

Chinese New Year Celebration at Webster University



A girl in a qipao practices her chopstick skills at the New Year celebration.

understanding between China and the US. In 2010, he started the Sinica show, a current affairs podcast based in Beijing that invites prominent China journalists and China-watchers to participate in uncensored discussions about Chinese political and economic affairs. Kaiser also served as the Director of International Communications for Baidu, one of China's biggest Internet companies.

In his speech, Kaiser drew on his own life experiences to encourage all of us to develop an “overarching mission.” For Kaiser, that mission is building bridges between two very different, influential cultures. A mission that poses many challenges. “Often when you are on an island on a river between two banks, when people from one side of that island look at you, they think that you belong to the other side...It’s not always easy, but it is incredibly rewarding and it is so vital to this planet, to our respective societies.”

Throughout the morning, students engaged in traditional Chinese arts and crafts, such as tying intricate Chinese knots, as well as less traditional but equally delightful crafts like molding play-doh pandas. They also tried their hands at Chinese calligraphy and, using only chopsticks, raced each other to fill cups with M&Ms.

Students from Saint Louis University High School wowed the audience with a performance of the Lion Dance, a colorful performance often seen

The Confucius Institute of Webster University would like to wish the Webster community a happy Chinese New Year!

To welcome in the year of the dog, the Confucius Institute hosted our annual Chinese New Year celebration on Monday, Feb. 13 in the Grant Gymnasium. Over 500 local K-12 students, parents, teachers and Webster University staff and students attended.

The keynote speaker of the event was the Chinese-American guitarist Kaiser Kuo, co-founder of the popular Chinese heavy metal band Tang Dynasty. Kaiser is also well known for his initiatives promoting greater cultural



*Upper: Kaiser Kuo shakes hands with Webster University Vice-Provost Nancy Hellerud
Bottom: Traditional Chinese dragon performance by SLUH students*

during Chinese New Year. Following this came several stellar acts by elementary students from Saint Louis Immersion Schools, who sang songs and recited poems in Chinese .

After lunch, students were treated to traditional musical performances, including a duet for voice and guzheng (a many-stringed, plucked instrument with several thousand years of history), and solo performances on the dizi and hulusi (types of Chinese flutes).



Many students practiced their Chinese calligraphy.