



# 孔子学院

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE  
AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

MARCH-APRIL 2012

**Tai Chi Classes** – Master teacher Guifang Liu has returned to Alfred and offers 2 hour-long classes 5 days a week in McLane Center– one for beginners and another for advanced students. She is teaching the 24-step program. In addition, she offers a technically more difficult workshop in Howell Hall several afternoons per week.



Master Liu (red outfit) in advanced class



Master Liu in beginner's class

**Kids 2 College Program** – On March 15 – 16 and March 22 – 23, CIAU cooperated with the Kids 2 College Program, which is a grant-funded program hosted by Alfred University that brings area middle and high school students to campus for hands-on educational experiences aimed to encourage college matriculation in the future;

this program is under the auspices of the Children and Youth Learning Initiative (CYLI) which has collaborated with CIAU in the past. In March, students came to the Confucius House each morning where CIAU faculty Huiyang Li, Margaret Lin, Ronald Zhang, Daisy Wu, and Rosa Luo gave presentations on calligraphy, paper-cutting, songs, the guzheng, and contemporary life in China, respectively. Feedback for the sessions was very positive.



Class at Confucius House

**Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition** – The third annual Chinese Bridge Proficiency Preliminary Competition was held at AU on March 17. CIAU Director Wilfred Huang gave opening remarks followed by a summary of rules for the 2 groups of competitors: junior level and senior level with each contestant expected to make a speech and a performance of some kind. The judges were CIAU's Director from CUG in Wuhan Peng Tao; Sidney Greenblatt, immediate past president of the Central New York Fulbright Association; Qu Yuan, Director of the Chinese Language and Culture Program at Corning, Inc.; and Dr. Eric Yang, Executive Director of the

Confucius Institute at the University of Buffalo. The wide range of speeches was given including personal memories of studying Chinese, Chinese cuisine, and idioms. The performance segment, too, showed both creativity and diversity. Carrie Buck and Ye Seul Chae were declared the winners. CIAU's Huiyang Li and Rosa Luo served as MC's this year with Peng Tao and Shirley assisting. Seventeen students from AU participated in the event. Two students from SUNY Binghamton were chosen to go on to further competition in New York City.



Carrie Buck (Bai Ke) the winner



A contestant

**Visiting Calligraphy Artist Xinshi Tu** – On March 22, Tu is the president of Rocky Mountain Area Chinese Calligraphy Association, honorary chair of Chinese-Japanese-Korean Calligrapher & Painter's Coalition, and editor-in-chief of the Chinese American Post, which is based in Denver. Mr. Tu, master calligrapher and teacher in Boulder, CO, gave several workshops

about Chinese calligraphy at Alfred University and Genesee Valley School District. In the afternoon, Mr. Tu also gave a public lecture in Nevins Theater where he discussed different brushwork styles and showed his own work and that of his students.



Mr. Tu at Confucius House



Mr. Tu at Genesee Valley School

**Alfred's Montessori School Multicultural Event Day** – On March 24, The Montessori School sponsored a community-wide day to celebrate cultural diversity. Montessori Executive Director invited CIAU faculty Margaret and Daisy to participate. First, Margaret introduced the culture of Inner Mongolia and then performed the "Toast Dance" in her local costume. Next, Daisy's mother Guifang Liu demonstrated tai chi, followed by her daughter and granddaughter Candy who sang the "Jasmine" song accompanied by Daisy on the



guzheng. Everyone in the audience learned to sing along. Daisy's solo on the guzheng ended the presentation which generated much applause and warm letters of appreciation.



Mary Perkins with Guifang Liu, Daisy Wu and Margaret Lin



Daisy Wu performing with daughter Candy

**Early College International School Visits Alfred** – On March 30, approximately 100 students from Rochester gathered in the Nevins Theater to experience an introduction to the Chinese language and culture. CIAU faculty presented a 3-part presentation: first, a video of Shanghai today followed by Rosa's statistical overview of China today and after which she took questions from the students; second, Daisy introduced the guzheng, played intricate folk songs, and taught a group of 6 students to play "Mary Had a Little Lamb"; finally, Rosa and Margaret taught the entire group to sing and perform "Happy New Year" in Mandarin. The event concluded on a festive note with 100% audience participation.



Group photo on Campus



Students with Daisy, Margaret and Rosa

**Tai Chi Demo at the Harley School** – On March 30, CIAU's Huiyang Li enthralled the audience of about 200 students and teachers with a demonstration of the 24-step Tai chi routine. In the auditorium decorated with images of the Great Wall, pandas, Taishan, and the like, Li continued the show with pantomimes of various animals whose names the students had a great deal of fun guessing. Li's assembly culminated a week-long celebration of China at the Harley School. CIAU's Program Manager Shirley Zhu was asked by Harley Principal Terry Lee to present a program, so she invited Li whose performance was enthusiastically received.



Huiyang performing Taichi



Students performing Taichi

**Women of the World Conference Day** – On March 31, Margaret participated in the Women of the World Conference sponsored by AU's Women's Leadership Center. Invited by the Center's Stefanie Landman, Margaret introduced the culture of Inner Mongolia and performed a traditional dance from her home province.



Stefanie Landman with Margaret

### **Guzheng demo in Harley School**

On April 3, CIAU music teacher Daisy Wu gave a Guzheng presentation in Harley School, Rochester. Daisy introduced the traditional Chinese musical instrument, Guzheng, to the students and played several pieces of famous Guzheng music to them. The students, teachers and parents, more than 200 people enjoyed the Chinese music presentation.



Daisy performing guzheng

### **AU and Naples Guzheng Ensembles Performed in A2A Show**

On April 7, the AU Guzheng Ensemble and the Naples Elementary School Guzheng Ensemble gave a wonderful performance in Alfred to Asia (A2A), which is one of the largest multicultural annual events in Alfred. The members of these two Ensembles are students from Daisy Wu's Guzheng classes. AU Guzheng Ensemble played two pieces of Chinese folk music, and the Naples



Guzheng Ensemble played two American Kids Songs. Their performance won applauses from an audience of around 400 people.



Alfred Guzheng Ensemble



Performing at A2A in Harder Hall

**Confucius Institute Conference in Washington, DC** – From April 11 – 15, most of the CIAU faculty attended the Hanban-sponsored conference for all Confucius Institutes in North America.



Margaret and Daisy with Gaston Caperton, President of College Board

**HSK Test** – On April 14, CIAU faculty Shirley and Lee successfully administered the HSK test of Mandarin proficiency in speaking and writing.

**Lecture for AU's Global Studies Students** – On April 18, Li Huiyang gave a lecture about Chinese language and culture at the invitation of Professor Robert Myers in the Social Science Department at AU. Li talked about the Mandarin language system, both pronunciation and writing, and about agricultural-based festivals, traditional music, and Chinese painting with an emphasis on spatial perspective. A lively Q & A followed his talk.

### **Guzheng students had a performance in Student recital**

On April 29, Guzheng students from Daisy Wu's Chinese music Guzheng class at Alfred University took part in the student recital of the AU Division of Performing Arts. Students played 4 pieces of Chinese folk music and did a successful performance in Miller Theater.



Performing at Miller Theater

### **Chinese Painting Lessons at Alfred**

Xuerong (Sharon) Wang, member of Association of Women Artists in Quzhou, Zhejiang Province of China, is visiting Alfred University. CIAU has invited her to offer Chinese painting lessons to the community at Confucius House once every week. She has demonstrated and taught people how to draw birds and flowers in traditional Chinese painting. Her patience and expertise won positive feedbacks from the community at

Alfred. Xuerong also held the first solo exhibition of her Chinese paintings at Alfred University.



### **Reports from CIAU Faculty Teaching in Upstate NY Schools**

#### **Avon Central Schools**

About 50 high school and 120 middle and elementary students have been studying Mandarin since the beginning of the academic year. On April 24, Daisy gave a Guzheng demonstration for the younger students whose parents were also invited to the presentation. A display of books in Mandarin has opened at the school and will stay up for 3 weeks.



Huiyang Li with students

#### **Genesee Valley Central Schools**

Students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades began to learn Mandarin with Jenny Wang at the beginning level including how to ask simple questions and answers concerning name, age, nationality, family members, etc. The cooking class of the high grade also began, in which students would have an overall understanding of the Chinese cuisine art such as the main cooking methods, the eight major cuisines and the basic criteria of appreciating Chinese dishes. Students were excited and had fun in cooking themselves.



Students learning to use chopsticks

#### **Hornell City Schools**

In March and April, Rosa Luo is still responsible for teaching language to students while Margaret Lin takes charge of introducing Chinese cultures at North Hornell Elementary School. The themes of language are “family members” and “clothes” in these two months. Sentences are gradually taught with students’ mastery of words. Activities and practice on Smart Board were also made good use of, which make the classes more attractive to students. The culture parts cover a more detailed introduction to modern China, paper-cutting and other various craftworks. Students have a lot of fun from learning Chinese cultures.





Paper cutting in Mrs. Smilinich's class



Writing Chinese names in Mrs. Cardamone's class

### Naples Central Schools

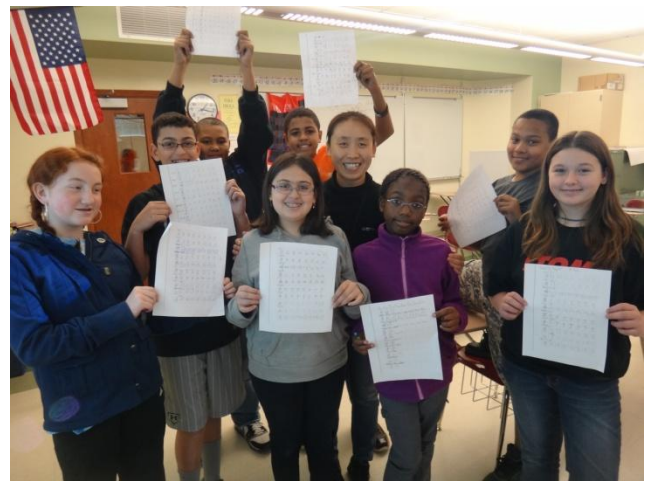
Ronald has been teaching vocabulary by means of songs in the elementary school. His students are preparing for a concert in June. At the high school level, students have finished Book 1 in the "Learn Chinese with Me" series and have mastered about 500 Mandarin words.



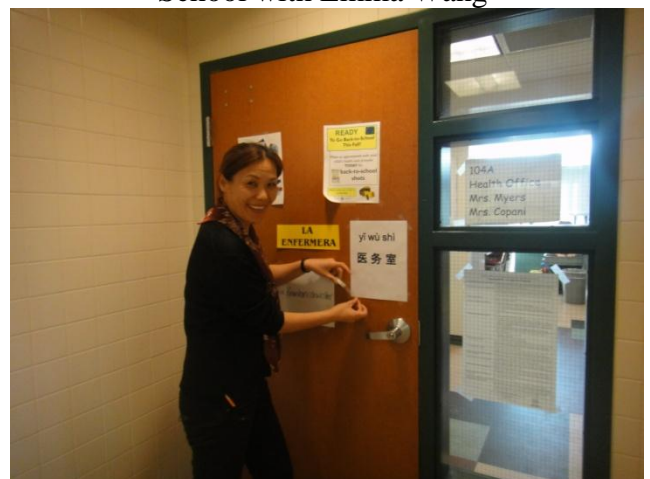
Ronald with students

### North Syracuse Central Schools

North Syracuse Central Schools – CIAU faculty members Katie Wang and Emma Wang began Mandarin classes on March 5th for 6th graders at Gillette and Roxboro Middle Schools in the N. Syracuse District. Their introductory lessons have covered a wide range of topics including greetings, sinograms, and the pinyin system. Their classes take place during study halls and will continue until the end of the semester.



Chinese Lessons at Roxboro Road Middle School with Emma Wang



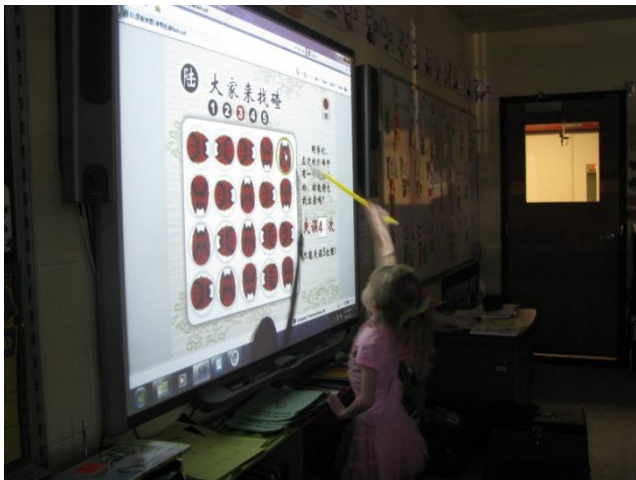
Katie Wang is decorating for Foreign Languages Week at Gillette Road Middle School



Katie and Emma with Dr. David W. Morton

### Windsor Central Schools

Teaching of Chinese and Chinese culture now comes to A. F. Palmer Elementary School in Windsor. Topics cover a wide range including Chinese folk music, traditional Chinese musical instrument, folk art and sport, modern cities and historic places in China. Chinese characters and calligraphy, Chinese pinyin and simple greeting words were also incorporated within the teaching. Chinese language class also started at Windsor High School for one session each week. Students who are taking the class will attend the Chinese Bridge Summer Camp held in China this summer.



Student identifying the Chinese character

### Guzheng Demo in Genesee Valley Central School

On March 2, Guzheng demo was held at the auditorium of Genesee Valley Central School. Margret Lin first used slides with pictures to show students the traditional Chinese musical instruments such as bamboo flute, Chinese bamboo xiao, erhu and etc. Then Daisy Wu explained the basic structure of Guzheng and played several pieces of Guzheng music. Students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to higher grades were so excited that they volunteered to play Guzheng under the instruction of Daisy Wu. Daisy Wu further talked about the appreciation of Chinese folk music especially to students in school bands. Chinese Director Tao Peng also presented at the demo and this demo was broadcast to the whole school to watch.



Daisy Wu interacting with students



Margaret and Daisy presenting



### **Guzheng Demo and Book Display at Avon Central School District**

On April 24, Daisy Wu gave two Guzheng demos at the middle school and elementary school of Avon Central School District. Students has listened to the play of this traditional Chinese music instrument and connected to the lecture of Chinese folk music given earlier. Many students and their parents attended the Demos and they were deeply impressed. Principal of the Middle School Mrs. Miller and Principal of Elementary School Mr. Lupisella participated in the Demos and gave high praises to CIAU teachers.

At the same time, a Chinese Book Display was held on site as well. The books for display are all from the library of CIAU, including books about Chinese calligraphy, painting, Beijing opera, character, etc. The display will last 3 weeks at Avon.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Tai chi class for spouses of AU trustees on campus for their annual meeting May 11. Liu Guifang and Yenfen Huang will lead the workshop.

China Bridge Summer Camp. Students from Windsor and Binghamton School Districts will be going to China this July.

Chinese Language and Culture Day Camp July 23-27 at Alfred University



Daisy Wu with students

## Learn the Chinese word and know its culture

### Kuàizi (Chopsticks)

Chopsticks, which originated in ancient China, were widely used throughout East Asia. They are made from a variety of materials including bamboo, plastic, wood, bone, metal, jade and porcelain, among which bamboo is the most popular. Chopsticks, considered an extension of one's fingers, are used like tongs to pick up portions of food which are already prepared in small pieces. Using chopsticks can be quite a challenge when you are used to forks and knives. But as with all new skills, practice makes perfect, so practice.



### Chopstick Etiquette

There are certain customs regarding the polite use of chopsticks, which reflect Chinese culture and spirit.

- Never stick your chopsticks upright in your rice
- It is impolite to tap chopsticks on the edge of one's bowl; in old days, beggars made that noise to attract attention
- Don't point chopsticks at someone
- Don't play with your chopsticks

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