

Montgomery Focus: Lecture on Chinese Traditional Festival-Chunjie launched at E. L. Lowder Library

CIT Chinese Culture Club launched the 6th lecture in this semester under the topic of Chinese Traditional Festival—Chunjie (Spring Festival) at E. L. Lowder Library on May 27, 2016.

CIT instructor Ms. Wei Yu hosted the workshop and presented an informative and inspirational lecture mainly about Chunjie to attendees. 4 other major Chinese traditional festivals, Lantern Festival, Qingming Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival were also introduced with basic ideas.

The event started with an interaction between the host and Mr. Cauley, an old member of CIT Chinese Culture Club, who listed 4 Chinese festivals he already knows.

Ms. Yu then introduced Chunjie, the Chinese New Year based on Chinese Lunar Calendar in great detail, from its preparation and decoration, to celebration ways and origins, as well as traditional and special festival food. Audience were not only introduced to Spring Festival customs themselves, but also led to the Chinese philosophy behind each custom as well as the origin of related terms from Chinese language.

Ms. Yu's vivid and descriptive explanation enables American guests to understand this oriental festival without difficulty, like why Chinese people hang Red Couplets beside the door, and hang the Fu Character with upside down; what are the literary meanings of Chuxi (New Year's Eve), jiaozi (dumplings) and Yasuiqian (Red Pocket Money), etc. With images of mouthwatering Chinese delicacies, the stories and auspicious meanings of tasty Chinese food were introduced to attendees.

Ms. Yu hopes audience could remember this important Chinese festival and its customs in Chinese language and can also remember the Chinese philosophy behind round table, red and golden color and other Chinese elements.

The event concluded with a beautiful Chinese song “Dan Yuan Ren Chang Jiu” and tea is served during the workshop as a tradition.

