

## Confucius Institute at Alfred University hosts Lunar New Year gala celebration

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ALFRED, NY – The Alfred University Confucius Institute rang in the Lunar New Year by hosting the 2020 Spring Festival Gala and Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center.

More than 200 University staff, students and area community members attended the party to celebrate the Year of the Rat according to the Chinese Zodiac. This annual event was the 12th Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU).

The party kicked off with Gail Richardson's presentation of the Alfred Tai Chi Group's China trip. Since 2010, CIAU has provided Tai Chi courses to University students, faculty and staff, and community members. Last October, CIAU supported the Alfred Tai Chi group on its visit to China for the Second International Swimming Dragon Exchange Conference. Alfred Tai Chi won the first prize in the group performance competition. At the Lunar New Year celebration, the Alfred Tai Chi group gave the very smooth, beautiful and energetic performance of Swimming Dragon sword.

The Chinese class of 102 students and children in our community sang a Chinese song, "Happy New Year" and two wind instrument performers played traditional Chinese Bamboo flute music. An artist from the Beijing Opera wrapped up the gala by demonstrating the amusing Monkey King, a traditional Chinese superhero.

After the show, more than 200 guests enjoyed a delicious Chinese dinner prepared by AU Fresh, Alfred University's food service provider.