



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

Geneva School District

In January and February, CIAU faculty at the Geneva School District held a variety of Chinese New Year activities.

Yanjie Yin and Liwei Wang in North Street School taught students the song “Happy New Year” and a self-written Chinese New Year customs song accompanied by traditional Chinese musical instruments. Student representatives from 3rd graders to 5th graders sang Chinese New Year songs during morning announcement time. Also, students practiced Chinese calligraphy of “福”, “马”, “春”, and “马到成功”, and then a Year of the Horse Chinese calligraphy exhibition was made in the school hallway.



Yanjie Yin and Olivia Wang with their class

Hui Liu in West Street School taught students the Chinese song “Happy New Year”. Ms. Liu introduced students many Chinese New Year customs and the 12 animal zodiacs. And since this is the Year of the Horse, Hui Liu led the students to recognize the character “马” by doing coloring work.



Hui Liu with her class

North Syracuse Central School District

In January, CIAU faculty Katie Wang and Emma Wang continued to present Chinese cultures to the 6th graders in Social Studies classes at the Gillette Road Middle School and Roxboro Middle School. The young students learned how to address family members in Mandarin, among other conversational skills. They loved repeating a rhyme made up by the two teachers. Also, some 5th grade teachers invited the two CIAU teachers

into their classrooms just before the Chinese New Year. The students were happy to learn about holiday traditions. They were especially excited to get red envelopes with real Chinese currency inside.

In February, Katie and Emma began Chinese Enrichment lessons for the second semester. The students learned how to introduce themselves in Mandarin. They also learned about the Lantern Festival, and each one made their own lantern to proudly show to their classmates and parents.



Emma Wang with her class

Naples Central School District

In January and February, CIAU faculty Tina Jiang introduced traditional Chinese festivals to the students. By receiving red envelopes, sending New Year wishes, and rehearsing the story of the Chinese Zodiac signs, the students get to know more about the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year. With support from the Naples Elementary School, they successfully held a Lantern Festival display for the whole school. Other students were invited to guess the riddles under each handmade lantern.



Students with their handmade lanterns

Distance learning in Binghamton City School District

In January and February, Binghamton West Middle School studied expressions regarding transportation and Spring Festival customs through the distance-learning class. In the face-to-face class, Rosa Luo, Elyn Song, and Tulip Chen presented students with a cultural immersion experience class of making dumplings. The students had fun making dumplings and were excited to display their work to each other.



Rosa Luo with her class in the face-to-face class

Daisy Wu's Visits to Buffalo

In the afternoon of January 16, CIAU faculty Daisy Wu was invited by the Asian Studies Program and the Confucius Institute of the University at Buffalo to

give a lecture in the music department for their winter term music course. The students in MUS 264 were very impressed with the guzheng performance, and had a delightful interaction with Daisy. The discussion centered on guzheng techniques and training, the instrument itself, and differences in notation of written scores.



Daisy with students from University of Buffalo

In the evening of the 16th, Daisy Wu gave a guzheng concert at Pausa Art House in downtown Buffalo. Daisy's performance was deeply appreciated by the audience. She also presented a few songs together with local Guchin player Peter Worden.



Daisy is performing in the guzheng concert at Pausa Art House

On January 17th, Daisy gave lectures in two music theory classes at Williamsville South High School. These presentations also won the enthusiastic response of

students and teachers. Daisy was very impressed by the students' interest and questions.



Daisy is giving lecture at Williamsville South High School

On February 1st, Daisy and her family were invited by Niagara University to attend the CMAA 2014 Fundraising Dinner at the Orchard Park Country Club. Daisy gave a wonderful guzheng performance after the dinner.



Prof. Zongqing Zhou is introducing Prof. Daisy Wu to the guests.

On February 2nd, Daisy was invited by the Confucius Institute at the University of Buffalo to perform guzheng music at the Chinese New Year Gala of Western New York at the Center for the Arts in Buffalo.



Daisy is performing in the Western New York Chinese New Year Gala

Chinese Corner Resumed

Chinese Corner at Alfred University was resumed on January 27 this semester. Chinese Corner meets every Monday from 5:30-7:00 pm at the Confucius House (10 Park Street) and welcomes students in Chinese classes and anyone else who is interested in learning the language and culture of China. The session includes language practice, cultural discussions, a video show, and games.

Geneva Chinese New Year Celebration of Paws Night

On Paws Night, January 28, CIAU sponsored a big Chinese New Year Gala at West Street School in the Geneva School District, which attracted many children and parents and turned out to be a great success. The students, their families, and other community members – a total of 300 people - enjoyed themselves with various activities such as using chopsticks, making Chinese knots, tasting Chinese food, and doing calligraphy, as well as with a guzheng concert performed

by Daisy Wu and her three students from Geneva schools.

This event was highly supported by the Geneva School District. Administrators including Trina S. Newton, Superintendent of Geneva School, Tracy A. Marchionda, Director of Innovative Programming, Nina McCarthy, Principle of West Street Elementary School, and Danielle Quilette, Principle of North Street Elementary School, all joined in the celebration.

Although it was the first Chinese New Year Celebration of Paws Night in the Geneva school district, it was a huge success. The leaders of the Geneva district hope that they can hold a Chinese New Year even every year.



Geneva Chinese New Year Celebration of Paws Night

Chinese New Year Dinner Gala

On February 1st, CIAU sponsored the annual Chinese New Year Dinner Gala at Susan Howell Hall at Alfred University, which was enjoyed by many faculty, students, and members of the surrounding community. Guests participated in a variety of interactive cultural activities: Chinese knot tying, lantern making, calligraphy, Chinese painting, and a video

showing Chinese New Year customs. The highlight of the night was a speech given by Scot Brackenridge, visiting assistant professor of Religious Studies, who talked about Chinese New Year customs from a personal perspective. After that, the guests enjoyed the bountiful and delicious food and received a horse toy as a gift.



Guests are drawing horse at the Alfred Chinese New Year Dinner Gala



Prof. Scot Brackenridge is giving a speech about Chinese New Year customs

Performance at St. Bonaventure University

On February 10, CIAU faculty Daisy Wu, Tina Jiang, and Tao Peng were invited to participate in the first Chinese New Year Celebration at St. Bonaventure University. The audience was deeply

touched by the beautiful guzheng melody of *High Mountain and Floating Water* as played by Daisy. The highpoint came when Tina introduced the stories of the Chinese zodiac. Teachers and students were highly interested in Chinese culture and asked many questions. The celebration hall was full of laughter and applause. Sr. Margaret Carney, the President of St. Bonaventure University, sincerely appreciated the great support of CIAU to the celebration. The two universities exchanged exquisite presents at the end of the celebration.



CIAU faculty with the President of St. Bonaventure University, Margaret Carney (the second from the left)

Daisy Wu's Visit to Fisher-Price, Inc.

On February 11th, Daisy Wu gave a Chinese music presentation and guzheng performance at the Chinese Cultural Awareness Day Celebration at the East Aurora headquarters of Fisher-Price, Inc. She was also invited to tour the audio engineering department and the studios of the company.



Daisy Wu's performance at Fisher-Price, Inc.

Geneva Acrobatic Show at Geneva North Street Elementary School --- April 25

“Hello China”: CIAU Hot Dog Day program --- April 26

Learn the Chinese Word and Know its Culture

Upcoming events

Filming of CIAU activities by EFP Inc. --- March 5, 6 and 20

Master Class on the Chinese instruments: Guqin and Dizi --- at 5:20 pm on March 19th in the Choral Room in the Miller Theater.

“Songs of Spring” Chinese Music Concert --- at 7:30 pm on March 20 in the Nevins Theater.

“The 5th Chinese Bridge Eastern U.S.A. Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students” --- March 30 at Pace University, NY.

HSK test Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 --- April 12

Gǔqín 古琴

The **guqin** is a plucked seven-string Chinese musical instrument of the zither family. It has been played since ancient times, and has traditionally been favored by scholars and literati as an instrument of great subtlety and refinement, as highlighted by the quote "a gentleman does not part with his *qin* or *se* without good reason," as well as being associated with the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius. It is sometimes referred to by the Chinese as "the father of Chinese music" or "the instrument of the sages". The guqin is not to be confused with the guzheng, another Chinese long zither also without frets, but with moveable bridges under each string.

The guqin is a very quiet instrument, with a range of about four octaves, and its open strings are tuned in the bass register. Its lowest pitch is about two octaves below middle C, or the lowest note on the cello.

Sounds are produced by plucking open strings, stopped strings, and harmonics. The use of glissando—sliding tones—gives it a sound reminiscent of a pizzicato cello, fretless double bass or a slide guitar. The qin is also capable of a lot of harmonics, of which 91 are most commonly used and indicated by the dotted positions. By tradition the qin originally had five strings, but ancient qin-like instruments with 10 or more strings have been found. The modern form has been standardized for about two millennia.



Source:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guqin>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ZhongNiShi.jpg>

Confucius Institute at
Alfred University (CIAU)

Board of Directors:

Charles Edmondson (Chair)
Terry S. Galanis
Rick Stephens (Executive
Director)
Chanqian Ma
Joel P. Moskowitz
Yanxin Wang (Deputy Chair)
Lijun Zhang

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 Li
Yun (Katie) Wang
Suping (Emma) Wang
Yanjie (Jeff) Yin
Hui (Jessica) Liu
Yangfang (Elyn) Song
Tingting (Tina) Jiang
Sha (Rosa) Luo
Xinyue (Rose) Hu
Liwei (Olivia) Wang
Si (Tulip) Chen