Dothan Team Visited Director of Coleman Center Ms. Nancy for Cultural Cooperation

On June. 04, 2019 American local time, visiting scholars from Troy University Dothan Teaching and Research Center visited director of Coleman Center Ms. Nancy and talked about the theme and plan of Chinese cultural activities in the next school year.

Upon the requirement of Ms. Nancy, Dothan team discussed and decided on three themes and presented how to carry out each activity to Ms. Nancy in this meeting. The productive and nice talks were accompanied by tea-tasting. Ms. Na Jiang, Ms. Yandong Wang and Ms. Yan He illustrated the three themes of cultural activities one after another: lovely panda, happy Children’ song “Looking for a Friend” and traditional Chinese delicacy dumplings. They also explained the related Chinese culture, etiquette and language we use in daily life and illustrated how to process the activity. Ms. Nancy listened and nodded her head with praise and admiration. She expressed that she liked these themes and contents and gave her full support.

After the talk, Ms. Yan He presented tea ceremony, making five kinds of tea. As they appreciated the wonderful tastes of tea, they also shared their life and interesting incidents, which enhanced the mutual understanding. The meeting ended satisfactorily.
Confucius Institutes at Troy University was Invited to Participate SMATRS Program

On June. 12, 2019 American local time, visiting scholars Ms. Yandong Wang, Ms. Na Jiang and Ms. Yan He from CIT Dothan Campus and visiting scholars Ms. Rui Zhang, Ms. Wenjuan Cheng and Ms. Yunchu Zhang from Troy Campus were invited to participate Enterprise Elementary School Summer SMARTS program, presenting traditional Chinese culture Peking Opera Masks and Paper Cutting.

The activity of Peking Opera Masks was arranged in the school library, charged by Ms. Yan He, Ms. Wenjuan Cheng and Ms. Yunchu Zhang. Ms. Yan He first introduced Peking Opera, classification of roles and then she introduced Peking Opera masks, colors of various masks and personalities of characters. The kids were amazed by the video clips of Peking Opera and guessed whether the person is good or not from the facial mask he wears. After that, each kid got a printed mask and began to color it according to his own understanding and emerged in happiness. While the kids are coloring, they showed great interest in it.

The paper cutting activity was arranged in classroom 401, charged by Ms. Yandong Wang, Ms. Na Jiang and Ms. Rui Zhang. This activity was divided into two sections: a PPT presentation about the history and various designs of paper cuts and hand-on experience of making some paper cuts. No matter what grades the students were from, they could concentrate and listen, and got some knowledge about the long history of Chinese paper cutting. They praised those beautiful and creative works of paper cutting. Anyway, the hand-on experience is their favorite part. Ms. Na Jiang taught the kids to say “bear” and “butterfly” in Chinese as she handed out the paper cut designs. The kids repeated the words and got what they wanted happily. The hand-on experience part started from easy ones to difficult ones, from simple ones to more complicated ones. The kids tried to cut the previously drawn designs first and learned to fold an easy shape and finally made an octagon design with a four-layer folded triangle. Ms. Yandong Wang gave references to the kids and also told them rules about how to make their own design. Ms. Rui Zhang moved among the kids, taking down the happy moments and memorizing the happy faces with her camera.

After the activities, all the visiting scholars took a group photo to record the moment.
On June 20th, 2019, the Confucius Institute at Troy University was invited to the Rufus A. Lewis Branch Library in Montgomery to share the culture of Chinese knot with over 50 students. On June 20th, the visiting scholar, Ms. Zheng Zhou, first made a brief introduction to the origin and classification of Chinese knots, different meanings of different knots, and procedures of making a Chinese knot. After the introduction, every participant got the materials and tools for making a Chinese knot bracelet and started their own practice. All the visiting scholars were ready to help those who would need a hand on their braiding. From time to time, they were asked to give some guidance or suggestions from table to table. Some students even hoped to learn more patterns and showed great interest in Chinese knot. In the end, all the students and teachers completed their own Chinese knot bracelets with enjoyment and happiness.

The teachers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Confucius Institute at Troy University for this wonderful Chinese cultural sharing. The Librarian, Meredith, also expressed that the library would keep in touch with CITU to have more Chinese culture activities in the future.