

Confucius Institute at Troy University

August 30, 2019

Vol. 91 Page 1

WIREGRASS MUSEUM OF ART VISITS CIT EXHIBITION CENTER

On the morning of August 30th, 2019, staff from the Wiregrass Museum of Art in Dothan, Alabama visited the Exhibition Center of the Confucius Institute at Troy University to experience Chinese culture.

He Jing, a visiting scholar at CIT, introduced the visitors to the center's exhibits on Chinese traditional culture and folk customs. She also introduced Chinese paintings, national costumes, and instruments such as the guzheng to the museum staff. Afterwards, He Jing answered questions raised by the visitors one by one and concluded the tour.



Confucius Institute at Troy University

August 31, 2019

Vol. 91 Page 2



CHANCELLOR HAWKINS JOINS CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT TAILGATE

On August 31, 2019, Troy University played the first football game of the new season. The Confucius Institute took the opportunity to host an inaugural tailgate activity at the Veterans Memorial Stadium, where the game was held. Dr. Jack Hawkins, Chancellor of Troy University, and Sohail Agboatwala, Associate Vice-Chancellor for International Operations, both attended the event.

The Confucius Institute's first tailgate event of the season was full of activities. In addition to learning about the new semester's language and culture courses, visitors tasted Chinese food, experienced Chinese painting, played "I have a Chinese name" game and other activities. CIT staff handed out fans with the institution's information, which were popular in the August heat. The height of the festivities were the Dragon Dance performances which attracted many teachers and students who went to watch the football game. Dr. Hawkins participated in the dance, choosing to lead as a dragon usher, holding a rotating hydrangea, and performed with the Confucius Institute's Dragon Dance team to present a wonderful performance for the audience.

Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 4, 2019

Vol. 91 Page 3

THE BEGINNING OF THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

The Confucius Institute began celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival early on September 4th, in Pike Road Elementary School. The holiday falls on September 13th this year.

Pike Road Elementary's Confucius Classroom teacher Su Xiuxiu hosted the event with CIT Visiting Scholars Cheng Wenjuan and He Jing. They told the children the story of the Mid-Autumn Festival and its history. The students participated in the festival with fun events like moon cake painting and tasting. The scholars also introduced the song "I Hope that People Will Last for a Long Time," to the students so they could learn about the cultural desire for humans to live together peacefully.



Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 5, 2019

Vol. 91 Page 4



FIRST CHINESE TEA TALK OF THE FALL SEMESTER

On the afternoon of September 5th, 2019, the Confucius Institute at Troy University held the first Chinese Tea Talk of the fall semester. The meeting's theme this week was Chinese tea art. Visiting Scholar He Jing presented Chinese tea culture to the audience, with stories about the discovery of Chinese tea, the types of Chinese tea, the role of Chinese tea in society and tea performances. After that, the audience tasted the Wulong tea and Anhua black tea and learned about tea etiquette. This event not only gave the audience a sensory experience, but also introduced them to the profoundness of Chinese tea culture.



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Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 7, 2019

Vol. 92 Page 1



CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE CELEBRATES THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL AT TROY

On September 7th, 2019, the Confucius Institute at Troy University and the local Chinese community (CAAC) celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival. Eleven visiting scholars from CIT and their families attended the gathering. The visiting scholars introduced the CIT language courses and cultural activities to the families.

There was widespread interest in cultural activities such as calligraphy, Chinese painting, and more. Afterwards, the visiting scholars gathered to take a group photo with Ms. Chen, the President of Central Alabama Association of Chinese. CIT scholars promoted Chinese language and culture in Montgomery and the surrounding areas as well by participating in activities organized by CAAC.

Confucius Institute at Troy University

Month ##, 2019

Vol. 92 Page 2



CIT DOTHAN CAMPUS CELEBRATES THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

On September 13th, the Confucius Institute at Troy University's Dothan Campus celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival at Kelly Springs Elementary School. The students watched a film about the legend of the festival and tasted mooncakes.



Visiting Scholars Ms. Jiang, Ms. He, and Mr. Li introduced the origin of Mid-Autumn Festival and told the children the legend of Hou, Yi and Chang. Next, they taught them the words of "Zhong Qiu Jie" and shared moon cakes with the students. Even the Principle of Kelly Springs, who was passing by, saw the celebration and came in.



This Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration was extremely successful because the students greatly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot. Through the different activities, each student was able to see, touch, taste, and hear about traditional Chinese culture which helps to further foster an appreciation for it. The students left interested and motivated to learn more.



Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 17, 2019

Vol. 92 Page 3



CIT SCHOLARS HOST TAI CHI

On September 17th, 2019 the Visiting Scholars at CIT hosted a lecture on the topic of Chinese martial arts. Troy's Dr. Hooten, who leads a mental health course, asked the institute to participate with his students.

He Jing began with an introduction to philosophy in Taijiquan, followed by a discussion of the advantages and basics of practicing Taijiquan. After the lecture, He Jing and the other Visiting Scholars led the students in practicing Tai Chi in Hawkins Hall. The students were really interested in Tai Chi and continued to practice with each other for a long time.

This event gave the students an opportunity to learn about Chinese philosophy and experience the strength and health that is prioritized in Chinese culture.

Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 19, 2019

Vol. 92 Page 4



CHINESE KNOT TYING AT THIRD TEA TALK

On September 19th, the Confucius Institute hosted the third Tea Talk of the semester. The cultural seminar focused on the theme of Chinese knots. Visiting Scholar Dr. Wenjuan Cheng explained the cultural relevance of the Chinese knot tying to the students, and gave the audience a live demonstration of how to make the Chinese keychain. In the end, every attendant made a beautiful Chinese keychain.



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Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 19, 2019

Vol. 93 Page 1



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

On September 19th, the Confucius Institute invited students from more than a dozen countries to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Mr. Vardaman, Vice-Chancellor of Troy University; Dr. Flobert Feng, Professor of the School of Education at Troy University; and Dr. Iris Xu, Director of the Confucius Institute at Troy University, participated in the celebration.

The events included traditional Chinese cuisine and Mid-Autumn Festival drawings. The international students present received Chinese cultural gifts. During this holiday, family is more desired than ever and with the community at the Confucius Institute, no one felt alone during this Mid-Autumn Festival.

Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 20, 2019

Vol. 93 Page 2

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION IN DOTHAN WITH FAMILIES



On September 20th, the CIT Dothan campus hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival event for the families in the area who have adopted Chinese children. The space was beautifully decorated with red lanterns and tablecloths draped on the counters that encourage the festive atmosphere.



Dr. Jeffrey, Vice Chancellor of Dothan Campus and Military Affairs, and Dr. Xu, Director of Confucius Institute of Troy University, joined the families at the event. The goal of the celebration was to foster stronger connections between CIT and the families through the holiday atmosphere.

Dr. Jeffrey opened the ceremony with the Chinese greeting “你好 (Hello)” and “友谊长存 (long-lasting friendship).” The Vice Chancellor, who has visited China numerous times, welcomed the families and the CIT staff for their dedication to Chinese culture.



The first activity of the night was a family-oriented game that had parents and children cooperating with each other. The objective of the game was to use chopsticks to pick up beans. This game introduced the children and their families to Chinese cuisine in a light-hearted manner.

Next, the traditional dance Xin Jiang was presented to the audience, who was amazed. Some of the children wanted to learn the dance and picked it up right away. After the dance, the guests played a game called “Act and Guess” which involved a partner trying to act out a given term while the other partner tried to guess correctly what their term was.



The trivia game followed next. The guests were shown a movie about the legend of the Mid-Autumn Festival and asked questions, which were rewarded with prizes. Many parents and children participated. The final event was the Lion Dance, performed by CIT Visiting Scholar He Yan and her husband. The audience loved the dance and concluded the event with a treasure hunt through a maze.

The children, parents, and hosts joined together to pose for a group picture and talked about how successful the night was. At the dinner afterwards, the children were still talking about the shows and games, clearly having enjoyed the festivities.

Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 20, 2019

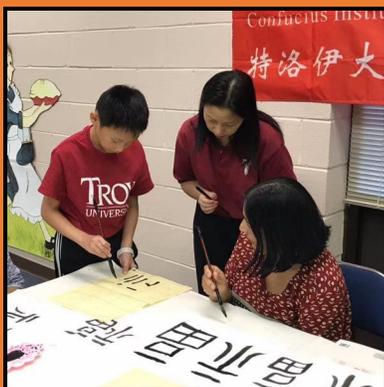
Vol. 93 Page 3

CIT SHARES CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY AT E.L. LOWDER REGIONAL LIBRARY

On September 20th, the Confucius Institute at Troy held the monthly Chinese culture event at the E.L. Lowder Regional Library in Montgomery focused on the theme of Chinese calligraphy.

At the beginning, the Visiting Scholars from CIT gave a general introduction to Chinese calligraphy. Then they gave a detailed explanation on how to approach Chinese calligraphy art starting with the tools used in calligraphy, called the Four Treasures — bamboo brush, ink, paper, and inkstone.

Later on, the attendees practiced the basic strokes of Chinese characters with the bamboo brushes with the help of the scholars. Finally, the students succeeded in writing their own calligraphy, writing the character "福." The guests enjoyed this event very much and said it was a great success.



Confucius Institute at Troy University

September 26, 2019

Vol. 93 Page 4



FOURTH CHINESE TEA TALK OF FALL

On the afternoon of September 26th, the Confucius Institute at Troy University held a cultural lecture on Chinese painting and calligraphy. Visiting Scholar He Jing first introduced Chinese calligraphy and Chinese painting to the audience, and showed the Chinese painting - Plum Blossom - and calligraphy. Later, the audience learned how to draw plum flowers. He Jing conducted a live demonstration of the painting: she started with the trunk and then painted petals, flowers, butterflies and so on. After a few minutes, a living plum blossom figure could be made out. Later, she taught everyone to write the word "Mei" in calligraphy and introduced Wang Anshi's "Plum Blossom" poem to everyone. Everyone present was shocked by the freehand brushwork and beauty of Chinese painting and calligraphy. They were very happy with the art they had created.



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