



孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

All CIAU faculty members recently gave a report on their activities during November and December 2011. Here are summaries:

Alfred University (Shirley Zhu and Daisy Wu)

Eighteen students are enrolled in Chinese 101 this semester. Shirley Zhu has arranged for them to take the 1st-level HSK test in December. Daisy Wu is teaching MUSI 200 a guzheng class in AU's Music Department this semester.



Shirley in Chinese 101 class



Daisy and her guzheng class

Avon Central Schools (Huiyang Li)

Li has been teaching elementary middle school students for six weeks, 45 minutes per class. The students – and their parents – are very eager to begin Mandarin lessons.



Robert Lupisella, Avon Middle School Principal



Ms Mullin, Avon Primary School Librarian

Genesee Valley Central School (Jenny Wang)

Four classes of 9th graders are studying Han Dynasty history in conjunction with the class in

World History. Topics such as the Great Wall, inventions (e.g. paper and the compass), musical instruments, and cosmology were introduced. Classes for 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th graders focused on Chinese characters (with their pictographic features) and the 4 treasures of the scholar's table.



A student with Mia O'Brien (left), Principal of HS

Naples Central School District (Ronald Zhang and Daisy Wu)

Ronald has been teaching elementary school students with new vocabulary centered on certain American icons such as the Statue of Liberty. Colors, family, and pronouns were main topics too.

Daisy continues the guzheng music classes for elementary students; nine students are taking her class as an after-school elective.



Naples students with Ronald

North Hornell Elementary School (Margaret Lin and Rosa Luo)

With a focus on animals, the classes featured animal vocabulary and songs about animals in Mandarin. The principal visited the classroom and was pleased with the students' enthusiasm and abilities.



Rosa and Margaret with Barb Kramer,
Elementary School Principal



With kindergarten class and Mrs. Cardamone

North Syracuse School District (Katie Wang and Emma Wang)

The Gillette Road Middle School and Roxboro Road Middle School 6th graders learned to count in Mandarin together with the commonly used sign languages in China. Special thanks to Barbara Poole, Principal of Gillette Road and

James Obernesser, Interim Principal of Roxboro Road. And for the first time, the students began to write the Chinese characters by practicing proper stroke order and spacing using the squared-graph tracing paper that students use in China. Chinese Spring Festival traditions were introduced, and students learned to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Mandarin.



Katie with 6th graders at Gillette Road Middle School



Emma with students at Roxboro Road Middle School

Windsor Central Schools (Jenny Wang)

The 2-month Chinese classes (Pre K – 5th grade, 233 students) at the C.R. Weeks Elementary School ended in the middle of November.

Students were introduced to such aspects of Chinese culture as the traditional tools of the scholar's table, Beijing Opera roles and masks, Chinese boxing, and martial arts.

New classes of elementary students at the Floyd L. Bell Elementary School (Pre-K – 5th grade, 301 students) learned about Chinese geography

with a focus on Beijing: its architecture, monuments, and Olympic venues.

At the invitation of Principal Milanon, Jenny participated in the Special Education Department meeting in order to better understand how to teach special ed. students.



Jenny with Frances M Kennedy, Principal of Floyd L Bell Elementary School



Class at the C. R. Weeks Elementary School

Visits to Participating School Districts

From November 3 to 11, CIAU Director Wilfred Huang and Program Manager Shirley Zhu visited the six school districts in western NY which have been cooperating with CIAU for more than one year. The 2 faculty collected feedback and discussed ways to develop and expand Chinese programs in the future. Superintendents, principals, and administrators in charge of the

Chinese programs from Binghamton, Windsor, Union-Endicott, Naples, North Syracuse, and Genesee Valley in Belmont expressed their thanks for CIAU's bringing Chinese language and culture to their districts. In addition, they all expressed their commitment to continue the program through the next school year. Concerns about how to certify Mandarin teachers according to NY State requirements and how to extend Mandarin classes into their credit-bearing foreign language departments (in times of severe budget cuts) were also discussed. A method for the NY State Education Department to issue temporary teaching certificates was proposed.

Guest Lecture at Rochester International Early College School

CIAU faculty member Ronald Zhang and Margaret Lin were invited to give a lecture about China and Chinese culture on November 15.



Ronald and Margaret with Annaliese Wilmarth, International Studies Coordinator of Rochester Early College International High School



Chinese fan dance with the class

Guzheng Recital

Guzheng teacher Daisy Wu is organizing a recital for 9 elementary students from Naples Central School to be held in Miller Performing Arts auditorium on December 11.



Guzheng ensemble at the Miller Performing Arts Auditorium

Exhibition at Avon Middle School (Nov. 15th – Dec. 6th)

Li Huiyang set up an exhibition of Chinese photographs about the history of the relationship between China and the US with emphasis on the late 20th century opening of diplomatic relations and contemporary exchanges among students, tourists, and the like. The Avon administrators expressed their appreciation of the display as did the students, their parents, and other community members who visited the school.



Huiyang in front of the exhibition board explaining

Thanksgiving Feast, Nov. 24th

AU Performing Arts faculty member Dr. Becky Prophet and her family graciously invited all CIAU faculty to her home to share in a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. All who participated were delighted with the opportunity to learn about US Thanksgiving customs and to eat traditional American food.



Margaret and her husband with Becky and Craig Prophet

Guest Lecture for Alfred University's World Music Class, Nov. 27th

Huiyang Li was invited by AU faculty Luanne Crosby to give a lecture about Beijing Opera for her World Music Class students. Li talked about the opera's long history and traditions of costume and make-up and showed videos of

famous performers. Professor Crosby was very appreciative.



Huiyang guest lecturing in the music class

Guest lecture of Chinese Music for Alfred University's Performing Arts Division, Dec. 1

Daisy Wu, music teacher of CIAU was invited by Dr. Luanne Crosby to give a lecture about Chinese musical instruments for Performing Arts Division at Alfred University. Students were very interested in Chinese music and many questions were asked. Professor Crosby had expressed her appreciation to CIAU, saying "we are very fortunate to have you (Daisy) here at Alfred University!"



Daisy guest lecturing in the class

Launch of the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test at AU, December 4th

Chinese 101 instructor Shirley Zhu arranged for her students to take the HSK (Chinese

Proficiency Test) for the first time at CIAU, now an officially-approved HSK test center. Thirteen AU students (Levels 1 and 2) took the test in Perlman Hall on December 4th. Ronald Zhang and Huiyang Li assisted Shirley in administering the tests, and in the evening, the Confucius House hosted a dinner party for everyone that featured dumplings made by several other faculty members.

The HSK test is important for anyone seeking certification as a Mandarin language teacher, studying in China, or planning to engage in work-related activities in China. The HSK will be offered twice a year at AU with the next test scheduled for April 20, 2012.



Huiyang explaining the HSK exam rules to students

The Confucius Institute Conference on December 12-14

The 6th Confucius Institute Conference was held in Beijing. Provost William Hall and CIAU director Wilfred Huang attended the event. This is an annual event for all Confucius Institutes from all over the world. “The Coming Ten Years for Confucius Institutes” is this year’s conference theme and has attracted the attendance of over 2,000 university presidents and Confucius Institute representatives from 105 countries and regions.

Guzheng Demo at Binghamton East Middle School on December 15

On December 15 Daisy Wu, the music teacher of CIAU, was invited by the Binghamton City

School District to give two guzheng demos in Binghamton East Middle School.

After introducing the history and some master pieces of the guzheng using multimedia PPT, she described and gave a performance. Having never seen a guzheng before, the students were all very interested in the Chinese Culture and music program Daisy gave.

The principal, assistant principal and the mandarin teacher in East Middle School also took part in the demo. They praised Daisy and expressed their appreciation to CIAU.



Daisy demonstrating the guzheng

Upcoming Events

1. The new CIAU Chinese director, Prof. Tao Peng from China University of Geosciences. CUG is in Wuhan and he will be joining the Institute on January 13th.



2. A performance troupe from Sichuan University under the Hanban auspices will tour NY State in February.
3. Spring Festival (Chunjie) Celebration on Saturday, January 28, 2012, CIAU will host a dinner party to celebrate the Spring Festival which ushers in the Year of the Dragon. The focus will be on Chinese culinary traditions with tables set up for demo-ing how to make snacks and dumplings. Dim sum delicacies from Cantonese House Restaurant in Rochester will be served at the dinner. Tickets (\$5 each) are required for this event which will be held in Susan Howell Hall starting at 5 pm on January 28th.

CIAU

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