

## A Single Spark can Start a Prairie Fire

### --- CIT Celebrated Chinese New Year with Students from UAB

On Feb. 13, 2015, CIT (Confucius Institute at Troy University) staff went to Birmingham to celebrate Chinese New Year with UAB (University of Alabama at Birmingham) students. The three-hour celebration drew over 200 people to the event.

The celebration, jointly hosted by CIT and UAB foreign languages department, included rich and diverse cultural activities. On festive occasions more than ever one thinks of one's dear ones far away. The festive atmosphere was enlivened by the interactions and made them forget homesickness. The spectators burst out with rounds of applause when the students showed their Chinese New Year greeting videos and watched the snapshots of the past Chinese Spring Festival celebrations. All these deeply moved the Chinese students and overseas Chinese present at the celebration.

The CIT staff invited the participants to draw the Chinese painting onto a small piece of card with a ribbon around the punched hole at the top of it. When they finished it, they took away their own work as a souvenir. Many people lingered over the Chinese painting table. Chinese calligraphy table also aroused the students' curiosity and were eager to have a try. They were amazed by the magic and ancient art. A great many students lined up to learn how to fold a lantern. The table which displayed the Chinese culture items ha also attracted many students to stop by and ask plenty of questions concerning those items like Chinese go, mahjong and Chinese checkers.

The mission of CIT is to support and promote Chinese language teaching and cultural activities throughout Alabama. UAB is one of the schools which have engaged into partnership with our CIT for Chinese language teaching program. The whole event was well acclaimed. The local students and Chinese community at Birmingham were deeply impressed by the event and helped them gain fresh new insights into the Chinese New Year.

