

Harmony in Differences



On 12 p.m. Oct. 29th, 2010, 4 students and staff who major in Air Force in the university came to the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT). The CIT members gave them a warm welcome, and then Dr. Hong Xu, Director of CIT, delivered a wonderful speech with PPT. The speech was about the eastern and western cultures which are in harmony but with many differences.

The speech consisted of 3 parts:

First, the participant of 2010 China Trip, Payne Heather M., shared her experiences in China, showed the officers the photos she took and the traditional musical instruments she collected, including the wind instrument Xun, an ancient egg-shaped, holed wind instrument, Cucurbit Flute, flutes with all kinds of tones. She also played those musical instruments with distinct Chinese characteristics, which has won a big round of applause. Then, Director Hong Xu demonstrated the differences of eastern culture and western culture from many aspects, from the ways to express unhappiness to the behavior diversity; the speech was comprehensive and vivid, which made the officers experience cultural diversity in a pleasant ambience. After the excellent speech, the officers asked Director Hong Xu many cultural questions concerning China one after another, such as Chinese children's filial piety to their parents and whether soccer and baseball were popular in china; Dr. Xu answered them patiently and said that people all over the world should learn other nations' cultures on the basis of understanding and only through this can we seek common grounds while reserving differences. The deputy

director of CIT, Ms. Xiaofeng Chen, also shared her experiences of American culture after she came to US. Finally, all members of CIT took photos with the officers and presented them fine gifts and they were greatly touched by this.

There is no good or bad in terms of culture; eastern and western cultures are in great harmony but with differences. All nations can establish a harmonious world together on the basis of mutual understanding, because harmony is the common goal for people all over the world to seek.