



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

MARCH-APRIL 2011

February 20 - Visiting Dean

Professor Ruixiang Yu, Dean of the School of Art and Communication, China University of Geosciences in Wuhan (CUG), came for a visit in mid-February. He will stay for 3 months during which time he will conduct research about US higher education, particularly art curricula and pedagogy. In addition, Professor Yu will discuss opportunities for faculty and academic exchanges between AU and CUG with Mary McGee, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Chinese Cultural Courses Begin in Naples

CIAU faculty member Rebecca Fan launched a series of Chinese culture courses to complement the language instruction that began in 2009. Among other things, students learned about the Chinese New Year festivities and how to make dumplings, write relevant characters in Chinese calligraphy, and make folded paper crafts.



March 2 – Chinese Bridge Competition Qualifiers in Naples

Eleven Naples High School students participated in a qualifying exam for the Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition. Rebecca Fan, HS Principal Matt Frahm, and English teacher Kendall Wilt were the judges; they chose 4 students to go on to compete on April 2nd.



March 7 – Tai Chi at Naples Central School

Hu Kai, visiting tai chi, chang quan (long boxing), and kong fu master from CUG, demonstrated martial arts for 5 class sessions with about 100 students at Naples Central School. Rebecca Fan explained the philosophy behind these practices. The students, phys. ed. teachers, and school administrators who participated thoroughly enjoyed learning about a subject unfamiliar to them and practicing basic moves.



March 9 – Tai Chi at Windsor High School

Hu Kai taught physical education classes at Windsor H.S. She offered 8 demo and practice lessons for about 30 students each throughout the day. The program was coordinated by Windsor athletics director Jack Tomcho and his staff.



March 10 – Dragon Dance Class in North Syracuse Central School District

Master Hu Kai introduced N. Syracuse students to the dragon dance and its cultural importance in China. Ordered from Shanghai, an 18-meter long dragon was assembled, and Hu Kai showed

how to lift up sections in sequence and perform while running. After 2 days' practice, the students became quite competent dragon dancers. Dr. Dave Morton, director of foreign languages, art, and music, coordinated the event and highly praised its outcomes.



March 24 – Chinese Classes in LWW Elementary School, Union-Endicott Central School District

Since March 24, 3rd graders at LWW Elementary School, U-E District, have been taking Mandarin classes twice a week with CIAU faculty member Margaret Lin. Classes are tailored to appeal to the young students with arts-and-crafts activities such as paper-cuts, knot-making, and calligraphy plus songs, poems, and useful sentences to emphasize the language. The students display a great deal of interest in learning about Chinese language and culture.



March 30 - Visit of NY Senator Kristen Gillibrand's Regional Director

On Wednesday, March 30th, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University welcomed the visit of Senator Kristen Gillibrand's Regional Director Melissa Fratello. Accompanied by AU Provost William Hall and Sue Goetschius, Director of Communications, Ms. Fratello arrived in the morning at the CIAU office. CIAU director, Dr. Wilfred Huang, Chinese Director, Prof. Xinquan Liu, and Program Manager Shirley Zhu welcomed them and showed them around the office. Ms. Fratello took a close look at the display boards with photos, which show the many achievements CIAU has made at the university and in K-12 public schools in the rural and urban areas of western and central New York -- all in the past two years since its opening.

Dr. Huang told Ms. Fratello that CIAU was going to expand during the next year and would have more cooperating school districts. Dr. Huang also pointed to the map of China and told her about Wuhan, Hubei Province, and CIAU's partner university, China University of Geosciences (Wuhan). They also talked about the establishment of the new U.S. and China Institute for Change Management opening in October at Alfred University, which is expected to play an important role in facilitating the exchange of trade between US and China in New York State. The dedication ceremony will take place in Wuhan. Ms. Fratello expressed how much she enjoyed seeing the amazing progress CIAU has made and told us Senator Gillibrand, who is a fluent Mandarin Speaker, would also be very pleased to hear of CIAU's successful programs and ambitious plans.



April 2 - The 2nd "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition was held at Alfred University on April 2, 2011 in Room 302, Olin Building

The afternoon event began with a talk and performance by CIAU Guzheng teacher Wu Zhongbei (Daisy), introducing one of the oldest traditional Chinese musical instruments, the guzheng to the audience and playing famous traditional guzheng music.

CIAU Director Dr. Wilfred Huang gave the welcoming speech, addressing the importance of encouraging more students to learn Chinese and of offering a good platform for Chinese learners to communicate and compete. He also expressed his thanks to the Confucius Institute at Binghamton University and the Confucius Institute at the University of Buffalo for cooperating with CIAU for the first time to make the Chinese Proficiency Competition a great event. Following the welcoming speech, CIAU Associate Director Carla Coch emceed the rest of the competition.

Altogether 16 students participated in the competition at three different levels: senior group of college students, junior group of college students, and high school students. Each student made a 2 -3 minute speech on a topic of choice followed by a talent presentation.

Topics for the oral part varied widely, including "the Year of the Rabbit", "Horseback Riding", "Why I Am Taking Chinese", and "Travel to China." The talent component included demonstrations of Tai Chi and Kong Fu, singing

Chinese songs, making dumplings, and a pop song with dancing.

The level of competence was exceptionally high, and the audience – judges, students, and parents – was very impressed and delighted.

The panel of extraordinarily distinguished judges was comprised of Professor Xinquan Liu, Chinese Director of CIAU; Dr. Wenzhong (Eric) Yang, Executive Director of the CI at the University of Buffalo; Professor Zhang Hong, Senior Lecturer of Chinese at Binghamton University, director of the Song of Silk performance troupe, and mezzo-soprano soloist; Dr. Sidney L. Greenblatt (Xining Ge), retired professor of Sociology, simultaneous translator for diplomatic delegations to China, and Immediate Past President of the Central New York Fulbright Association; and Dr. Yu Ruixiang, Dean of the School of Arts and Communication at China University of Geosciences in Wuhan.

Before the announcement of the winners, insightful comments were made by two judges: Sidney Greenblatt on the high level of proficiency he had seen and the benefits of teaching Mandarin in our schools, and Hong Zhang on how to improve stage presence and performance confidence.

Prizes were awarded to each of the 3 winners and trophy prizes to every participant. Winners of the junior group and senior group of the college students, both of whom are from Binghamton University, will go to Pace University in NYC for the final of the 2nd Chinese Bridge- East USA Chinese Proficiency Competition on April 23rd. A festive dinner was held afterwards at the Powell Campus Center at Alfred University. Overall, the competition was well-run and well-received. It showed the hard work of students and teachers and the commitment on behalf of everyone in attendance to the promotion of Chinese language and culture in western New York.



April 2 - A2A Show

Sponsored by CIAU, Alfred to Asia (A2A) Show was held on April 2 in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. For the past 5 years, A2A has brought Asian-inspired culture to the Alfred community. This year's theme was Air Tour wherein audiences experienced a flight to Asia through performances including a traditional Chinese fan dance and a Korean pop dance. This year's A2A featured cultural activities such as the lion dance, instrumental musical performances, and a magic show. The guzheng band from Naples Central School, trained by CIAU guzheng master Daisy Wu, had practiced for just one semester; their performance, nonetheless, was impressive and enthusiastically applauded.



April 4 – Meeting with Hanban Officials at Binghamton University

Officials from Hanban (CI headquarters in Beijing) came to Binghamton and held a round-table discussion with CI's in upstate NY (UB, AU, and SUNY-Binghamton). CIAU Director Wilfred Huang, Chinese Director Xinquan Liu, and Program Manager Shirley Zhu attended the meeting.

The Hanban officials talked about accounting regulations and gave recommendations about budget reports. There was time for Q & A, and the officials said they would take issues raised at the meeting back to Beijing for clarification. Everyone was given a tour of the CI at SUNY-Binghamton's costume and exhibition room for Chinese opera performances. This was the 2nd opportunity for all 3 upstate NY CI members to meet face-to-face with Hanban representatives.



April 6 – “Departure Training” at Windsor High School

CIAU began a “departure training” workshop for the 15 students who have signed up for the Summer Bridge Camp in China. Margaret Lin led the twice-weekly class that aims to prepare students for their trip by offering basic travel communications and information about the cities to be toured.



April 7 – 9 – Southwest Conference on Language Teaching, Fort Worth, TX

The Southwest Conference on Language Teaching was hosted this year in Fort Worth, Texas. Rebecca Fan presented a paper entitled “The Character-Centered Cognitive Method in Chinese Language Teaching.”

April 12 – London Lecture

Carla Coch gave a lecture for the Oriental Ceramics Society held at the Royal Society of Antiquaries in London, U.K. Her topic was “Wang Bu: King of Blue-and-White”, a master Jingdezhen porcelain artist who lived from 1898-1968. Her talk was much appreciated, and she had the chance to network with scholars, museum curators, and art collectors.



April 14 – 16 - 2011 National Chinese Language Conference in San Francisco

The 2011 National Chinese Language Conference was held from April 14 to 16 in San Francisco, California. Wilfred Huang, Xinquan Liu, and Shirley Zhu attended the conference. The conference featured concurrent sessions and forums focusing on establishing and sustaining high-quality Chinese language programs in American schools and building international collaborations. It attracted thousands of Chinese teachers, educators, and school administrators from all over the U.S.

Topics discussed at the conference ranged widely: from technology and innovation to new Confucianism; from K-12 curricula and instruction; from local to global relationships; from teacher development to various teaching and learning resources.

Representatives from CIAU attended the opening ceremony, plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and a special reception at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. They met with officials from Hanban, administrators and teachers from other CIs in the US, administrators from school districts nearby, and Chinese teachers from all over the country.

April 16 and 17 – Knowledge Futures: Language, Culture, Technology Conference at Emory University, Atlanta, GA

CIAU faculty members Daisy Wu, Rebecca Fan, and Margaret Lin attended this conference, part of the on-going Knowledge Futures series held at Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Each of the 3 gave a presentation: Daisy's was entitled "Integration of Multi-Media Methodology for Promoting Traditional Chinese Instrumental Music Overseas"; Rebecca's was "Chinese Movies as a Way to Teach Language and Culture"; and Margaret's was "Strategies for Embedding ICT into Learning Chinese as a 2nd Language".

CIAU's faculty attended workshops on a variety of topics relevant to improving pedagogy and

incorporating new technology into the classroom. Video resources and textbooks were shared.



April 23 – Proficiency Competition Finals Held in NY City

Pace University in NYC hosted the finals for the 2nd Eastern US Chinese Bridge Language Proficiency Competition. CIAU faculty member Shirley Zhu was invited to be a judge for the whole-day event which included a junior group in the morning and senior group in the afternoon. Twenty-seven winners from the 4 regional competitions participated. First-prize winners from each group will go to Beijing to compete further in the summer, and all contestants can apply for a scholarship to study Chinese in China for a year. Peng Keyu, Consul General of the NY Chinese Consulate attended and gave a short speech.



Upcoming Events

May 12 – CYLI program

July - Six new teachers are joining CIAU

July 11-22 Workshop for the new teachers

July Summer Camps: Chinese Bridge Summer
Camp for American High School Students

July 25-29 CIAU will help running a summer
camp for Binghamton City School District

July 25-29 CIAU will host a summer day camp
in Alfred University

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