



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

MARCH-APRIL 2013

Geneva North Street Elementary

School - During the month of March, CIAU faculty member Hui Liu taught students body parts in Mandarin. Students were motivated to participate in the learning through moving and pointing to their body parts. In addition, a China Day was held in North Street Elementary School, during which the 3rd grade students of North Street School exhibited their fantastic work with enthusiasm. Prior to this event, Hui Liu introduced some cities and famous historic sites for students to better prepare their show.



Jessica Liu with her students

North Syracuse Central School District-

During March and April, CIAU faculty members Emma Wang and Katie Wang gave enrichment classes to 6th grade students at Gillette and Roxboro Middle Schools for the 2nd year around. The lessons have covered a wide range of topics, including personal identity, home, family members, profession, table manners, food and drinks, number counting, Beijing Opera, etc. More than 50 students participated in Chinese learning during their study hall periods. They began to get to know some basic Mandarin Chinese. Learning Chinese is a fun experience for them.

The music teacher at GRMS, Ms.

Seamans invited the teachers to present to her 5th graders about Beijing Opera. The kids were fascinated with the singings, costumes and facial paintings. They displayed their artworks of the painted faces in the hallway.



Students at Roxboro Road Middle School are learning how to use chopsticks



Painted faces of Beijing Opera displayed in the hallway at Gillette Road Middle School

North Hornell Elementary School -

CIAU faculty members Rosa Luo and Lisa Zhang taught all the kindergarteners body parts in Mandarin by teaching them two popular Chinese children's songs "Two Tigers" and "If you are happy". The students also used the body parts they have learned to puzzle a panda's head. Besides the body parts, they learnt family members in Mandarin, the story "little tadpoles finding their mother" and the hand making "fold a house". Asking the students to draw their family in the house

highly motivated their passion for learning Chinese.

The 1st grade students learnt all kinds of food and compared Chinese food with American food. They also learnt to use "I like" and "I don't like" to talk about the sports. Ping-Pong ball was brought in the class, and students have experienced this popular Chinese sport and some even showed their talents in this sport. Chinese traditional kite was brought into the class also. Both kindergarten students and 1st graders learnt about Chinese kite and they each made a simple one with the 2008 Olympic mascot on it.



Rosa Luo and Lisa Zhang with their class

Naples Elementary School - During the month of March, CIAU member Jeff Yin taught students colors and body parts in Mandarin Chinese. Coloring of Peking opera facial makeup was made to better motivate students' participation, followed

by an introduction of Peking opera. Students were also fascinated with games to expand their vocabulary of body parts. They were asked to follow directions on body parts movement wearing a facial makeup.

In April, Jeff Yin taught students how to express items in a house in Chinese, including some commonly used furniture, rooms and pets. Drawing house layout and playing word card game were for students to better understand and memorize words with fun.



Jeff Yin with his students

Kids to College Program- On May 3, approximately 65 kids came from Wilson Middle School attended the lecture offered by CIAU. The lectures focused on Chinese traditional art form-Beijing Opera, and mainly introduced the costumes, instruments, gestures, movements and four types of roles of

Beijing Opera. The students took an active part in the interaction. Some of them tried the Chinese traditional music instruments, including Chinese drum, gong, small cymbals, double-barreled cylinder, and also performed and imitated the fictitious movements in the Beijing opera, like going upstairs, downstairs, opening and closing door, etc. The students got a lot of fun from those experiences which were totally new for them, and became interested in Beijing opera. CIAU Chinese Director Tao Peng and faculty members Lee, Daisy, Rosa, Rose and Lisa attended this activity. The activity came to the end by Daisy's Guzheng show "Evening songs on the fishing boat", which received rounds of applause by the students.

On Mar 8, 25 6th graders from the Olean Central School experienced a Chinese paper-cutting class. CIAU faculty member Lisa Zhang gave a paper-cutting demonstration. Students first appreciated the delicate Chinese paper-cutting works. The "snake" paper-cutting works on the New Year Calendar aroused their interests, and they practiced cutting double "Xi" and window-flowers then. Some students showed their talents when cutting Chinese traditional window-flowers.



Daisy Wu is teaching a student Beijing Opera gestures



Group photo: Students with their works

Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition- On March 17, two students, Shannon Cirulnick and Richard Lopez from Chinese 102 and 202 classes took part in Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition (New York Preliminary) at Pace University in NYC. There were 28 contestants from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, who showed their Chinese proficiency and talents. Shannon Cirulnick and

Richard Lopez did a wonderful job in the competition. In addition, Shannon's father and Richard's mother came to support their children. They hoped that AU could offer more chances for their children to improve language skills and broaden their horizon as well.



Contestants with their families and instructors

Demo of Chinese Paper-cutting - On March 28, a demo of Chinese paper-cutting and stone-carving of Shoushan was held in the Mini Gym of North Street Elementary School in Geneva. About 150 students from 3 grades attended this event. Students first appreciated Chinese paper-cutting works and then stopped by demo booths, where artists were presenting how to do paper-cutting and stone-carving. The demo was well received by students and teachers of the school.



Students are amazed at paper-cuts

Reception for Chinese Folk Arts - On March 29, the reception for Chinese Folk Arts was held in Knight Club at Alfred University. New-realism Chinese paper-cutting works and stone-carving works of Shoushan were presented in the reception. Artists from China also did demos later in the reception. Guests were amazed at the delicate art work and appreciated the skills and efforts displayed in the work. President Charles Edmondson and Provost Bill Hall attended this reception and exchanged gifts with Chinese artists.



Paper-cutting demo at the reception



Stone-carving demo at the reception

HSK Interactive Software Development Meeting - From March 31 to April 2, the second meeting on HSK Interactive software development was held in Confucius House at Alfred University. Faculty members of CIAU gathered together and presented their text drafts at different levels respectively. Discussions were carried out as regard to the content of the texts and valuable suggestions to revise were put forward too. This meeting helped CIAU faculty members to further their understanding of interactive software and moved this project forward with great progress. The next meeting will be held at the end of May.



CIAU faculty at the meeting



Dr. Yang at lecture

From Mahjong to Chinese Philosophy of Life - On April 4, Dr. Ning Yang from the Confucius Institute at George Mason University delivered a speech entitled *From Mahjong to Chinese Philosophy of life* in Nevins Theater at Alfred University. Dr. Yang talked about the origin of Mahjong and discussed about the deep influences Mahjong gave to Chinese people and the society. She also illustrated Mahjong from a cultural perspective. After the lecture, seven guests tried playing Mahjong with CIAU faculty members at Confucius House under the instructions of Dr. Yang. This event was highly appreciated by people attending the lecture.



Mahjong practice at Confucius House

Alfred around the World- On April 6, Alfred around the World, a large scale performance by students at AU, was held in Harder Hall. AU Guzheng Ensemble performed a famous Guzheng musical piece—Evening Song on the Fishing Boat at the beginning and won cheerful applause from the audience. The members of the Ensemble are students from Daisy Wu's Guzheng class.



Guzheng Ensemble at the performance

Visit from Rochester Early College

International School-

On April 19, approximately 100 students from Rochester Early College International School visited Alfred to experience Chinese traditional arts -Beijing opera.

At the beginning, a video of Beijing opera “Rainbow Gate” was showed to students and then CIAU faculty Rosa generally introduced Beijing opera, including its history, main art forms, music and some fictitious props in Beijing opera.

Then, Rosa introduced 4 types of roles (Sheng, Dan, Jing, Chou), including the vocal techniques, costumes, make-ups, gestures, movements, even personality and temperament of the four roles.

At the end, 4 groups of students came to the stage to imitate the movements of the typical characters in Beijing opera. This activity was well received by the students

and a lot of students expressed their interest in learning Beijing opera.



Daisy Wu is teaching students the postures

HSK Test - On April 20, CIAU faculty members Huiyang Li, Rosa Luo, Lisa Zhang and Rose Hu successfully administered the HSK test (Chinese Language Proficiency Test) in writing. This is the first time that CIAU conducted the test online and 8 students took the tests.



Students at test

Visit by China Consulate - On April 21, China consulate from New York, Quansheng Chang, Jianqing Liu, Haiming Sun visited CIAU at Confucius House. Director Dr. Huang and Chinese Director Prof. Peng introduced to them the development and prospects of CIAU. Faculty members also talked about their life and work here at CIAU. The achievement made by CIAU and the hard work of CIAU faculty members were highly recognized by consulates. Consulate Quansheng Chang expressed his hope to maintain contacts with all the teachers and wish all the teachers a happy time in the US.



Consulates with CIAU faculty

Upcoming Events

July 15-18 – Chinese Summer Camp at North Street School of Geneva City School District

Learn the Chinese word and know its culture

Beijing opera (*Jīngjù*) is a form of traditional Chinese theatre which combines music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics. It arose in the late 18th century and became fully developed and recognized by the mid-19th century. The form was extremely popular in the Qing Dynasty court and has come to be regarded as one of the cultural treasures of China. It has also spread to other countries such as the United States and Japan.

Beijing opera features four main types of performers. Performing troupes often have several of each variety, as well as numerous secondary and tertiary performers. With their elaborate and colorful costumes, performers are the only focal points on Beijing opera's characteristically sparse stage. They utilize the skills of speech, song, dance, and combat in movements that are symbolic and suggestive, rather than realistic. Above all else, the skill of performers is evaluated according to the beauty of their movements. Performers also adhere to a variety of stylistic conventions that help audiences navigate the plot of the production. The

layers of meaning within each movement must be expressed in time with music. In recent years, Beijing opera has attempted numerous reforms in response to sagging audience numbers. These reforms, which include improving performance quality, adapting new performance elements, and performing new and original plays, have met with mixed success.



Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing_opera

<http://shiq8.blog.163.com/blog/static/110293363201131284625427/>

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