

## To Extend Friendship, To Exceed Communication

### --the First "Confucius Cup" Table Tennis Finals

On Feb. 18, 2017, the long-expected Troy University First Confucius Institute Cup Table Tennis Tournament finals was successfully held in Montgomery. The 12 qualifiers from the Montgomery, Troy and Dothan Division gathered together, learnt from the competition and fought for the finals. Although the match did not start until 9:00 a.m. the players came to the site early to warm-up. The match was generally divided into men's and women's groups, followed the tournament systems and the best of five games. The top two players of each men's and women's group will be selected to compete for the champion.

The men's and women's tournament took turns. It began with the Men's group, the first round was held by the Troy Division champion Mr. Zhonghao Li against Montgomery Division of Mr. Weisheng An. Mr. Zhonghao Li, a 72-year old player still caught the eye. He caught the ball calmly, smash strongly, and ultimately won by three goals to one in the first round. One of the eye-catching point of the tournament was the match between a father and a son. Warren McNeil (father), the Second place of Dothan division coincidentally compete with Jacob McNeil (son), the Second place of Troy Division by draw lots. Both the father and the son were highly concentrated. The audience had been deeply absorbed by the fascinating competition. They sometimes held up breathing and sometimes busted applause. The Women's group also provided audience with a great visual feast. After a whole morning of intense competitions, Ms. Carmen C. Bejaran from Dominican Republic won the Women's Championship. Ms. Carmen C. Bejaran is a member of table tennis club. She has been loving Ping Pong for many years. Knowing the news of 1<sup>st</sup> Troy University "Confucius Cup" table tennis match, she was very happy and registered immediately. Since the start of the game, she has experienced several fierce matches and finally won the Montgomery Division champion and the 1<sup>st</sup> Troy University "Confucius Cup" Women's Championship.

Men's Champion was particularly fierce. Chinese player Mr. Chao Liao, began to practice Ping Pong from his early childhood. He once was selected in the youth table team of Anhui Province in China and won a number of table tennis championship. Mr. Warren McNeil, has won the Men's singles title of the Alabama Table Tennis Championships many years ago. The prestige match, top player competed with the top, the score was once stuck. Straight shot, sights, smash, etc., their excellent skills made the boiling-point occurred repeatedly. In the end, Liao reached the set point early and won the 1<sup>st</sup> of Men's single champion.

After the match, the Vice Director of Confucius Institute at Troy University, Mr. Zhi Zha and the Head of the CIT, Montgomery Campus, Ms. Yu Wei, presented the trophies and awards for the men's and women's team winners respectively. The first troy University "Confucius Cup" table tennis match in a warm atmosphere successfully came to an end. The first "Confucius Cup" table tennis match was entirely planned and organized by Confucius Institute at Troy University. The whole event lasted more than two months, attracted a wide range of attention. The contestants come from both local tennis clubs and students studying Chinese at the Confucius Institute at troy university. The age varied from the youth around 20 and to the elder around 70. By holding this tournament, it sets up a bridge between local American Societies and Confucius Institute at Troy University. To extend friendship by Ping Pong and to exceed communication by love, in this new year of 2017, let us join our hands together, share the mutual understandings and the splendid Chinese civilization.



