



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2014

North Syracuse Central School District

In September and October, CIAU faculty Lucy (Yao) Zhang and Eric (Daqian) Yang presented Chinese culture to 6th grade students of Roxboro Road Middle School and Gillette Road Middle School. Students learned about China's geographic location, landforms, and big cities, as well as the Great Wall, through a general introduction of China and Chinese history. Students showed great interest in the length and construction of The Great Wall, the lovely panda, and the Chinese Zodiac.

Geneva City School District

In September, CIAU faculty Hui Liu encouraged the 1st and 2nd grade students at West Street School to continue to practice and improve their Chinese language skills. They reviewed numbers and sang a popular Chinese nursery rhyme, "The Number Song".



Lucy Zhang and her Chinese class

They learned plenty of new words by singing this song.

For Kindergarteners, the newest Chinese language learners, Hui Liu taught “你好” and “早上好” —— the Chinese way to say “Hello” and “Good morning”, along with a presentation about China and Chinese language. The students shared many things they already knew, such as pandas and Chinese food, and learned many new things, such as the location and population of China.

In October, Hui Liu chose some topics to match the other curriculum

in each grade. The Kindergarten students had the topic of “Family” and learned what to call their family members in Chinese. They also can count from 1 to 10. “Community” was the topic for 1st and 2nd grades, they learned how to say “urban”, “suburban”, and “rural” by using a game, and learned what these places look like in China by viewing a short video.



Children playing games in Hui Liu's class.

From this September, Geneva West Street School started a Chinese immersion program for kindergarteners which accounts for 50% of the whole class. Lin Hao decorated the immersion classroom and gave a Chinese name to every child with the help of Hui Liu. The immersion courses have covered greetings, names, numbers, family, fruits, colors, stationary, body parts, class routine, etc. Considering the young age of the students, Lin Hao developed a lively way of teaching

which combines language learning with interactive activities, such as coloring, singing, dancing, playing games, and so on. The young learners show great interest in Chinese language and culture. Lin Hao also introduced the content and approach of the Chinese immersion course to the parents at the fall open house. At the individual parent interviews, she provided a written assessment for each student, evaluating their progress in listening, speaking, and vocabulary.

Lin Hao's immersion Chinese class



From September to October, CIAU faculty Rose Hu taught the third graders how to ask one's age, count numbers from one to ten, and name body parts and seven colors in Chinese. Students also accomplished handcraft work of “Panda in the fall”. Jeff Yin taught his 4th and 5th graders Chinese words mainly having

to do with math and Halloween. The students learned how to count from 1 to 100 in Chinese. Based on this, they learned how to express the date and days of the week in Chinese. Starting a few weeks before Halloween, students learned culture from the book Journey to the West and the figure of the Monkey King. Jeff Yin and the students read the story, watched the cartoon movie Uproar in Heaven, and made artwork of the Monkey King.



Jeff Yin and Rose Hu with their students

Northstar Christian Academy

In September, Jing Wu started a Chinese Culture and Language class at Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester. Students from kindergarten to sixth grade get 2 class periods each week, while the high school students can choose either 1 of 2 periods each day. So far, the

elementary children have learned greetings, counting numbers, a Tang poem, colors, seasons and months of the year. They have also learned some Chinese culture and tried some activities such as paper cutting, Lianpu (facial make-up for Peking opera), Qinghua (white and blue porcelain), and calligraphy.

After 2 months of learning, the high school students can read simple, short passages and give a brief self-introduction in Chinese.



Northstar Christian Academy students

Binghamton City School District

In September and October, CIAU faculty Zhaoyun Zhai and Yunchuan Jing taught the students of Binghamton East Middle School a Chinese course. They focused on

pertinent course design and interesting classroom activities. They adopted flexible and varied teaching methods to make class activities lively and funny, such as games, a situational method, competitions, role playing, singing number and birthday songs, and so on, which turned out to be a good way to improve the students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Meanwhile, Zhaoyun Zhai and Yunchuan Jing also presented students with the cultural immersion experiences of making Chinese opera masks, paper-cutting, Chinese painting, and birthday cards. They introduced traditional Chinese architecture, Chinese food, Chinese geographical scenery, the mid-autumn festival and mooncakes to the students. So during the Chinese course, the kids of East Middle School began to perceive differences and contrasts in thinking between the Chinese language and their mother tongue, and they developed confidence and interest in learning the Chinese language and knowing Chinese culture and customs.



Students using the review package

Romulus Central School District

Chinese classes were offered to students at Romulus Central School District starting in September this year. Students from kindergarten to grade six are enrolled in these classes. Lin Hao from CIAU is assisting students to experience Chinese language and culture twice a week. The Chinese course has now covered greetings, names, numbers, family, body parts, etc. Lin Hao picks different topics for the students according to their age characteristics and hobbies, combining language learning with interactive activities such as singing, dancing, and playing games, which create more fun and motivate the students to learn. Students are increasingly fascinated with the Chinese language and culture; they hope to learn more about ancient and modern China.



Students in Romulus having fun in Chinese class

Chinese Painting Class

A Chinese Painting Class is held every Monday afternoon beginning in September 2014 at the Wimodaughasian Library in Canisteo, NY. CIAU faculty Lilian Xu is the teacher of the Chinese Painting Class. Chinese painting is divided into two styles: gongbi (elaborate) and xieyi (free/liberal style). Professor Xu mainly taught how to draw gongbi. By learning step by step, the students are now familiar with how gongbi works and how to use separate dyeing and covered dyeing. In these two months, they have learned how to draw flowers, leaves, and fish using Chinese brushes. They have trained their patience and inner tranquility through the process of painting. Moreover, this class gives us a chance to gather together and make friends with each other.

The students are impressed with Chinese culture and Chinese painting, and they have a delightful interaction with Lilian and Penny, the Teaching Assistant (TA).



A student in painting class showing her work

Inner Mongolia Concert at AU

On September 24th, CIAU held a concert, "Gallop on the Grassland" at Miller Hall on the AU campus. CIAU guzheng faculty Daisy Wu and AU vocal faculty Luanne Crosby performed together with musicians from Inner Mongolia Normal University. The joint performance was a great success. The show offerings were diverse, including a horse-headed fiddle solo, piano solo, guzheng, horse-headed fiddle & piano ensemble, Mongolian dancing, soprano solo, and more. AU music students and alumni had visited and performed in Inner Mongolia in May of this year.

That musical evening had fostered be

tter relations and communication between Alfred University and Inner Mongolia Normal University. This concert was a return performance, an academic dialogue and interaction between cultures.



Organizers and performers of the concert, "Galloping on the Grassland"

Shanxi University Art Troupe Performance in North Street Elementary School, Geneva

On September 24, the art troupe from Shanxi University gave a marvelous performance to the people of Geneva in the auditorium of North Street Elementary School. A variety of programs such as folk songs, ethnic dances, group dances, martial arts and instrument performances amazed the audience, who responded with much applause. One of the parents said after the performance: "I was so touched when I watched the dance of the Thousand-Hand goddess, Guanyin, I burst into tears." Tracy Marchionda, Director of Innovative

Programming, Trina Newton, Superintendent of the Geneva City School District, Danielle Ouillette, Associate Principal, and other distinguished guests attended the performance. Tracy was highly appreciative and stated that, "It was amazing, and our students are so lucky to have Alfred University supporting us."



Thousand-Hand goddess Guanyin

Inner Mongolian Concert in Corning

Together with Corning Chinese Association, CIAU also held an Inner Mongolia concert on September 25 in Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG). CIAU director Wilfred Huang, faculty Huiyang Li and Olivia (Liwei) Wang attended. Performers from IMNU gave a visual and auditory feast to the community of Corning. What's more, this concert concentrated on the culture of Mongolia through music, which allowed the local audience to learn

more about a Chinese minority's culture. More than 600 people attended the concert and had fun there.



Concert performers with their hosts

Open House in Geneva

On September 25, North Street Elementary School held an Open House for parents. The Open House provides a great chance for the parents to learn about school programs and is a valid channel for communication between parents and teachers. Many students and parents visited Chinese classroom 254. Students were eager to tell their parents what they had learned in the class and showed the Chinese language to their parents. The Chinese program is appreciated by the parents and the school district, for it is offering a new skill and perspective to their children.

Confucius Institute Day

On September 27, Confucius Institute at Alfred University held a series of events at Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester, including exhibitions, Grassland Culture lectures, performances and a concert to celebrate the first Confucius Institute Day. CIAU Directors Wilfred Huang and Tao Peng, Alfred University President Charles Edmondson, Northstar Christian Academy Board Chairman Gorge Grace, and Gates Dean Mack Assini attended the activities.

The exhibitions were composed of three parts: a book exhibition, Chinese painting and calligraphy exhibition, and sculpture exhibition. *Explore Chinese*, compiled by CIAU, and other books about Chinese culture were exhibited. Shan Ding and Li Xu, two Chinese painters, exhibited their paintings and calligraphy works, which attracted the audience to try writing with brushes. Daisy Wu, guzheng teacher, and Baojian, a famous guanzi performer, cooperated on a famous piece, "Yang Guan San Die", and children from Northstar Christian Academy and the Rochester Chinese School performed a Chinese rhyme, "Two Tigers", a poem, "Awakening in Spring Night", and a dance,

“Flower Season of Spring”. The Tai Chi show reached the climax of these activities: all the audience started to play Tai Chi with the performers and enjoyed the happiness of this traditional exercise.



Guests and CIAU directors

Lectures were given about traditional Mongolian life and art and Wen Dusu's sculpture art. Professor Li Chonghui gave us a lecture which covered their traditional nomadic life style, their faith, and Nadam Fair, as well as the specific artistic expression in everyday life, such as their paintings, delicately carved furniture, and leather carvings, which showed their artistic creativity and delight in everyday life and gave the audience infinite reverie. Professor Wen Dusu brought his sculpture works and introduced to us his beautiful wishes in his works.

The concert "Gallop on the Grassland" gave the audience an audio-visual feast of the unique horse-headed fiddle, long tune and

Mongolian dance. Accompanied by Daisy Wu's guzheng, Luanne Crosby sang “Beautiful Grassland, My Home” in Chinese.



Baojian and Daisy Wu's ensemble

Visit of Mr. Xiande Zhao to North Street Elementary School

On September 29, Chinese animation director Mr. Xiande Zhao and Miss Rong Yi paid a visit to North Street Elementary School. They brought an animated cartoon about Confucius to one 4th grade class. The class started with the story of Confucius, which focused the attention of the students, and then one episode of *Confucius* was shown to the class. Mr. Zhao would like to promote the animation Confucius and other original Chinese animation works to the public on a large scale, and Geneva is one of the stops. His intention is relatively well-received, according to the feedback from the Geneva class.

President's Reception for CIAU

On Friday, October 17th, the president of Alfred University, Dr. Charles Edmonson and his wife, Dr. Laura Greyson, held a reception for the CIAU faculty, including the director of CIAU, Dr. Wilfred Huang, Dr. Tao Peng, and other teachers who work at the AU campus. The reception was to celebrate the good job that the CIAU has done since it was founded in December 2008. "I really appreciate the job that Dr. Huang has done with the excellent teachers at CIAU and the contribution to AU and our community and other school districts," the president said. Ms. Greyson shared cultural and artistic knowledge about AU, as well. Dr. Huang and Dr. Peng expressed their appreciation for the strong support from the president.



Group picture of CIAU with the AU president and his wife

The 20th ACPSS International Conference

The Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) held its 20th International Conference at State University of New York Buffalo from October 18th to 20th. CIAU was invited to attend this conference and Chinese director Tao Peng, together with CIAU faculty Daisy Wu, Olivia Wang, Starry He, and Penny Peng, took part in it.

The theme this year was "Challenges and Opportunities of Sustainability in China and Beyond: Environment, Health, Justice and Other Emerging Social Issues." CIAU faculty had an intense discussion on the topic of the Confucius Institute and Confucius New China Study Plan.

Guzheng Performance at the University of Idaho

On September 20th, Daisy Wu flew to Idaho for a guzheng performance at the University of Idaho. Daisy was invited by the Confucius Institute at the University of Idaho, and she gave a performance with the artists from the Confucius Institute of

Binghamton University and from New York City.



Daisy Wu with other performers

The Development of *Explore Chinese* Came into the Evaluation Period

Explore Chinese and the *Interactive Whiteboard Software Based on HSK* is a series of multimedia textbooks designed and compiled by Confucius Institute at Alfred University in the U.S. and the School of Media and Communication of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) in China. The evaluation should be concluded in mid-November.

Successful Guzheng Concert in Wellsville

On October 23rd, at the invitation of the David Howe Public Library, in Wellsville, NY, Daisy Wu, associate professor of music of CIAU, did a successful guzheng concert, “Melody of China” in the Nancy Howe Auditorium. Daisy played 3 traditional pieces from the Top 10

Chinese classics and 3 contemporary guzheng pieces; moreover, she played a piece of guzheng for Swimming Dragon Tai Chi with Master Fang, the Kung Fu instructor of CIAU, and 2 pieces with her students of the AU Guzheng Ensemble. More than 200 concert-goers from the Wellsville area had a wonderful night. Eileen Tecza, the director of the Nancy Howe Auditorium, said, “This is a fantastic concert! Daisy is a charming musician; her performance is so beautiful and so touching.”



Daisy and her students playing guzheng on the stage

Upcoming Events

Nov. 6th: Culture demonstration:
Taiqi and Guzheng performance,
Binghamton City School District,
Binghamton

Nov. 12nd: Culture Lecture: Inner
Transcendence in Chinese Painting,
Nancy Howe Auditorium, Wellsville

Nov. 13rd: Culture demonstration:
Taiqi and Guzheng performance,
Romulus City School District,
Romulus

Nov. 14th: Culture demonstration:
Taiqi and Guzheng performance,
Northstar Cristian Academy,
Rochester

Nov. 20th: Director's screening of
The Dialogue, Nevins Theater, AU

Nov. 21st: Culture demonstration:
Taiqi and Guzheng performance,
North Syracuse Central School
District, North Syracuse

Dec. 6th: HSK test, Level 1, 9:30 am -
11:30 am, Level 3, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Learn a Chinese Word and Chinese Culture: Chinese Dumplings

饺子 Jiǎozi /jyaoww-dzrr/

With a history of more than 1,800 years, **dumplings** are a classic Chinese food, and a traditional dish eaten on Chinese New Year's Eve. They are widely popular in China, especially in North China.

Chinese **dumplings** can be made to look like Chinese silver ingots (which are not bars, but boat-shaped, oval, and turned up at the two ends). Legend has it that the more **dumplings** you eat during the New Year celebrations, the more money you can make in the New Year.

Dumplings generally consist of minced meat and finely-chopped vegetables wrapped in a thin and elastic dough skin. Popular fillings are minced pork, diced shrimp, fish, ground chicken, beef, and vegetables. They can be cooked by boiling, steaming, frying, or baking.

How they're made: Almost all Chinese people can make **dumplings**. First they mix the dough, second make the dough into round "wrappers" with a rolling pin, third fill the wrappers with stuffing, fourth pinch the wrapper together into the desired shape, and fifth cook them.



Source:

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-food/chinese-new-year-food.htm>

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