

Montgomery Focus: New Partnership with Coliseum Boulevard Branch Library begins with Chinese Tea Culture Workshop

Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) on Montgomery campus launched Chinese Tea Culture Workshop at Coliseum Boulevard Branch Library on June 15, which marked CIT's new partnership with another Montgomery Public Library for CIT Chinese Culture Club.

Led by Ms. Jin Qiu, CIT instructor on Montgomery Campus, the workshop brought not only abundant and professional knowledge of Chinese Tea and Tea culture, but also presented on-the-spot demonstration of Tea Ceremony to audience who came to event in spite of heavy rain and were so absorbed in the 2-hour long workshop.

Ms. Qiu started the lecture by showing two pictures of typical Tea House in China and then narrated a beautiful story about Shen Nong, who tasted a hundred herbs, poisoned by 72 drugs, got tea and thus saved. This story handed down in Chinese history as the origin of tea also impressed American guests.

Attendees were then guided to detailed information of the tea drinking history, literature and art of tea as well as the tea classification with famous representatives in each category and their diverse benefits introduced. They also got the chance to get a closer look and smell different tea leaves by themselves.

In the second part of the workshop, Ms. Qiu shared with audience how Chinese people brew and present tea, the success of which is closely related to environment, water quality, choice of tea wares and so on. Tea wares made of different materials and tea tools for a typical tea presentation were introduced one by one to guests. Ms. Qiu then demonstrated professionally the tea ceremony in different ways and she employed three types of tea wares to serve Oolong Tea, Green Tea and Pu'er Tea respectively.

Surrounded by the tea fragrance and beautiful melody of Chinese music in the cozy library meeting room, audience enjoyed the tea presentation. While sniffing and sipping tea, they were also introduced to some other uses of tea, such as making tea-flavored eggs and tealeaf pillows, washing silk clothes, etc, which are also a pleasant surprise to them.

CIT is negotiating details for further collaboration with Coliseum Boulevard Branch Library and notice for future events will be released through CIT website and Facebook.

