



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2015

Special Announcement

Our Confucius Institute has been selected as one of the ten best Confucius Institutes this year. There are more than five hundred CIs worldwide.

North Syracuse Central School District

The sixth grade students at Roxboro Road and Gillette Road Middle Schools learned interesting topics about Chinese Culture in Miss Zhang and Mr. Yang's classes. These topics included the history of the Great Wall, the landforms of China, the Yellow River Civilization, and characteristics of civilization during the Shang Dynasty, as well as the rise and fall of the Qin Dynasty. The students were quite interested in the Yellow River, especially the reason why the river has a yellow color and why the river is called both the

Cradle of Chinese Civilization and also a Sorrow of China. Students also actively participated in the Tianhan traditional Chinese orchestra performance at both schools, and they were very happy have the opportunity to touch and to play traditional Chinese instruments.



Miss Zhang introducing Chinese Culture to her students

Geneva City School District

Elyn Song's Elective Mandarin Class at Geneva West Street School expanded to cover every classroom this school year. Instead of extending from Kindergarten to second grade, the Mandarin class reached out to the

Head Start Pre-Kindergarten Program with two different levels for the first time. The first and second graders began to learn how to build sentences this year. And the second graders felt unprecedented fulfillment when they were able to write Chinese characters all by themselves after two years of studying Mandarin verbally.



Elyn Song and her students

The Dual Language Immersion Program at Geneva West Street School has attracted more attention from the community. In September and October, CIAU faculty Lili Huang taught the 1st grade immersion program students how to name body parts, colors, seasons, pets, school supplies, family members, weather, days of the week, and months of the year in Chinese. Lili Huang taught them simple sentences such as “I like...” and “I love...” which provided them with good opportunities for communication and stimulated their enthusiasm for

speaking Chinese. The students felt excited when they sang Chinese songs. Their parents gave some positive feedback: “Our children enjoyed singing Chinese songs very much.”



Lili Huang teaching her immersion program students

The Mandarin Immersion Program became positive news in the local community, as it attracted local TV stations and newspapers to report on the program. We also did many activities to promote cultural and artistic exchange in the Geneva School District.



Report on the Mandarin Immersion Program

The Nanjing Normal University Art Troupe gave a wonderful performance, increasing the interest of children and their parents in Chinese culture. Immersion program teacher Lili Huang performed a Chinese folk song and had an interaction with her students which achieved a good effect.



Lili Huang performing a Chinese folk song

In the kindergarten Chinese Immersion Class, Fang (Starry) He taught her students words about school, colors, animals, family, and autumn. “For second-language learners, especially for kindergarteners, it is very important to give effective input with visual and audio stimulation,” Starry said. Based on the idea of communication as a combination of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, Starry used a variety of teaching strategies and activities in her class, including pictures, music, rhymes, and Total Physical Response (TPR) language

learning activities with these beginners. Her students learned Chinese songs and rhymes, read Chinese story books, watched Chinese cartoons, and made Chinese books. Besides, Starry tried to teach students math in Chinese, including counting, measure words, and written numbers.



Students writing numbers in Chinese during the Center time

In less than two months, her students mastered about 70 basic and high frequency words in Chinese. The children can now greet others and express their opinions with some simple phrases and sentence structures, and they can write numbers and their Chinese names. September 27th was the traditional Chinese Moon Festival, and CIAU teacher Chen Jinxiang held a two-week long cultural experience event at Geneva West Street School. She

organized many activities including paper-cutting rabbits and storytelling to help students learn more about Chinese culture. The rabbits were displayed during the Open House on Oct. 15th.



Students cutting out rabbits

During the Open House, some parents spoke Chinese, as well. They said that they were learning Chinese from their children. The kids enjoyed speaking in Chinese, which made their life full of fun. And they also said they would like to thank the Confucius Institute and would support their children continuing to learn Chinese at West Street School.

Northstar Christian Academy

In September, instructors Jing Wu and Lin Hao started the second year of Chinese Language and Culture classes at Northstar Christian

Academy in Rochester. Students from kindergarten to sixth grade get two class periods each week, while high school students may choose a Chinese AP class from either of two periods offered each day. The teachers selected different topics for their students according to their ages and hobbies, combining language learning with interactive activities such as singing, dancing, and playing games, which was fun and motivated the students to learn.

So far, the elementary children have warmed up with greetings, counting numbers, making self-introductions, studying body parts, and naming family members in Chinese.



Mrs. Hao's first day at Northstar Christian Academy

The elementary students rehearsed the song “Counting Stars” many times and finally presented their work at the Mid-Autumn Festival Concert which was held at Gates-Chili School. It was a very successful performance,

as all the students enjoyed the whole thing, and they invited their families and friends to come to the performance. The audience highly praised the concert and the students' excellent presentation while enjoying the wonderful Chinese culture brought by Chinese artists.



Students name cards designed by Mrs. Hao & Mrs. Wu

Mrs. Wu's two high school Chinese culture and language AP classes met every day and focused on the topics of fashion, entertainment, and media. Mrs. Wu helped her students improve their listening, speaking and writing skills. She introduced the AP examination to the students and helped them apply for the AP Test.

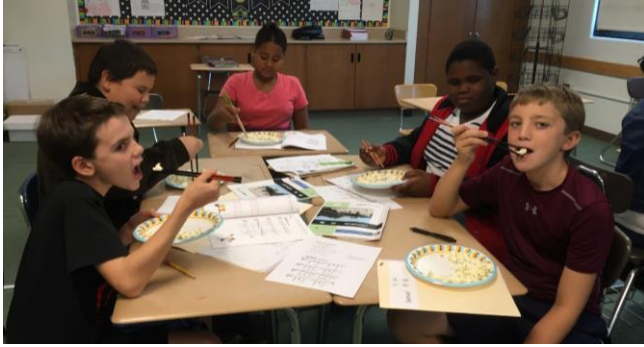


Northstar students at the Mid-Autumn Festival Concert

Binghamton City School District

In September and October, CIAU's Zhaoyun Zhai continued teaching at both Binghamton East Middle School and West Middle School. She rewrote the workbook for her sixth graders according to the new Mandarin curriculum program and began with a presentation of Chinese culture and fun facts about China. This gave the students some fresh ideas about China, and increased their expectations with respect to Chinese class.

During her teaching, Zhaoyun Zhai highlighted course design, review, and fun and effective language practice. Her sixth graders are now using the right Chinese vocabulary and sentence structures to make such simple daily conversations as greetings, saying thanks and farewell, self-introductions, asking after name and nationality, and so on. She also focused on the introduction and exploration of Chinese culture. She introduced the students to the original Chinese characters, traditional customs, stories of the Mid-Autumn Festival, chopsticks, and geographical scenery. The sixth graders had a lot of fun learning how to use chopsticks. They practiced using their chopsticks to pick up popcorn and marbles.



Students practicing how to use chopsticks

In addition, Ms. Zhai and her students organized a Halloween program for which they learned vocabulary, played Bingo games, told stories and watched movies. The students were all excited about this program and did a very good job.

During the course, more and more students became increasingly interested and developed self-confidence in learning the Chinese language.

Gates Chili School District

In October, CIAU faculty Juan (Rita) Xu gave a general introduction of China and Chinese history and culture to all K-5th grade students of Neil Armstrong Elementary School. These students learned about Chinese students' campus life and showed great interest in the Great Wall and the Terra-cotta Army. They were so curious about China that they asked tons of questions. Most of them look

forward to joining Ms. Xu's enrichment Chinese class.



Rita presenting Chinese culture to elementary students

Rita also gave a presentation about Chinese food to the 9th & 10th grade students of Gates Chili High School. The students said they love Chinese food, and they went to eat at China Buffet two days later.

Chinese Painting Class in Canisteo

Our Chinese Painting Class is back again! It is held every Monday afternoon beginning in October at the Wimodaughasian Library in Canisteo, NY. CIAU is honored to have local artist Yen Fen (Iris) Huang to teach our Chinese Painting Class this year.



Students learning from artist Iris Huang

Having learned gongbi, a “tidy”, often meticulous, realistic style, from Professor Xuli in Chinese painting class last year, this time students will learn xieyi, which is a free and liberal painting style of “sketching thoughts”. In the last two classes, students learned how to draw wisteria and use a foam brush to draw bamboo. Our teacher, Iris, explained the painting skills in great detail and demonstrated step by step, making painting much easier for the students.

Most of the students in our painting class are returning students. We also have two new students coming all the way from Rochester to join our class. They are really happy that each time they can bring home an artwork done by them. We have a great time getting together each week.



Students showing their work

Culture Week of Traditional Chinese Music

The Moon Festival, which is the second most important event in the

Chinese lunar calendar, fell on September 27 this year. In order to promote Chinese culture and celebrate this great festival, the Confucius Institute of Alfred University invited the famous Tianhan Traditional Chinese Orchestra from Hunan province and arranged a series of activities on traditional Chinese music.

On September 22, the director and conductor of the Tianhan Traditional Chinese Orchestra, Mr. Yulin Liu, gave an exciting lecture on traditional Chinese music in the Miller Performing Art Center with his five excellent musicians. These five musicians were Dizi (Chinese flute) player Miss Yi, Erhu (Chinese fiddle) player Miss Yan, Pipa (Chinese lute) player Miss Liu, Yangqin (Chinese dulcimer) player Miss Yi, and professional dance teacher and Peking Opera singer Mrs. Sun.



American students trying the Chinese instrument, Dizi

In the lecture, Mr. Liu gave a brief introduction to the history of traditional Chinese music and its development nowadays. After that, he presented the five typical traditional Chinese musical instruments. His audience, students from the art class, learned the structure of the five instruments, their timbre, characteristics, and other professional knowledge from the lecture. They also noted the similarities and differences between Eastern and Western music. Then the Tianhan Traditional Orchestra brought several famous solos and ensembles to the audience, which won the warm applause of students.

The lecture on that day not only brought beautiful music to students, but also provided a chance for the musicians and students to exchange their opinions about music.



Students communicating with each other about Erhu

On September 24, Tianhan Traditional Chinese Orchestra arrived at North Syracuse. They gave two marvelous performances for the teachers and students at Gillette Road and Roxboro Road Middle Schools. The varied programs, which included the famous traditional pieces “Strolling in Suzhou”, “Grapes Harvest”, and “Moon over the Peaceful Lake in autumn”, Peking Opera, and an introduction to Chinese musical instruments, amazed the audience, which responded with lots of applause. More than 400 students enjoyed the demonstrations. One student told his teacher after the performance, “I feel so calm when I hear the ‘Moon over the Peaceful Lake’.” The performance on that day was a big success, and many students asked for the musicians’ autographs afterward.



Students interacting with Chinese musicians

In these two demonstrations, students enjoyed traditional Chinese music, played the traditional Chinese musical instruments themselves, and gained some interesting knowledge about those instruments. All of these inspired them to learn more about China, and they all had a nice time.

Moon Festival Concert at Gates Chili High School

On September 25, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University held a traditional Chinese music concert in the auditorium of Gates Chili High School in Rochester to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival. The Tianhan Traditional Chinese Orchestra, which belongs to the grand Tianhan Theater, faculty from the Alfred University Division of Performing Arts, three Tai Chi masters, and nineteen lovely students from Northstar Christian Academy presented a visual feast and auditory for the audience.



Group photo of musicians and CIAU faculty

Before the concert began, CIAU provided hearty Chinese food for everyone, and the CIAU staff introduced the meaning of the Chinese Moon Festival to them at the same time.

The Tianhan Traditional Chinese Orchestra performed many classic Chinese songs with musical instruments including Erhu (Chinese fiddle), Pipa (Chinese lute), Dizi (Chinese bamboo flute), Guzheng (Chinese zither) and Yangqin (Chinese dulcimer). The audience was excited to see these different instruments and liked the songs very much.



Tai Chi performance accompanied by Chinese folk song

The most popular performance was the Chinese children's song "Counting Stars", which was performed by nineteen students from Northstar Christian Academy. They were all from different grades, but they were all learning Chinese.

It's worth mentioning that the performance of the Tai Chi masters'

Swimming Dragon was accompanied by Chinese music. The scene was very beautiful, and many members of the audience took pictures.

This musical concert came to a successful end. CIAU played an important role by serving as a window, through which, American people can learn more about Chinese music, Tai Chi, and culture.

Moon Festival Celebration at AU

On September 26, 2015, the Confucius Institute sponsored a Traditional Chinese Music Concert at Miller Theater to celebrate the Moon Festival. Before the concert, all the audience had dinner together at Union University Church Center. Alfred University President Charles Edmondson made a speech before the dinner and told a story about the origin of the Moon Festival. One of the students at the scene said: "Now I knew more about the Moon Festival, not just Moon cakes."



Erhu and ensemble performance

Coming all the way from China, Tai Chi Grandmaster Anren Yu also gave a speech commemorating the world's Anti-fascist Victory. Master Yu introduced his parents' generation and shared their stories during the Anti-Japanese War, bringing the audience back to the real historical scene. He also told the audience his experiences and international exchange of teaching Swimming Dragon.



AU president with his wife, the Tai Chi masters, and the musicians

The Traditional Chinese Music Concert was presented by an orchestra which is well-known in China, the Tianhan Traditional Orchestra. These excellent musicians played traditional instruments together with Daisy Wu, CIAU Guzheng instructor, and accompanied Professor Luanne Crosby's soprano solo. Besides, the AU Guzheng Ensemble and students from Chinese class also contributed wonderful performances to the concert.

After the concert, CIAU prepared a splendid fireworks show to celebrate the Moon Festival. Our audience and all the performers spent a wonderful evening together.

Visit from Tai Chi Grandmaster Yu

At the end of September, Grandmaster Anren Yu, who is the 12th lineage successor of the Swimming Dragon, visited Alfred from his home in China. He joined the Alfred's Tai Chi group, answered questions from practitioners, and led the group to practice the Swimming Dragon and Tai Chi 24 Forms. Grandmaster Yu emphasized the importance of stretching and the balance of Yin and Yang in Tai Chi practice.



Master Yu communicating with the Alfred Tai Chi class

Regarding the movements of the Swimming Dragon routine, he gave a clear explanation of each step. This

not only helped practitioners perfect their movements, but also deepened their understanding of the benefits of practicing Tai Chi. They all felt they gained more knowledge of Tai Chi and Chinese culture and learned a lot through the communication with Grandmaster Yu.

The First Tai Chi and Health Conference

On October 2nd and 3rd, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University held its first Tai Chi and Health Conference. More than one hundred Tai Chi enthusiasts attended this two-day conference.



Grand Master Yu introducing Tai Chi to the audience

On the first day, Alfred University president Charles Edmondson introduced both the Confucius Institute and the local Tai Chi class. Following warm applause, Grandmaster Anren Yu delivered his keynote about the philosophy of Tai Chi, namely, “Yin” and “Yang”. Next,

AU Professor of Theater Steve Crosby introduced the history and culture of Tai Chi. Chinese Tai Chi Grand master Yu, his disciple Zhaojun Wang, and American Master George Samuels each displayed the elegance of Tai Chi. Also, Master Zhaojun Wang talked about the differences between five genres of Taijiquan, another name for Tai Chi.



The audience interacting with the speakers

At dinner, the Confucius Institute provided delicious Chinese food for all, and the participants talked with each other to share their own stories of Tai Chi. Afterward, CIAU Tai Chi class teacher Guifang Liu led the Swimming Dragon exercise, Five Animals exercise and others together with many volunteers.



Master Fang playing Tai Chi with Tai Chi lovers

On the second day, the Confucius Institute invited both the Chinese and American Tai Chi masters and others to introduce more about Tai Chi culture and Chinese medicine. Some volunteers came to the stage to experience acupuncture. It is worth mentioning that the Confucius Institute Tai Chi class members performed the Swimming Dragon exercise and Twenty-Four Steps for the audience.



Alfred Tai Chi class members showing the Swimming Dragon

The Tai Chi and Health Conference concluded with CIAU Director Wilfred Huang's speech. Then many participants came onto the stage to take pictures with the speakers.

Successful Guzheng Performance in Marie Villa College

On October 8, Zhongbei (Daisy) Wu was invited to Villa Marie College for a Guzheng performance. It is reported that Marie Villa College

invites a famous musician to give a concert every month, and the show is open to the community. Ms. Wu was the one for the October performance. The performance began at 11 o'clock in the morning and Ms. Wu played a total of six songs, modern and classical. In order to let the audience understand more about the Guzheng and the contents of the songs she was about to play, she gave simple but interesting explanations before playing, and interacted with the audience afterwards. The atmosphere was very pleasant, and many music major students were very interested. Noticing that American students were so interested, Ms. Wu offered to give another lesson about Chinese musical instruments and songs right after lunch. So from 1:40 to 3 p.m., she continued to explain and perform. After the show, Ms. Wu said, "I hope to seize every opportunity to show the people of the United States something good about China."



CIAU Guzheng instructor Daisy Wu performing

Nanjing Normal University Art Troupe in Geneva

On October 21, the art troupe from Nanjing Normal University presented a marvelous performance to the people of Geneva in the auditorium of North Street Elementary School. A variety of presentations including folk songs, ethnic dances, group dances, and instrumental performances amazed the audience, who responded with enthusiastic applause. When the concert ended, many from the audience came onto the stage to talk with performers and to take pictures with them. Geneva's Director of Innovative Programming, Tracy Marchionda, CIAU director Wilfred Huang, Chinese director Peng Tao, and other distinguished guests attended the performance. Ms. Marchionda was highly appreciative and stated that the performance "was amazing and our students are so lucky to have Alfred University supporting us."



Nanjing Normal University Art Troupe performing

Nanjing Normal University Art Troupe Performance in Corning

Together with the Corning Chinese Association, CIAU also held a concert given by the Nanjing Normal University Art Troupe on September 25 in Corning, NY. CIAU Chinese director Tao Peng along with faculty Wen Yao Ding, Jing Wu, Zhongbei Wu, and Lingyan Zhang attended this concert.



Audience applauding the performance

The performers from Nanjing gave a musical treat to the community of Corning. What's more, this concert concentrated on the culture of traditional Chinese folk music which helped the local audience to know more about traditional Chinese instruments. More than 600 people attended the concert and had fun there.



Group photo of both audience and performers

Visit from Hanban

Linlin Shi, who is an officer from the Cultural Section of Hanban, visited CIAU on October 22nd. Cultural Activities Coordinator Daisy Wu introduced the development and prospects of CIAU to her, especially the achievements in Mandarin language teaching and cultural communication. Faculty members also talked about their life and work here. The significant influence made by CIAU and the hard work of CIAU faculty members were recognized by Ms. Shi. She spoke highly in praise of CIAU and also discussed with CIAU faculty about future work.



Photo of Linlin Shi and CIAU faculty

Upcoming Events

Nov. 12th: Confucius to School,
Chautaugua Lake Central School

Nov. 16th: Lecture on Taoism and Tai Chi, Alfred University

Nov. 19th: Confucius to School, North Syracuse Central School

Learn a Chinese Word and Know its Culture:

Casting its magnificent reflection on the Dongting Lake is the glorious Yueyang Tower. Its construction began more than 1400 years ago, when Yuezhou aristocrats forced local peasants to raise this tower as a place for scenic viewing. The workers labored endlessly, but in return they were mistreated, so many fell ill.



Yueyang Tower

One afternoon, a passerby clothed in black and carrying a gourd came to plead for some overnight lodging. After his stay was granted, the workers began to discover his

supernatural powers. First, the stranger cured a carpenter whose eyes were burned by lime using a golden pill, which he then distributed to all those sick. At dinnertime, seeing that everyone had only porridge and spoiled dishes to eat, he magically turned woodchips into rice using his gourd, and wood shavings, which he scattered into the lake, into fish. Before long, the workers were having the most delicious meal. The stranger in black, however, disappeared.



Yueyang Tower

Attracted by the cheerful noises, the officers came and discovered the appetizing meal, which they rushed to devour for themselves. Yet, just as the snow-white rice and the savory fish entered their mouths, they became woodchips and shaving again. Some impatient officers even had agonizing stomachaches. Since that day, the officers dared not to neglect the workers again and the workers,

having had rice and fish every day, built the most magnificent Yueyang Tower. So who was that visitor? One old carpenter recalled that it was the divine Lu Dongbin.

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