



# 孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE  
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

MARCH - APRIL 2015

## North Syracuse

### Central School District

In March, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in the Chinese classes of Gillette Road Middle School and Roxboro Middle School in North Syracuse learned how to use chopsticks and practiced good table manners in China through Miss Zhang and Mr. Yang's presentation, video, and actual practice. The students were quite excited to use chopsticks to get Chinese cookies. Numbers were also taught this month. The students now are able to express numbers such as dates and school bus numbers and can count in Chinese. The students showed much interest in writing such Chinese characters as 'Shan' for mountains, 'ri' meaning the sun, and 'ren' for people. Most of the students can write these by themselves in the correct sequence.



Lucy Zhang's students showing their happiness at learning how to use chopsticks.

## Geneva City School District

In March, the students at Geneva West Street School learned the Chinese zodiac, which is based on a 12-year cycle with each year in that cycle related to an animal sign, by reading a funny story. They learned how to name some animals in Chinese, and wrote the character “羊” which means goat, as the year 2015 is the Year of the Goat in the Chinese

lunar calendar. In this month CIAU faculty Hui Liu also read the students a story book, *Guji Guji*, which is a well-known Chinese children's book about a family and a bully, written and illustrated by a Chinese author. The students learned a few simple sentences and words from that book.

In April, the students reviewed how to say some colors in Chinese by playing a game about Easter eggs. Hui Liu read to students a familiar book, *No David*, in Chinese, and they also started the topic of spring.



Hui Liu telling the story of "can and cannot" to students

In March and April, Jeff Yin at Geneva North Street School taught 4th - 5th grade students topics including recognizing Chinese money, asking prices, body parts, seeing a doctor, and making a Mother's Day

card. The students learned how to ask the price of items in Chinese by role playing after they learned about Chinese money. In order to help students become familiar with body parts, Jeff Yin and his students did a body parts exercise while singing a body parts song. Once students knew the body parts, they began to make simple Chinese sentences while performing the roles of doctors and patients in class. They also made Mother's Day cards with some Chinese sentences and practiced Chinese character writing.

At the same time, Rose Hu at North Street School introduced her 3rd graders to Chinese characters with a cartoon. The students were amazed to see how Chinese characters have changed into modern forms and the interesting meaning inferences lying in the characters. This was followed by two other interesting topics, zodiac animals and signs of spring in Chinese words. At the end of April, Rose attempted a story-telling of a Chinese version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The students enjoyed the story and also learned a little relative poem.



Jeff Yin and his students at  
Geneva North Street School

The Immersion Program at Geneva West Street School has attracted more attention from the community. The children in Elyn Song's class are always very excited to share their learning experiences and classroom projects with their families, which has made Mandarin class become the "daily news" in their lives. The parents gave some positive feedback: sometimes they didn't know what their kids were talking about, but they enjoyed the kids' practice.



Yanfang Song's Immersion Class in WSS

## **Romulus Central School District**

In March, Chinese class in Romulus Central School District focused on expressions for time and date. Taking into account that younger learners may not know how to read a clock, lessons started with words for the days of the week. Students learned the Chinese way to say Sunday through Saturday and got to know the ordinal way of expressing time in the Chinese system. Students made a small survey in the school of "Your Favorite Day of the Week" and "Your Least Favorite Day of the Week", which provided them with a real purpose and opportunity for communication and stimulated their enthusiasm for speaking Chinese.

In April, CIAU faculty Michelle Hao spent some time helping students review the topics they learned before, because Chinese learners were a little forgetful after the Spring Recess. After that, they studied a unit on "Food and Drink", comparing different foods and drinks in China and America. The teacher showed the different cultures in a user-friendly way and the children got to



understand a variety of different areas of human life.



Students learning how to make dumplings

## Northstar Christian Academy

In March, students in Northstar Christian Academy celebrated their Window Program with Chengdu Paotongshu Elementary School from China (a two week camp visiting program). The students enjoyed the Chinese culture week, preparing for the welcome ceremony, and the closing ceremony. Also, the elementary students learned Chinese

songs about counting stars, seeing friends off, and a Chinese poem, and they performed the songs and poem in the two ceremonies. The students learned about bamboo and how it is used - chopsticks, Chinese brushes, panda food, etc. They learned to use chopsticks while eating popcorn, and practiced Chinese calligraphy with Chinese brushes and magic paper. They also practiced the names for body parts while drawing and painting pandas.



The kindergarteners at NCA practice body parts with panda pictures

In April, they started to learn about tea in China. Students enjoyed drinking tea while learning tea history and stories. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are going to do a research program on Chinese tea culture in groups.



The third graders practiced calligraphy with Chinese brushes and magic paper

Teaching in the high school really went smoothly; the students made great progress in language learning. They can express their hobbies, daily life, and sports; buying objects, time, dates, jobs and careers in Chinese. They have learned some culture too: tea culture, Peking opera, etc. Four students have registered to take the Chinese AP exam in May. They took the practice test in April.

### **Binghamton City School District**

In March and April, CIAU faculty Zhaoyun Zhai continued her teaching at Binghamton East Middle School

and highlighted course design, review, and fun and effective language practice.

The topic of the Chinese New Year celebration was still going on during the first school-week after the mid-winter vacation. The students learned the stories of “Nian” and the Chinese Zodiac, handcrafts, and Chinese New Year songs. They also had fun watching TV programs of the Chinese Spring Festival Gala Evening and making red lanterns and paper firecrackers. Ms. Zhai introduced Peking opera and changing faces to the students while they learn the vocabulary for color words. When classes were cut short due to state testing, the sixth graders watched the movie *Kungfu Panda*. To welcome the arrival of spring, Zhaoyun Zhai introduced to her students a traditional Chinese art form—paper-cutting. During this project, students created three-dimensional representations of the Chinese character “chun” (spring) to decorate the classroom.

After the comprehensive Chinese examination, Zhaoyun Zhai ended the 10-week Chinese course at

Binghamton East Middle School and switched back to Binghamton West Middle School. She started with a presentation of Chinese culture and fun facts about China which increased their expectations with respect to Chinese class.



Zhaoyun Zhai and her students showed their hand made lanterns.

### **Chinese Painting Class at the Canisteo Library**

The Chinese painting class has been preparing for months for an exhibition of Chinese painting. The exhibition will be in May at Steuben Trust Company in Hornell. In last two months, the class painted two flower-and-bird paintings, in which the most difficult part is the feathers of the birds. Gongbi (deliberate style) painting pays close attention to details, which is the most important characteristic of this style of painting.

After all the paintings were finished, Lillian stamped the paintings and taught the class how to frame them, which made the paintings more complete and beautiful. Every one of us works hard on our paintings and gets better and better at Chinese painting.



The students drew birds in the class

### **Daisy Wu's Guzheng Performance at Auburn University at Montgomery, Alabama**

On March 1st, invited by the Confucius Institute of Auburn University at Montgomery, CIAU faculty Daisy Wu gave a wonderful guzheng performance for the Chinese New Year Celebration of the Greater Montgomery area.





Daisy Wu's performance at Auburn University at Montgomery

### **A3 Program in Canisteo and Campbell**

This semester, CIAU started the A3 (Aligning Aspirations with Actions) program with several school districts around Alfred. In March, Canisteo-Greenwood Central School District and Campbell-Savona Central School District were involved in this program.

Every Thursday after school (March 5, 12, 19, 26), there were two 45-minute Chinese classes for the K-5 students at Canisteo-Greenwood Central School District. Penny Peng, Olivia Wang, Starry He, and Tao Peng were the teachers. Each week, the kids learned Mandarin Chinese, Chinese culture and history. Through the four classes, the students got an

overview of China and knew about Chinese characters, Chinese calligraphy, and paper cutting.

On March 20, Penny Peng, Olivia Wang, Starry He, and Huiyang Li went to Campbell-Savona Central School District for the A3 program. In the 1-hour class, the students got a closer look at the differences between Chinese culture and American culture, learned how to greet each other in Chinese, and had fun learning the five-animal exercises.

The program went very well and will be continued with other school districts in May.



Students were learning five-animal exercises

### **Chinese Culture Lecture in Chautauqua**

On March 11th, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University was

invited by Chautauqua Lake Central School to make a cultural exchange.

Students from the advanced culinary class prepared a delicious lunch for teachers from CIAU, and we had a good time chatting with the Chinese students and their teachers.

Penny Peng gave a lecture about China and Daisy Wu gave a guzheng performance. Both were well received by the students and teachers.



Penny introduced Chinese culture to students at Chautauqua

## **Chinese Painting Lectures at Houghton College in Western NY**

Prof. Shan Ding, an artist specializing in Chinese painting, was invited to give two lectures on March 26th at Houghton College. “Traditional Chinese Landscape Painting Process and Skills” and “Chinese Water and Ink Painting

under the Influence of Western Modern Art” were his titles. Students and teachers from art classes and others attended.

In the first lecture, Prof. Ding demonstrated how he does a painting, taking one of his works as an example to show the creative process of traditional Chinese landscape painting and the ideas and emotions expressed by it. He introduced different methods of painting rocks and different conceptual colors the ink makes. After the demonstration, Prof. Ding prepared an experiment called “the talking line”, in which the artist must paint a single continuous line and tell a story with it. The students tried to tell their life stories by the lines and had much joy in it.

In the second lecture, Prof. Ding briefly introduced the development of Chinese painting over the past 30 years. He described the impact of western art and the changes in traditional art in China using the example of his own works and other Chinese bird-and-flower painting and animal painting.

Teachers and students at Houghton College enjoyed the lectures and



expressed their desire for further cooperation.



Shan Ding giving a demo on Chinese painting

## **Guzheng Performance at Alfred State College**

In April, Daisy Wu did four different concerts with the Alfred State Voice (ASV, the Choir of Alfred State College). This year, the ASV chose the Chinese song “Beautiful Grassland, My Home” as their special piece for the Global Culture Show, and the director of ASV invited Daisy to play the traditional Chinese instrument guzheng with the choir. The song was warmly welcomed by the audience.



Daisy's performance at Alfred State

## **Guzheng Performance in Buffalo**

At the invitation of the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, NY, Daisy Wu played modern-style music on the guzheng for the concert “Tribute to American Composer Charles Ives” on April 11th. Daisy played a solo piece and in ensemble with the Carrier Band of Alfred and the sound poetry ensemble, Buffluxus, from Buffalo, as well.



Guzheng Performance in Buffalo

## Guzheng Students' Performance at “Alfred Around the World”

On April 11th, the Alfred University Guzheng Ensemble took part in the “Alfred Around the World” show at Holmes Auditorium in Harder Hall. AU students Vanessa Mahadtawon Englerth, Brandon Charles Miller and HUC students Lin Ju, Zhehai Zhang, Yanxi Liu, Xiao Luo, Yulu Chen, Weiming Liu performed the guzheng pieces “*Jasmine Flower*” and “*Laughing Over the Blue Sea*”. This is a big event for AU exchange students from all around the world. The international students presented the audience with a varied show of different cultures.



The Guzheng performers  
at “Alfred Around the World”

## “Chinese Bridge” Speech Contest

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Charles Miller, a student in AU’s Chinese 102 class, won third prize in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Chinese Bridge” Speech Contest for University Students in New England at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Huiyang Li, Penny Peng, and Olivia Wang attended the contest as instructors.

Charles gave a speech on “Me and Chinese Songs” and played the guzheng tune, “Swordsman”, in the talent show, which won him much applause from the judges and audience.



Group photo of the AU team at “Chinese Bridge”

## National Chinese Language Conference

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual National Chinese Language Conference, held in Atlanta, GA, from April 16–18, welcomed 1,200 educators from

across the U.S. and abroad. The director of CIAU, Wil Huang, and the Chinese director, Tao Peng, attended. In a session on “Creating, Collaborating, and Sustaining in a High-Needs School District”, Wil Huang gave a lecture together with collaborator Trina Newton, who is the superintendent of Geneva City School District. They talked about how the program in Geneva began years ago with the support of CIAU. The participants learned how different educational entities have collaborated to build and sustain a strong K-12 Chinese program in a small city school district.

### **HSK Test**

On April 18th, the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test was administered in AU Perlman Hall by CIAU faculty Olivia Wang, Starry He, and Penny Peng. Three AU students in Chinese classes took the Level 2 test, and one took the Level 3 test.

CIAU has arranged for students in Chinese classes to take the HSK Test several times now. The testing process has become more and more standardized.



HSK testing

### **Daisy's Guzheng Performance at Alfred University**

On April 24<sup>th</sup> in Holmes Auditorium, Daisy Wu participated in an Interactive Concert in a composition by Randall International Chair of the AU School of Art and Design, Mr. Emil Schult. Quite different from her previous concerts, in which Daisy had focused on traditional Chinese music, in this concert she played several contemporary pieces on the guzheng, including improvisation with the Carrier Band and Buffluxus. It was a unique audio-visual experience for the audience.





Group photo of the performers at Holmes Auditorium

### **Upcoming Events**

May 7<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>: Chinese Painting Exhibition by the Canisteo Class. Steuben Trust Company, Hornell, NY

May 21<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup>: Shan Ding's Painting Exhibition – Skin of Rocks, Houghton College, Houghton, NY.

Jun 20<sup>th</sup>: Reception of “Skin of Rocks”. Houghton College, Houghton, NY.

## **Learn a Chinese Word and Know Its Culture**

Sichuan Cuisine

川菜 **chuān cài**

Sichuan Cuisine, also known as Chuan Cuisine, is the most widely served cuisine in China. The dishes of Sichuan Cuisine are famous for their hot and spicy flavor. They typically have good combinations of flavors and often have thick gravy. An outstanding facet of Sichuan dishes is the delicate use of pepper or chili. A wide variety of ingredients are used, including poultry, pork, beef, fish, vegetables and tofu. The methods of cooking vary according to the texture required. They include baking, sautéing, dry-sautéing and steaming. Fast-frying is the most widely used cooking method.

Sichuan Cuisine wins universal praise for its hotness, sourness and numbness it produces, which are rare in other regional cuisines. Together these sum up the unique flavor of Sichuan Cuisine, which enjoys a good reputation as "one dish with one flavor and one hundred dishes with one hundred flavors".

Although Sichuan Cuisine is served in every corner of the world, the most authentic Sichuan food is still to be found in its hometowns, Chengdu and Chongqing.



Typical Sichuan Hotpot

From

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-food/chuan-cuisine.htm>

## **Confucius Institute** **at Alfred University**

### **Board of Directors:**

Charles Edmondson (Chair)  
Fang Hao (Deputy Chair)  
Rick Stephens (Executive Director)  
Terry S. Galanis  
Changqian Ma  
Lijun Zhang  
The Late Joel P. Moskowitz

### **Partner Institute:**

China University of Geosciences, Wuhan,  
Hubei, China

### **Director:**

Wilfred Huang

### **Chinese Director:**

Tao Peng

### **Assistant Director:**

Susan Steere

### **Instructors:**

Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu  
Huiyang (Lee) Li  
Yanjie (Jeff) Yin  
Hui (Jessica) Liu  
Yanfang (Elyn) Song  
Yunchuan (Simba) Jing  
Lin (Michelle) Hao  
Li (Echo) Xu  
Shan (Derek) Ding  
Jing Wu  
Zhaoyun Zhai  
Daqian (Eric) Yang  
Yao (Lucy) Zhang  
Xinyue (Rose) Hu  
Liwei (Olivia) Wang  
Wei (Penny) Peng  
Fang (Starry) He