

Montgomery Focus: Lecture on Zodiac Signs and Chinese Culture Holds Round Two on Troy Montgomery Campus

CIT Chinese Culture Club held the second interactive lecture under the topic of Zodiac signs on Troy Montgomery Campus.

Led by CIT instructor Yinxiao Zhang on April 20, the lecture contained three parts: introduction to Zodiac signs, cultural origin of Zodiac signs and their great influence.

Vivian Cunningham, a student of Ms. Zhang, was invited as a guest speaker to co-present the first part of the lecture introducing the 12 animal signs and their traits, the Chinese Zodiac love compatibility, etc.

With the help of Cunningham, all the attendees found their own symbolic animal sign with pleasure as well as the most compatible signs to them during the lecture.

In the second part of the lecture, Zhang further illustrated the deep root of Zodiac signs in Chinese culture, including its connection with the Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches in keeping time, numbering the years, the *yin-yang* Theory, the 5 Elements as well as the 24 Solar Terms.

This enabled the audience to understand the Chinese cyclical concept of time that is quite different from the western linear concept.

Each Zodiac sign was demonstrated as to its particular significance in Chinese people's mind, which was discussed in the third part of the lecture by taking Dragon and Monkey as examples.

With vivid pictures, cartoon and videos, the unfamiliar and abstract Chinese cultural elements become easier to be understood by American audience.

At the end of the workshop, every attendee received a Chinese calligraphy work of his or her own Zodiac sign created by Wei Yu, a Chinese instructor of CIT Montgomery.

