

# Confucius Institute at Troy University

January 23, 2020

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## CIT CELEBRATES YEAR OF RAT IN MONTGOMERY WITH TAI CHI

On January 23rd, the Confucius Institute at Troy University celebrated the Spring Festival at the E. L. Lowder Library. A total of 18 people and CIT Visiting Scholars attended this event. The celebration followed the theme Chinese Kungfu—Tai Chi. The Visiting Scholars shared Chinese square dancing, Tai Chi, and other fitness activities with the participants. Ms. Yu Ma, a CIT Visiting Scholar, demonstrated the 24-form Tai Chi and taught everyone to do a series of Tai Chi moves. This event provided the Alabamian people with a chance to interact with Chinese Tai Chi culture better.



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## CIT CELEBRATES YEAR OF THE RAT WITH KELLY SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On January 24th, The Confucius Institute at Troy celebrated the Spring Festival with Kelly Spring Elementary School, in Dothan, AL. The Zhou's Family Band, a traditional band from China, played for the students and Visiting Scholars. All in all, more than 600 people attended the celebration.

CIT started off the celebration with a lion dance which drew in the elementary children's attention. Afterwards, the Zhou's Family Band performed the series entitled Song of the Phoenix. At the height of the performance, the students and teachers clapped with the beat of the music, echoing with each other. At the end, all the students sang the song Happy New Year to celebrate the Year of the Rat.

After the event, the principal of Kelly Spring Elementary School, on behalf of all the teachers and students, expressed sincere appreciation for the wonderful performance. The local news media WTVY reporters (the news provider for NBC, CBS etc.) followed the event as well.



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## CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE CELEBRATES NEW YEAR WITH CIT

January 25th, marked the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year. The Confucius Institute at Troy University and the Central Alabama Association of Chinese celebrated the Year of the Rat with a grand New Year Party at Frazer United Methodist Church in Montgomery.

CIT Visiting Scholars and their families performed the lion dance, Dao Ma Dan (Peking Opera Dance) and Saray (Xinjiang Dance) which all received warm response and praise from the audience. Afterwards, the CIT scholars and CAAC ladies performed the dance The Song for Our Meeting. After the performances, CAAC prepared a banquet for the participants. Though we are far away from our home and family, all the Chinese present at the party felt the warmth of home. The reporters from the local media, Montgomery Advertiser, also covered the event.



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## CIT CELEBRATES 2020 SPRING FESTIVAL SERIES IN BIRMINGHAM

On January 25th, the Confucius Institute at Troy University participated in the 14th Birmingham Chinese Spring Festival Celebration in the Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. The Birmingham Spring Festival kicked off in the morning and thousands of Chinese and Americans participated.

The Confucius Institute (CI) team arranged three large booths for the large-scale Spring Festival celebration. They decorated the booths with Chinese knots, calligraphy, paper-cuts, and paper fans -- which were particularly eye-catching. They also exhibited Chinese books and dictionaries to the audience. Visiting Scholars demonstrated the skills of Chinese calligraphy, traditional painting, bracelet making, etc. Americans who came to the event were interested in Chinese Spring Festival customs and traditions.

The CIT also invited the traditional folk music team Zhou's Family Band to perform live music to celebrate the coming of the Year of the Rat. Zhou's Family Band played a number of songs such as "Bai Hua Tang" and "Hundred Birds Saluting the Phoenix" for the audience. They also introduced a variety of stunt performances. The audience applauded for the wonderful performance.

The Confucius Institute has participated in the Birmingham Spring Festival for ten consecutive years. The organizing committee specially thanked CIT for its continuous support for the event and applauded the Confucius Institute at Troy University for its outstanding contribution to Chinese teaching and cultural promotion in Alabama.