



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

MARCH-APRIL 2018

Geneva Central School District

West Street School

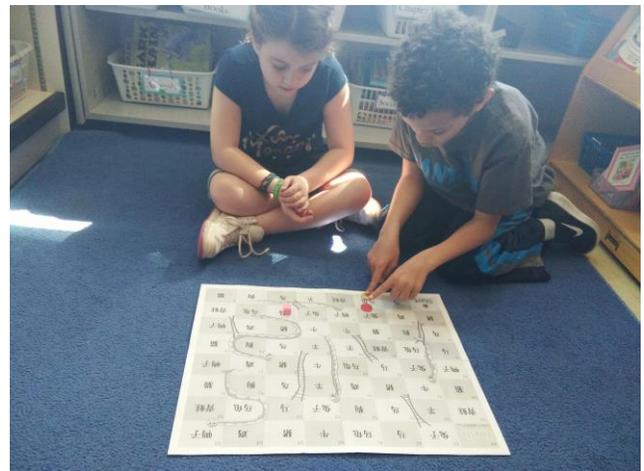
In the Second Grade Immersion Class at Geneva West Street School, CIAU teacher Liping Ding taught her students to sing the Chinese song, “Looking for a Friend”. Considering elementary students’ love of movement, Ms. Ding made up some corresponding motions to go with the lyrics, which the students really enjoyed. At last, they could not only sing the Chinese song, but could understand just what the song means.



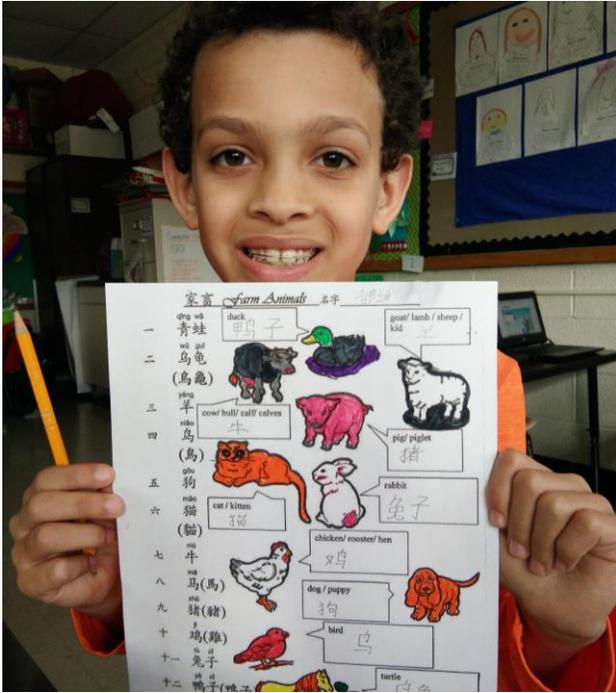
Ms. Ding and her students learning a Chinese song

During center time, Ms. Ding offered some interesting games that students love to play. So after learning about animals,

students played the game “Snakes & Ladders”. The player rolls a die and moves forward that number of spaces. On each space, the player needs to say the word written on the space in order to keep moving. If they don’t know a word or can’t say the word, Ms. Ding will do a quick correction to help them learn the word. This game gives children many opportunities for repetition, while the board game format keeps it fun and engaging. The students soon learned both to read the characters properly and to write them correctly in Chinese.



Game: Snakes & Ladders



Students writing characters and designing their animals

In April, the students had science classes in Chinese. Ms. Ding taught them the parts of plants. After listening, each student made a plant of their own. Through making plants, students knew the parts of plants exactly and could say all of them in Chinese.



Students making plants

Ms. Yuan helped her students at Geneva West Street School to learn something about spring, including trees, flowers, and the sun. While cutting the Chinese character for “Spring” out of paper, they were hoping spring would come earlier to Geneva. They were thrilled to learn how to name animals and fruits, and especially how to express their favorites in a sentence. They were curious about words borrowed from English in Mandarin Chinese, which made it more fun to learn Mandarin.



Students presenting their favorite fruits in Chinese



Students showing their paper-cuttings of the Chinese character, “春”

With more students taking Mandarin Chinese class, all the teachers from CIAU attended the annual Book Festival in order to give parents in the community more chances to find out about China. Anne Dinan, the coordinator from “Geneva Reads,” said, “Thanks so much for all your efforts to provide a more convenient platform to all our citizens in our community to know more about Chinese culture.”



CIAU teachers at the Book Festival

Geneva North Street School

To help students learn more about Chinese culture, Wanda Wang designed Chinese calligraphy classes in March. She showed pictures of the four tools: rice paper, ink, ink-stone, and writing brush, and encouraged students to read their names aloud with the help of Pinyin (Chinese words written with letters that Westerners can sound out). Then she showed the children what these four things really are. She let them touch and feel Chinese rice paper and asked the students about the differences between rice paper and the ordinary paper they

usually use. To demonstrate how to make ink with the ink-stone and ink block, Ms. Wang first made an example herself and then invited the students to try one by one. Ms. Wang also gave each of the students a pen brush, a piece of practice paper, and a small cup of clear water. Then Ms. Wang showed how to write with a pen brush: holding the middle of the stick, use the wrist to control the brush. She wrote 朋友 (péng yǒu, which means friends) and 春天 (chūn tiān, which means spring) on the paper for students to follow. Most students were quite interested in doing this. They also wrote 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 (yī èr sān sì wǔ liù qī bā jiǔ shí), which are the words for numbers one to ten. After these dried, they tried writing again. When class was over, some students asked, “Can we do it again next class?” and some even suggested that Ms. Wang set up a Chinese calligraphy club.



Ms. Wanda instructing students in preparing ink



Students take turns making ink

Slime is very popular among students in the school and even in Mandarin class. Miss Hao showed students to use slime to make Chinese characters, and the students loved it. They had fun, and at the same time, they practiced Chinese characters.



Using slime to write the Chinese character “王”

Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester

The classroom teacher, Mr. Weston, talked with Xiaochao Tao about classroom teaching methods and how she might improve students' interest in learning Chinese culture and history. Mr.

Weston gave Xiaochao a good evaluation, saying she is nice to her students, is trying different teaching methods to stimulate students' interest, and tries to understand each student's different hobbies to help introduce Chinese culture and history; the students often inquire about the differences between Chinese and American cultures.



A classroom teacher, Mr. Weston, talking with Xiaochao Tao

CIAU Director Jijun Yu attended the Chinese history and culture class taught by Xiaochao Tao, which has eight students in grades 7 - 12. These students take a test on Chinese culture, history, and newly acquired language once a month. After the class, Director Yu gave some suggestions for classroom management, the formulation of a teaching outline, and a goal-setting system.



Ms. Tao Chinese class

Under the leading of CIAU Director Wilfred Huang, a delegation of Northstar Christian Academy staff and eight students went to China for a visit to Beijing, the CIAU partner school at China University of Geosciences (Wuhan), and Shanghai.



The Northstar delegation at Hanban Headquarters

The Chinese teachers helped their students to make a PowerPoint presentation in the computer lab about their trip to China.



Working on the presentation in the computer lab

Jijun Yu listened to Yang Yang's third-grade Chinese class on March 8th. He acknowledged Ms. Yang's teaching work and gave some advice. And Yang Yang communicated with most of the other Northstar classroom teachers about improving their cooperative teaching. Second-grade teacher Ms. Carlson said, "Personally, I love Chinese culture and Chinese classes. Students really like the music to the Number song. When doing the counting, I notice, they are just trying to move and say the Chinese words. They always focus well with Miss Yang Yang." The elementary students learned about the topic of birthdays in March. They can express their birth dates and can sing a "Happy Birthday Song."



A third-grade student, Essence, filling in her birthday card



A 2nd-grade student, Jameson, coloring Chinese characters and birthday cake



A 6th-grade classroom teacher learning to write Chinese characters



Roberts Gage Wheaton, Chinese name Weiping, practicing a Chinese tongue twister, "Si he Shi (Four and Ten)"



Miss Yang communicating with second-grade teacher Ms. Carlson on Chinese teaching



Students and their classroom teacher, Mrs. Santos, in third grade, Northstar Christian Academy wearing Chinese Opera masks and saying colors in Chinese

Two 7th graders at Northstar Christian Academy, Roberts Gage Wheaton, whose Chinese name is Weiping, and Joshua Rowland, whose Chinese name is Kaijun, said they like challenging different cultures. They expressed their appreciation for Chinese classes and hope to go to China in the future.

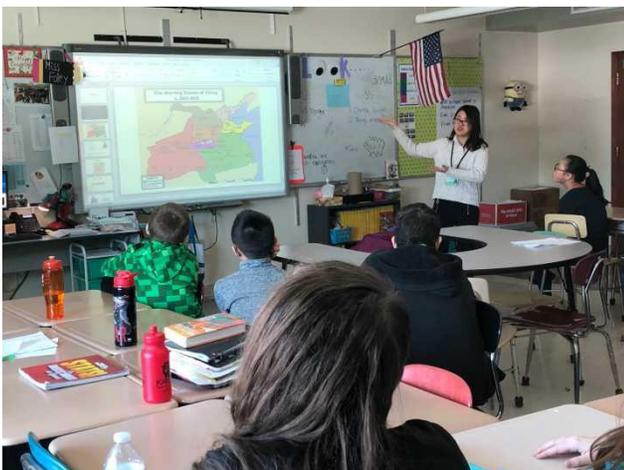
North Syracuse Central School District

From March 7th to 20th, the sixth graders of North Syracuse Central School District learned Early Chinese History (III): Qin Dynasty in their social studies classes. There were two parts to this lesson. The first part covered the ancient three systems of Chinese Philosophy: Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism. Legalism became the political philosophy of the Qin State. Eventually Qin became strong enough to defeat other states and unify the whole country. The second part included the five major achievements of the first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di, and the Qin Dynasty. CIAU teachers Suping (Emma) Wang, Yuanhuan (Beverly) He and Ping (Kevin) Wang also prepared two videos for the Social Studies teachers for reference. One is about the Terror-Cotta Warriors; the other is about the history of the Great Wall of China. Students showed their great interest in this period of Chinese history.



Emma introducing a timeline of Chinese history

In March and April, the fifth and sixth grade students at Roxboro and Gillette Road Middle Schools took enrichment classes in basic Mandarin Chinese language. The three Chinese teachers covered the topics numbers, fruit, chopsticks, currency, and time. The students learned how to use chopsticks. It was a big challenge to try to pick up jellybeans for the first time. The children were actively involved in the class activities and received two Chinese candies, Dabaitu and Yezitang, at the end of classes.



Beverly introducing the Qin Dynasty



Kevin and his students



Speaking and guessing game in Mandarin class

On March 13th, the three Chinese teachers set up a display about the Chinese program at the Roxboro PTO/PIE Open House. At the Open House, parents went around the school to about twenty different tables and got information about various school and community activities. The Chinese instruction table showed parents the students' work, along with two Chinese culture boards featuring Chinese zodiac, Peking Opera masks, paper cutting, calligraphy, Chinese knots, and photos of the Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival celebrations at the two schools. Parents and students also were given permission slips for enrichment Chinese class.



Introducing the Chinese program to parents

On March 21st, at the invitation of Mr. Wright, a social studies teacher at Roxboro Road Middle School, Beverly and Emma observed Mr. Wright's composition lesson with his American students. After class, the two Chinese teachers discussed the course content with Mr. Wright. The two teachers understood the correspondence between their courses and received a considerable benefit in teaching Chinese in American schools. Mr. Wright also said that he was very happy that the CIAU teachers could come to his class and expressed great support for the development of the Chinese program.

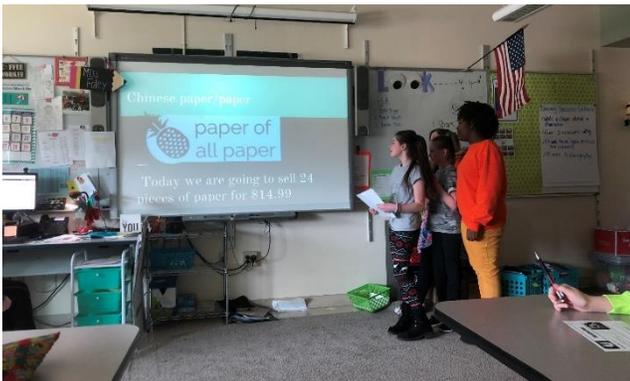


Display of Chinese programs at RRMS PTO/PIE Fair



Beverly and Emma with Mr. Wright

On April 3rd and 4th, Mrs. Foley, a sixth grade social studies teacher at Roxboro Road Middle School, invited the Chinese teachers to participate in a lesson about ancient Chinese inventions. Mrs. Foley has been very supportive of the Chinese program and has worked with the Chinese teachers to coordinate lessons since September 2017. This particular class took the form of “Shark Tank,” a popular American TV show. Students role-played forming businesses offering ancient Chinese inventions. Sharks scored them for potential investment in their products. Emma and Beverly assisted. Beverly also served as the task of Shark's judging panel. The students were very prepared for their tasks and were very excited to see the arrival of the Chinese teachers. They asked the Chinese teachers many interesting questions, such as: What is the initial vision of papermaking? Where are the similarities and differences between Chinese coins and American coins? The teachers answered these questions patiently. Participating in American social studies classes helps the Chinese teachers to better explain Chinese history and culture and deepens the relationship between them and American teachers and students.



Students introducing Chinese paper-making

Webutuck School District

In March, the enthusiastic celebration of the Chinese New Year ended, and Chinese learning at Webutuck Central School opened a new chapter.

The Afterschool Club focused on cultural experiences. After learning about various entertainments popular in old Beijing, the students chose to pursue a Chinese Rattle Drum project. Making a Chinese Rattle Drum seemed simple, but it was very troublesome to do. Ms. Zhang and her students used paper plates to make the drum heads, Popsicle sticks for handles, glue guns as adhesives, and small bells tied to the drums. Finally, they decorated their drums with favorite Chinese characters, painted Chinese patterns, or Chinese paper cuttings, along with a Chinese knot.



Chinese Rattle Drums

This month, the 5th and 6th graders break from digital learning. After learning the most basic characters, students learned the seven days of the week. The children

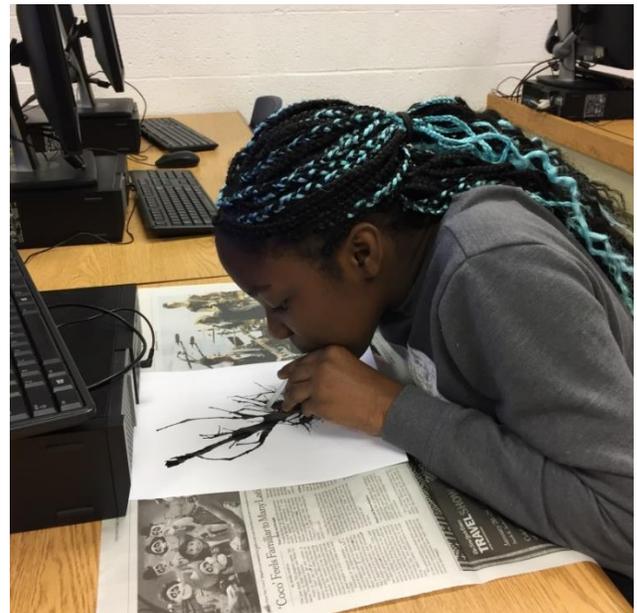
happily produced their own weekly books, using Chinese characters and paintings, recording their own activities for the week or their different moods for each day.



Students' weekly books

In order to celebrate the opening day of the Confucius Institute, Webutuck School organized a painting activity and exhibition of ink paintings. The stinky smell of ink was full of temptation for the children. They used straws to create blow-ink paintings, and they were amazed at the Plum Blossom, which they had only heard about in their teacher's story. The emergence of the Chinese national flower, plum, helps to make children full of imagination. Looking at the fine branches that he had blown, every child was very excited and asked classmates to vote for their favorites. Finally, the children's best works were displayed on the Chinese wall and the teachers were also asked to vote for their favorites. In the corridors for the next few days, enthusiastic students are always strongly recommending their works to teachers. Many kind teachers stood up to cheer for the children in their

classes, and expressed their appreciation for Mandarin.



Enjoying blow-painting



Students' blow-paintings

During this time, the new unit for the 7th graders was "My Family". Due to the different textbook used, the 5th and 6th graders were already very familiar with this topic, so you could often hear the younger children guide their older brothers and sisters on how to pronounce the words correctly in the hallway. The older brothers and sisters also humbly

asked the younger siblings for help.



A student's family painting

The 7th graders are about to welcome their big Chinese test for the academic year. The seventh grade course focuses on language, and the requirements are higher for their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. In particular, the writing of Chinese characters has stumped many children. For this reason, Ms. Zhang consulted with classroom teachers and decided to devote time to counseling during the lunch break. She let the students come to practice reading and writing to help them achieve good results in the exam at the end of the year.

Pine Plains School District

In the first week of April, about 30 students at Stissing Mountain School experienced traditional Chinese painting. The Chinese instructor introduced the development of traditional Chinese painting and taught the students how to use a brush. They painted bamboo and pandas.

The Chinese instructor went to every class of six grade to introduce Chinese class to those students and attracted them to choose Chinese next semester. Students learned that they will learn Chinese from teachers and they will celebrate Chinese festivals together. At last, the Chinese instructor gave everyone a small zodiac paper cutting as a gift.

Chinese Culture at the Almond Library

On the evening of March 13th, there was a celebration of Chinese culture in Almond, the community closest to Alfred. The Associate Director of CIAU, Daisy (Zhongbei) Wu, Coach Guifang Liu of the CIAU Tai Chi class, Chinese teacher Guobao Huo, and volunteers Menglin Tong, Tianyi Cui, and Yulong Chen visited the Almond Library at the invitation of the Almond 20th Century Club. The event lasted for two lovely hours. The audience warmed up with Tai Chi and then enjoyed the Hulusi, ethnic dance, guzheng and Tai Chi performances, and a calligraphy demonstration. The Club members were very grateful for the beautiful program.



People experiencing Tai Chi with Guifang Liu



Guobao Huo introducing calligraphy



CIAU teachers and Club members

CIAU Holds a Video Conference for its Members

On the afternoon of March 23rd, CIAU held a video conference on Chinese teaching. Twenty-two Chinese language teachers and volunteers attended the

conference.

CIAU Director Huang greeted the teachers and encouraged communication between CIAU and school districts.

The conference was divided into two parts: the teaching situation in the school districts during the past six months, and the exchange of Chinese teaching experience. Teachers from each of the five school district reported and summarized their overall situation, discussing the aspects of classroom teaching, promotion of cultural activities, media coverage, community service, work environment in the school district, and the plan for the next stage of work there.



Chinese teaching video conference

In the session for the exchange of Chinese language teaching experience, instructors shared from their own practice and experience regarding teaching environment, content arrangement and organization, teaching methods including Chinese immersion, and classroom management. Some instructors shared how to build good relationships with colleagues, how to communicate with parents, etc.

Finally, Prof. Jijun Yu, Chinese Director of CIAU, analyzed the present situation of the teaching work of CIAU, and proposed that, "We should better meet the needs of the people of New York to learn Chinese and to understand the needs of Chinese culture."

A Video Conference on Geneva's Chinese Language Immersion Teaching Syllabus

On the afternoon of March 26th, CIAU and the teachers in Geneva Central School District held a video conference on the Chinese language immersion teaching syllabus used there. Ten Chinese teachers and volunteers attended the meeting.

Chinese teachers Mengwei Zhu, Mengqi Gu, and Liping Ding, who are responsible for the Chinese immersion program at Geneva, explained the syllabus and the revision of the immersion curriculum for grades K-3, and defined the teaching objectives, standards, methods, and content. Na Wang and Yuan Yuan of the Geneva School District made comments and suggestions on the presentation and explanation of the three teachers. CIAU Chinese director Jijun Yu, Chinese teachers Yun Wang and Baike Zhang at Alfred University gave pertinent guidance on the syllabus.

New York State Educators Delegation Visits China

From March 24th to April 6th, Professor Wilfred Huang, CIAU Director, led a delegation of New York State educators

and middle school students to China and visited universities in Beijing, Wuhan, Yichang, and Shanghai for inspection and study.

During their stay in Beijing, the delegation paid a visit to the Confucius Institute Headquarters/Hanban and held talks with Shifang Ren, director of the U.S. Department of International Affairs in Hanban, and project officer Jiangwei Liu.



The delegation at Hanban Headquarters

During their time at Wuhan, the delegation also held talks with Xulong Lai, the Vice President of the China University of Geosciences (CUG - Wuhan), the partner college of CIAU. Subsequently, the delegation paid a visit to the school affiliated with CUG, where they observed primary and middle school students in an Internet + classroom, and entered the affiliated school kindergarten to interact with the students.



The NY delegation holding talks with Xulong Lai, the Vice President of the China University of Geosciences (Wuhan)



The delegation interacting with Chinese students



The delegation observing Chinese students setting up exercises

The delegation also visited eight other elementary and middle schools in Wuhan and Yichang to experience China's modern teaching facilities and ideas. They conducted in-depth exchanges with teachers and students on the curriculum and classroom model of the schools, and gained a better understanding of the organizational structure and mode of operation of Chinese schools.



The delegation observing a Chinese calligraphy class

During their stay in China, the delegation further experienced Chinese history and culture by visiting the Great Wall of China, the Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Yellow Crane Tower, the Hubei Provincial Museum, the Donghu Lake, the Three Gorges Dam, and the famous attractions of Shanghai's Chenghuang Temple, Yuyuan Garden, and the Bund.

Guzheng and Tai Chi performances in New Jersey

On April 13th, Associate Professor Daisy Wu, Associate Director of CIAU, and Master Guifang Liu from the Alfred Tai

Chi class were in New Jersey to participate in cultural activities organized by Confucius Classrooms at Edward H. Bryan Elementary School and New Milford High School. They presented wonderful Tai Chi and guzheng performances.

On the morning of the "International Day" at Edward H. Bryan Elementary School, Daisy Wu played the famous guzheng piece, "Fishing Boat Night". Later, with the accompaniment of guzheng music, Guifang Liu performed Swimming Dragon Sword.



Guifang Liu performing Swimming Dragon Sword, accompanied by Daisy Wu's guzheng

That afternoon at Newford High School, the performances of Daisy Wu and Guifang Liu were well received by the students in the Confucius Classroom. In the interactive session, the students had an opportunity to play guzheng themselves. They also tried the basic actions of the Five-Animal Tai Chi exercise.



Students taking turns to experience the guzheng



Students experiencing Five-Animal Exercises

Tai Chi and Guzheng Performance at the U.N.

On April 20th, as part of the annual "United Nations Chinese Day" celebration, the United Nations Tai Chi Cultural Association held a "United Nations Chinese Day Tai Chi Show" at U.N. Headquarters in New York City. CIAU Associate Director Daisy Wu, and Guifang Liu, CIAU Tai Chi class coach, participated in the event at the invitation of the Association.



Swimming Dragon performance accompanied by guzheng

The show kicked off with a Wu Taijiquan performance by 93-year-old master Doreen Hynd. Subsequently, United States National Martial Arts Team coach, Ruibin Lin, coach of the United Nations Tai Chi Cultural Association, Lincheng Ma, and others performed Kung Fu Tai Chi, Cheng Baguazhang, and Chen Tai Chi, respectively. Guifang Liu and Daisy Wu together presented the Swimming Dragon accompanied live by guzheng. Daisy specially wrote the guzheng piece, "Gu Yu You Long," for this event. Considering the characteristics of a swimming dragon himself, she focused on the contributions of tune and ancient rhythm to make the whole performance unique and artistic.



Daisy Wu and Guifang Liu gave a copy of the CIAU 2016 Annual Report to Doreen Hynd

Since 2010, the United Nations has designated Gu Yu Day, one of the traditional Chinese solar terms, as United Nations Chinese Day, in commemoration of the contributions made by the Chinese literary ancestor, Cang Jie. Every year, the United Nations holds a variety of themed cultural events in New York and China to highlight the diversity of Chinese culture.

CIAU in Alfred's "Hot Dog Day" Parade

On the morning of April 21st, CIAU joined the Alfred community in the Main Street parade for "Hot Dog Day", an annual charity fund-raising carnival.

The CIAU Tai Chi class donned their uniforms to carry the "Alfred Tai Chi" banner.



Tai Chi Class with Banner

The Dragon Dance Team followed the Tai Chi group. "It's a dragon - cool!" People on both sides of the road gave applause and cheers.



CIAU Dragon Dance Team

HSK Test Held at AU

On April 22, the HSK Chinese Language Proficiency Test was offered at AU's Perlman Hall, home of the Division of Modern Languages. Five students from Chinese language classes participated in this test.



The HSK is an international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency which assesses non-native Chinese speakers' abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives.

Chinese Language and Culture Lecture at AU

CIAU Chinese Director, associate

professor Andy (Jijun) Yu was invited by Dr. Robert Myers, professor of anthropology at Alfred University, to give a lecture on April 23 for a class on Chinese language and culture.



Prof. Yu introducing features of Chinese words

Jijun Yu first introduced four sounds and the concept of tones; then he explained the syntactic structure of Chinese and compared the syntax of Chinese and English. He also read the Chinese poem, "The Silent Night", to let students experience the beauty of Chinese rhythm. When explaining Chinese characters, Prof. Yu discussed their origin and evolution from ancient to modern times.



Prof. Yu leading students in guessing the meaning of some Chinese characters

To finish, he introduced traditional festivals and foods through vivid pictures.

CIAU at Unity Day celebration

On April 27th, CIAU was invited to participate in the “Unity Day Celebration” organized by Alfred University. Together, teachers and students tasted Chinese food, practiced calligraphy, and enjoyed traditional music. CIAU teachers introduced Chinese and guzheng classes and cultural activities for the next semester, as well. Ms. Kathy Woughter, Vice President of Alfred University, Gerar Edizel, Dean of the School of Art and Design, Ms. Beth Ann Dobie, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Mr. Stephen Crandall, Dean of Libraries, were among those who came to the CIAU booth.



People using a writing brush to write their Chinese names



Students tasting Chinese food



CIAU faculty with Vice-President Kathy Woughter

Guzheng Performance at AU Spring Student Recital

A student recital was held by the AU Performing Arts Department at the end of the semester in Susan Howell Hall. This recital featured guzheng, woodwinds, brass, piano, and percussion. Over thirty students performed at this event.

The recital began with “June Jasmine” and “Fengyang Flower Drum” played by beginning guzheng students. Then, advanced guzheng students performed “Fishing Junks at Sunset”. The audience showed positive feedback with their frequent applause.



People experiencing guzheng



Beginning guzheng students performing “June Jasmine”



A student in the advanced guzheng class performing “Fishing Junks at Sunset”

Guzheng class, a credit-bearing course in AU’s Division of Performing Arts, has been taken by over one hundred students since it was first offered by Daisy Wu.



Guzheng students with their instructor, Daisy Wu

Upcoming Events:

July 9th: Daisy Wu will perform guzheng for the concert “Music of Zhihua Hu” in Carnegie Hall in New York.

July 11th: Chamber Music MostArts Festival, Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall in Alfred University, 12 Noon, Wednesday. Guzheng Solo: *A Moonlit Night on the Spring River* presented by Daisy Wu.

July 12th, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, Miller Performing Arts Center 302, Daisy Wu guzheng workshop for MostArts Festival.

August 6th to 10th - Geneva Summer Camp

September 7th - Confucius Institute Open Day at Charlotte Valley Central School District (CIAU new partner)

October 6th - The Second National Conference on Chinese Immersion Programs

November 2nd - The Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration of CIAU

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