We had some lunch sessions, and she liked some of my ideas. It all started there."

For Soria, art and culture are more than just something to do - they keep him from being a "square."

"Being an engineer, I always think I need not to fall into that you're (just) a square engineer," he laughs. "So that's the reason I'm always trying to get along with that."



DAVID SORCHER | CIN WEEKLY

Temporary Cincinnati and Mexico City native Hugo Soria hangs out at Fountain Square.

**1** You're all dressed up for a night out - where do you go?

One World Wednesdays at the art museum!

**2 Are you exercise-crazy or exercise-lazy?**

My exercise brain-zone is connected to my belly. If the second grows big, I work out; if it goes away, it's pizza time.

**3 What TV show are you talking about this season?**

I quit TV six years ago. Yes, we can live without it, and movies can be seen in computer screens too!

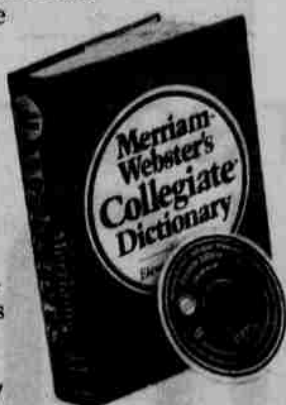
**4 What movie do you watch and rewatch?**

*Top Gun* with good slow-motion, fast forward and rewind control. The girl, slow motion. Tom Cruise, fast forward. F-14 action, rewind. Yeah!



**5 You've got front row tickets. What singer/band is on stage?**

I'm not a front-row-ticket guy. I've got enough personal-space invasion training in Mexico City's subway! Well, Depeche Mode would make me go through those dark days again.



**6 What book changed your life?**

The dictionary. English is not my first language. To discover that people communicate differently all over was fascinating.

**7 You're online. What sites/blogs are you checking?**

Newspaper Web sites around the world. It's interesting to see what catches the eye in different parts of the planet. Well, I'm a liar. Newspapers are round two of Internet after some decent motogp.com.

**8 What's your pop culture guilty pleasure?**

Forgive me, gods of metal, but I like many Kelly Clarkson songs.



**9 If you could raid anyone's closet, it would be ...**

... probably a reason for deportation ... ha!

# what I'm into

Newly naturalized citizen (and voter) Anna Reider

**RODNEY WILSON**  
CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's first violinist Anna Reider has been living in the United States for 13 years now. She's married, holds an impressive job and has numerous responsibilities around the area. But it's only a recent development that allows her to truly call this "home."

This summer, Reider became a citizen of the United States.

"I was born in Russia - Uzbekistan, actually," Reider says. "And we emigrated to Israel when I was 15. Then I came to the States in 1995."

In addition to her position with the CSO, Reider is the concertmaster of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and teaches violin part-time at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Her husband is also at UC, pursuing studies in the history of the Middle East.

With such a busy life, you might be surprised to find out that Reider is embracing yet another responsibility. It's one that many U.S. natives take for granted but that Reider sees as the most important benefit of her citizenship.

"The biggest reason that I'm excited about it is that I can finally vote," she explains. "I'm really opinionated, and not being able to vote was always a problem. I think it's very important."

Here's what else she's interested in.



DAVID SONCHER | CIN WEEKLY

Symphony violinist Anna Reider recently became an American citizen.



## What did you eat for dinner last night?

Last night I ate a mac and cheese-inspired pasta that I came up with. I love to cook and bake and experiment with my own recipes.