

# CHINESE CULTURAL BOOTHS

November 11-15, 2013

Part of UTSA's Taiwan Series sponsored by the Taiwan Academy

Hosted by the East Asia Institute; <http://www.utsa.edu/eai>; 210.458.4943



Tea Ceremony by Emiliano Limon (middle)



Erhu (二胡 Èrhú) and flutes (笛子 Dizi) by Eric Vasquez

## EXPERIENCE CHINESE CULTURE THROUGH MUSIC, TEA CEREMONY, CALLIGRAPHY AND FOOD.....

On Wednesday, November 13, 2013, the East Asia Institute participated at UTSA's International Education Week celebration hosted by the College of Business in the Paseo near the University Center.

Four Chinese cultural booths were made available with the generous support from the Taiwanese Academy in collaboration with the East Asia Institute, which included Chinese Music, Tea Ceremony, Calligraphy, and food tasting in order to promote appreciation and awareness of Taiwanese and Chinese culture. Over 150 people were in attendance.

The Chinese booth activities were led by Sulin Su, Lecture of Chinese at UTSA and Program Coordinator of East Asia

Institute. Most of the booth hosts were Su's students from her Intermediate Chinese class with a few volunteer helpers who began their training with Su a few weeks prior to the event.

Eric Vasquez, a Chinese language student, played the Erhu and demonstrated the six flutes at the music booth. Many event attendees stopped by to enjoy the sound of these exotic musical instruments.

Both Henry Xu and Yegin Yan, Chinese language students, manned the Chinese Calligraphy booth. Even though Antonio Pipitone is a Japanese language student, he volunteered at the booth due to his interest in Chinese culture ever since he participated in a few sessions of the Taiwan & Sinology seminars.



Sulin Su (left) leads the Chinese Cultural Booth activities during the International Education Week with her Chinese language students

國際教育週

Attendees practiced writing Chinese characters using a brush pen on calligraphy paper and learned how to pronounce Chinese words at the same time. Some visitors requested for their names to be transcribed into Chinese and written in calligraphy.

Charissa Ellen Jackson, another Chinese language student, wore a Cheongsam (旗袍 Qípáo) for this event and paired with Emiliano Limon to demonstrate the Chinese tea art. Limon became fascinated by Taiwan and learned how to conduct Chinese tea ceremony at one of the Taiwan & Sinology seminars. Tea serves not only as a drink, but also as a part of the culture: heating up the water to the right temperature, pouring hot water to warm up the teapot and cups, inviting the guests to appreciate the aroma of the tea before tasting it, and sipping the tea and savoring it are all part of the Chinese tea ceremony experience.

Roberto Talamas, a business major and a Chinese language student, helped at all four booths and acted as a goodwill ambassador to greet attendees in Mandarin Chinese. He introduced himself as 唐伯龍 (Tángbólong), which sounded

like 唐伯虎 (Tángbóhǔ), a Chinese scholar, painter, calligrapher, and poet of the Ming Dynasty period whose life story was a popular lore. Students from China and Taiwan all asked Roberto Talamas about his famous girlfriend, 秋香 qiūxiāng, actually 唐伯虎 Tángbóhǔ's girlfriend. The connection between the language learner and the native speakers was thus instantly built.

The food tasting booth sponsored by the East Asia Institute was also a big hit! Orange chicken and spring rolls were served by Matthew Fett and Angelica Andrade, a former and a current Chinese student respectively. Food plays a big part in Chinese culture and the cuisine culture is deep rooted in China's history. Styles and tastes also varied by class, region, and ethnic background.

The four booths provided a great opportunity for the participants to deepen their understanding of Chinese and Taiwanese culture. In addition, the exchange between the presenters at the booths and the visitors were invaluable and the effects of promoting Taiwan and Sinology Series were apparent.

## CHINESE BOOTHS



## 漢學與中國文化

From top: Food tasting, Tea Ceremony and Calligraphy

International Education Week is now celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide. International study and work connects students and scholars, enabling them to collaborate and tackle today's foremost global challenges, and gain the knowledge, skills, and self-reliance that are needed to compete in the globalized economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Throughout the week, students, educators, and citizens will be celebrating in classrooms, on campuses, and in communities worldwide.