



Dr. Jun Liu Executive Director, ELC

I would like to dedicate this article to our freshmen at Shantou University.

I was thrilled to see both eagerness and enthusiasm displayed on your smiling faces during the English Language Center's Freshman Orientation. You looked fresh and excited, but puzzled at the same time when I announced the welcoming gift you would receive the next day – the English Placement Test. You survived and did exceedingly well. As a result, ten of you were placed directly into Level 3, a record high achievement. Those of you who were placed at Level 1 or below might have considered yourselves either unhappy or unlucky, as you will need to spend a few more semesters completing all the

Learning English through Use: "Speak More and Write More!"

required English courses. But have you thought about why we are doing what we are doing?

While there are admittedly many rumors and/or complaints about our placement test, you cannot deny the fact that we administer the test in order to ensure the effectiveness of teaching and learning. This fair assessment of your English proficiency is on the continuum from beginning to advanced. Remember how you worked very hard to finish your written test in the morning before hurrying back to the E-Building to take the on-line T-BEST (Task-Based English Speaking Test)? For many of you, that was perhaps the first time you heard yourselves recording stories, describing events, interpreting phenomena, and expressing your opinions in English. You took great interest in the language lab where everyone seemed to speak English beautifully, only to realize the next day that you were placed at a much lower level than you had expected.

I have to say that many of you performed very well in listening, reading and language use, but performed poorly in writing and speaking. However, you are not to blame, as the majority of students like you have not received solid training in English writing and speaking prior to your admission into a university. I have taught many Chinese learners of English who are doing graduate studies at universities in the US. I have also taught many college students in China. The common weakness among Chinese learners lies in their productive skills -- writing and speaking. That is why all international students studying in the US are required to take

Freshman Composition or English Composition courses specially designed for them. With regards to English speaking, Chinese learners are most vulnerable because they seldom have the opportunity to practice speaking beyond mere greetings. With so many students in each class, it is impossible for teachers to help their students. Another reason for this vulnerability is that college entrance examinations do not test a student's English speaking ability, thus ignoring the training in this skill area does not have an impact on admission.

Nevertheless, I believe that a university in China should be a place where you can develop the very skills you need and yet are lacking. With these skills you can become world citizens without any barriers in both oral and written communication in English. Shantou University is such a place, and you should consider yourselves lucky to be in this environment where you can chat at the English Lounge daily, visit the English Corner weekly, write for the Shantou Beat monthly, participate in the English Festival annually, and experience the live Conversation Series periodically. As you know, all ELC faculty, local and foreign, are dedicated to helping you, both in and out of class, achieve high communicative competence through graded courses based on your proficiency and needs. But it is up to you to take advantage of what is provided for you. Those who seek succeed.

Good luck and have fun!

New Life, New Challenges

Feng Miaolan 05 Journalism

Ke Rensi 06 Liberal Art

A new semester began on Sep 18th, 2006, with many new faces moving around on campus. Shantou University recruited 1,750 undergraduate students from 10 provinces, 250 more than last year. Among the freshmen this year, there are 1,399 from Guangdong, and the other 351 come from Guangxi, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, HuBei, Hunan, Fujian, Anhui and Sichuan.

It seems the freshmen have gotten used to their university lives quickly. When they arrived at STU, the freshmen were divided into different dormitory areas, and many of them

have upperclassmen as roommates. They have to live and communicate with people they don't know. "I have no choice but to turn to strangers for help" said Remy, a freshman majoring in English. To her surprise, she managed to borrow a book from her new roommate only one minute after knocking at the door of F-109. "She didn't even know who I was, but she still wanted to help me! I never dreamed that a stranger could be so generous and friendly," Remy's face lit up with joy. "I am also glad to find I can communicate with new people so comfortably."

Despite the fact the freshmen have come from different provinces, they are living in harmony on campus. They have broken accent barriers when talking with roommates. They can say hello on their own initiative to other students near them when having meals. They can participate in informed discussions the minute they introduce themselves to new people.

On the other hand, some freshmen see this new environment as a challenge. "The new environment makes me feel free and comfortable 'cause nobody knows me, and I can start my new life!" said Shadow, a student in the School of Business. "As a tutor, I am amazed at the freshmen's talents and skills at communicating with other people. In the Freshmen Fair, they were full of fire and came into their own with dancing, singing, performing skits and so on," said Wang Xi, a sophomore from the School of Business.

Freshmen have started their brand new life on campus smoothly, but there are surely more challenges still waiting for them.



STU Freshman Zhang Tingting

News in Brief



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What do Teachers Think about English Placement Test?



ELC teacher Peter Xiao

As most students have experienced the English Placement, we wanted to find out what teachers think of this test. In this article, two ELC teachers, Peter Xiao and Cindy Zheng, share their

opinions with the Shantou Beat Reporter.

Would you please give a brief introduction to this year's placement test?

Peter: This test is normally divided into five parts: listening, reading, language use, writing and speaking. I think speaking and writing are the most important parts of the test. What has been improved this year is the oral test. It has changed into a man-machine conversation instead of the face-to-face interview in the past few years. Now every freshman must take the oral test, while only the "marginal" students took it in previous years.

What do you think should be improved according to the results of the test?

Peter: The oral part needs to be improved. We found some students were not acquainted with the tape recorder, so that some of them even kept silent when the test began. For this, we should solve some technical problems. On the other hand, we found the students did a good job with the argumentative component of the test, which we thought might be the most difficult, while the results for the narrative test, which should be easiest, were not very good. This is also something we have to consider.



ELC teacher Cindy Zheng

What do you think are the advantages of the English Placement Test?

Cindy: Before the English Enhancement Program was adopted, in my class there were students from different levels and this was not easy for teaching.

For instance, some students who could not understand me were frustrated, while some found it too easy to become interested. Now I feel more comfortable with my teaching since we interact with each other more smoothly.

So the test has helped you solve some of the problems you had before, but now do you have something else that is difficult in your teaching?

Cindy: In the first place, I'm thinking about how to make my students interested in English, for interest is the best teacher. Secondly, once the students are in a state of excitement, they will be active in class, which is beneficial for their English learning. It's difficult to get my students excited most of the time in class and I think this is difficult for other teachers as well.

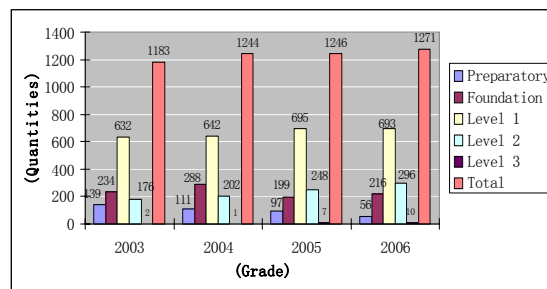
Would you please give some suggestions to our students, especially to the freshmen?

Peter: They should recognize the importance of English and take it seriously. Additionally, there are sufficient resources for English learning on our campus, including outstanding teachers, books in the library, and various English activities which offer an environment for practicing. Students themselves should cherish and utilize the English learning resources that might not be widely offered in other schools.

The Past Result

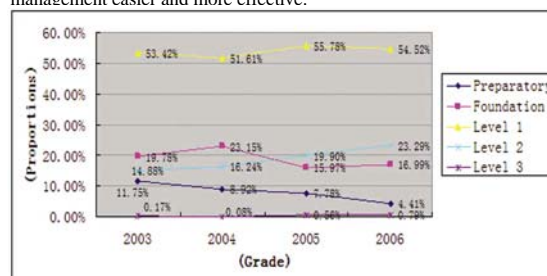
Yuepeng (Megin)
05 Liberal ArtsHuang

The English Placement Test has been administered to all incoming students at the beginning of every Fall semester since 2003 (PS: Students of 2002 had the test in 2003). It is used to evaluate students' overall English skills, so as to ensure the appropriateness of their placement within one of the ELC's seven levels. Concerning the outcome of the test, two graphs will be presented for consideration.



The Placement Results of Students of 2003 to 2006

From the graphs, it is apparent that the outcomes have been better since 2003. The number of students placed in Preparatory and Foundation decreased from 2003 to 2006, while students placed in Level 3 have a rising trend. The most surprising point is the sharp rise from 0.08% in 2004 to 0.56% in 2006. The number of students placed in Level 2 has increased steadily since 2003. Also, this indicates to us that the placement test, which places students with different English skills into different classes, is a very good way to make teaching and classroom management easier and more effective.



The Proportions of Different Levels in Each Year

Chart Source: Office Automation System

Reflections on English Placement Test

Zhou Yinglin (Karen)
04 English

As a part of the English Enhancement Program, the majority of teachers consider the yearly English Placement Test to be a good teaching tool because it allows them to teach students in accordance with their English Proficiency. But what do the students think? I believe students at Shantou University also must have their perspectives on the English Placement Test.

Germany, a junior student, said the EPT makes teachers' jobs easier because they don't need to adjust their teaching plans to satisfy different levels of students. Besides, most students can follow along better in class when the instruction is on their level. All these things can enhance the effects of teaching. However, a freshman, Luo, told me that there will be no difference between students in the same level. As a result, students may have no motivation to learn English better. Unlike Luo's opinion, some freshmen argued

inferior to others in English. They will be more confident learners.

When I asked whether the English Placement Test is reasonable, most of the interviewees responded "yes." Germany said that it has the same standard, which includes listening, reading and writing. It can test us on our basic English skills. Andy, a freshman, mentioned that the writing section was quite different from that in high school. In high school, he wrote something that happened in his daily life or according to the given picture, while the English Placement Test asked him to write about his views on a certain topic. It was just like a critical essay. Andy thinks this kind of writing assessment can test his writing skill well. Therefore, the interviewees agree that their English levels, which are determined by the test, represent their English ability properly. Seven, another freshman, told

me that she was quite satisfied with her placement. In the Level 2 class, she follows the teacher quite well and basically understands the text and the vocabulary of the textbook. Thus, she enjoys learning English and learns more effectively.

In reference to the level of difficulty, most of the interviewees considered the written test not to be difficult. But this year all the freshmen were required to take an oral test as well. A lot of them considered the oral test to be too difficult, especially for the students who had not taken an oral test before. Some students even complained that it was too professional. They did not have enough time to think about the question. But Sally, a sophomore, supports the oral test very much. She said the oral test provides a chance for some students to be placed in a higher level. It can also serve as another chance for those who did not do well on the written test.

From the interviews it is clear that most of the students in Shantou University support the English Placement Test. It has been making great progress over the past few years. It provides the students with an appropriate stage to learn and show their English ability.

Opening Hearts to English

Ma Shibei(Tennis) 05 journalism

With excitement and curiosity, they begin their first year here; it is their choice to be here and they bring with them expectations and confidence. They are the freshmen and new teachers who joined Shantou University this year.

"Speaking English well means more opportunities here! "

Huang Xu Ming, a freshman in the Journalism School who made his "claim to fame" by introducing himself in English at the freshmen meet-and-greet, is impressed by the English Enhancement Program at STU. As an English lover, he said he was delighted to see that this university attaches so much importance to English learning.

Huang is one of the new staff members of the English Corner. Although he was new here, he started to work with the staff on the first night of EC held in the English Lounge. "I was asked to play a role as a priest who presided over a wedding in order to show the culture in foreign countries," he said.

What's more, Huang is now planning to take part in the English Speech Contest coming up in November. "Speaking English well means more opportunities here."

Even if I lose the contest, I can still improve my English through participating in it," he adds.

"You can just take it easy when you are speaking."

"Gaining more expressions, more exposure to the outside world, that is why I joined EL," a girl from the Medical School named Hu Chen Li said. "You don't need to worry about making mistakes in EL because most students are in the same level here. You can just take it easy when you are speaking."

She also mentioned that sometimes the good English speakers are considered to be showing off when they speak fluent English during a normal chat. "In EL, it becomes different, for everybody here has to speak English, no matter how good they are at it," Hu said.

"I was impressed by the interest that they show in English."

It is her first time teaching college students in mainland China. A Ph.D. in Education from Austria, Claudia Kunschak finds joy in talking to her students. She goes to



ELC Instructors Dancing on OrientationNight

EL every two weeks and chats with students there. "I enjoy talking to them. They are from different places and there are different stories behind every student. They are eager to talk, to communicate in English."

Talking about the atmosphere of English learning at STU, Claudia thinks it is stimulating. "Taking part in the English Speech Contest, writing news for the Shantou Beat, for instance, to me, it is challenging," she said with a smile.

Opening Nights of EC, CEC &EL

Li Zhimin (Jamin), 04 Engineering



Dr. Liu with Students in EL

The Opening Nights of three English organizations, namely the English Corner (EC), Creative Expression Club (CEC), and English Lounge (EL), were held on Sep.12th. Opening Nights are held each year after the freshman orientation night organized by the English Language Center (ELC) and are popular events with students, especially the freshmen, giving them an opportunity to learn more about those co-curricular activities.

The collaborative Open Night of EC and CEC began with a warm-up game. Students were given some scattered letters and required to make as many words as possible. The students were very enthusiastic, with many putting their hands up to participate. The funny skit, "Journey to the West", played by CEC members, made the Opening Night fun and exciting. The Mini-speech and Teachers' Conversation really drove students to speak up. Students were encouraged to express their ideas on given topics.

The Opening Night of EL was a great opportunity for freshmen to experience the all English environment encouraged by the ELC. It started with a brief introduction to the EL, followed by special student guests sharing their English learning experiences. Through a series of games, students practiced their English in a fun way. Later, students were grouped to chat with foreign teachers and EL staff members. Inside EL, students all demonstrated great passion for chatting in English.

The Opening Nights gave freshmen a first glimpse of the English activities available at STU. With the easily accessible co-curricular English activities, students have a lot of chance to improve their English communicative competence.



ELC Instructor Lisa Parrish with students in EC

Enhance Your Comprehensive English Competence through the English Enhancement Program

Huang Zengfei(Jonathan) 04 Business

As a reform in English language education, the EEP (English Enhancement Program) at Shantou University is committed to enabling students to become better informed about world affairs, acquire a wider perspective, be more culturally accomplished and develop better independent thinking skills. Based on a brief review of the EEP in the past years as well as my personal experience as one of the active participants in this program, this article is going to analyze what potential benefits students can gain from this ongoing project.

First, it gives us a good way to acquire English language skills. The EEP provides us many opportunities to practice oral English, which can help us put what we learn to use. Besides the interactive ELC courses in classroom, we have plenty of co-curricular activities and events designed for STU students, such as the English Lounge, English Corner, Creative Expression Club and Conversation Series.

Second, it provides us a platform to improve our communicative skills. Small class sizes enable teachers and students to have more lively discussion and interaction. Combined with the co-curricular activities, the EEP creates a kind of English community, where people feel free to exchange ideas and communicate in English.

Third, the EEP helps us to broaden our

scope of knowledge and widen our horizons. Like the intercollegiate English Speech and Singing Contest, the EEP creates an atmosphere of competition at a national or even global level, which can urge students to work hard and to be open-minded. After all, it is important for us to be accustomed to high-level competition.

By engaging in so many activities such as English Lounge and English Festival through the EEP, I find that my English proficiency and communicative competence improve and my knowledge horizon is widened; I do benefit a lot from those experiences. But to take advantage of the EEP, we need to have active participation and enthusiasm.

The EEP takes us higher. Enjoy your EEP journey!



ELC Instructor Kate Hardeman with students

We are living in an era of technology and information. Science is booming everywhere, every single day. In keeping with the times, STU is conducting reforms to become a more modernized and internationalized university. Among the various strategies being used to achieve this goal is the realization of STU's "cyber campus," a network-based office and information system. The cyber campus includes the Credit System, Tulip BBS, Official Automation System, Online Library, and Visual Classroom and Webmail, among other things. In our forum today, you will hear from both freshmen and upperclassmen concerning this topic. Our discussion will focus mainly on the Credit System and Tulip BBS. You will encounter some different ideas, feelings, and stories about students' exposure to STU's distinctive "cyber campus" trend.

BBS is Helpful

Tang Yin 06 Business



Don from 06 Business College

STU's Tulip BBS is fascinating for most of the freshmen here. But some people wonder, "What role will it play in our campus life? Will it be helpful for us?"

Not long ago, Don, from the Class of 2006 Business College, received an answer to those queries, and he chose to share his experience with us:

"Right after the beginning of this semester, God played a trick on me. Unfortunately, I lost my wallet in the No.2 canteen. That really meant a lot to me - in it was approximately 600 RMB that I had just withdrawn and all my cards, including my ID card, bank card, and library card. Oh dear, I mean EVERYTHING! Afterward, I put up an announcement on the Finding Page in Tulip BBS, but to be frank, I had already fallen into despair by that time, and I had no idea there would be such a sharp turn. However, the next day I got an unbelievable 'echo' from the BBS --- two boys, Physics majors from the Science College, had picked up my wallet, noticed my message on the BBS, and asked me to come get it. And I did. Oh, my God, how dramatic! But better than those two nice guys than thank Jesus. Thank you Li Tuquan and Li Huaqiu. What's more, as it should be, I would like to thank BBS as well. Many thanks."

Besides the Finding Forum, Tulip BBS also has many other pages and forums that have specific functions. It is more or less like a microcosm of our campus life that reflects our opinions, thoughts, attitudes, and likes and dislikes. So, to some degree, it helps open a window for the new students to get ready for their brand new campus lives.

Some Students Cheer, Some Need Time to Adapt

Tang Yin
06 Business



Zou Guotao from the Medical College

As the old days of only chalk and blackboards begin to fade into history, a new concept of cyber campuses is coming into being. Notably, STU is on the frontier of such reform. Some people show a strong interest in this new trend. Zou Guotao, a freshman from the Medical College, has some words to say:

"Before I came here, I learned that STU had a

network-based office and information system, but I didn't perfectly understand what that meant. After spending some time here, I think I understand it better now. My abstract understanding may be described as a configuration---the cyber system ensures that information disseminates throughout campus around the clock via the net just like blood circulating in one's body day and night. Meanwhile, people also depict this virtual cyber system as "a paperless working system." In brief, I'm excited about this new stuff. I've benefited from it a lot and I'm really looking forward to learning more about it."

However, opinions differ from person to person. Unlike Zou Guotao, for some others, especially those who are from rural areas, time is often needed to adjust to the new idea of a "cyber campus." Lacking knowledge about computers and the Internet can be a barrier in their everyday lives. Moreover, even if they are able to grasp the concepts of computer operations quickly enough, the important issue of money might be another difficulty for them to handle. Therefore, they may think it is much clearer, easier, and cheaper to put up paper announcements, as has been done in the past. But interestingly, these people also believe that as the network is becoming more and more important and widespread, it is high time to start learning computer skills. In short, all they need is some time to adapt.

Right to Choose; Room to Improve

Tang Yin
06 Business

Yu Zhijie and Liu Xiaoliu, two newcomers to the Science College and Engineering College, shared their ideas with *The Shantou Beat*. "We remember clearly what Mr. Xue, Dean of the Business School, once joked - sometimes to choose is more troublesome than not to choose. But as a matter of fact, we freshmen definitely need to face this kind of 'trouble'."

For almost every freshman in STU, some of the first big concerns are how to use the right to choose, and how to deal with the Credit System at the beginning of the semester to work on their own course plans.

"We need to choose courses for ourselves, make our own schedules, and set priorities for ourselves. Besides the required academic courses, we can choose some optional classes provided by other departments in order to nurture our interests," Yu Zhijie and Liu Xiaoliu said excitedly.

Naturally, there are viewpoints from students who are not 100% supportive: "Frankly, we haven't many choices for either the major courses or the optional ones. And there are often conflicts with class meeting times. I think STU officers need to

do something to improve the Credit System."

Yu and Liu forgot to mention one thing. The worst part of the Credit System is the network jam that happens when thousands upon thousands of students enter the system at the same time. People kept complaining about this because such incidents limited their rights to make fair choices. Students agree that there is room for improvement within the Credit System and they hope the system will be more efficient in the future.



Yu Zhijie & Lin Xiaoliu from the Science College
and the Engineering College

Writing a Good Essay

What is the secret to a good essay? This seems to be a common question among many students. I would like to share some of my thoughts on this with you, from a teacher's perspective and based upon 2 strong essays that were written by students this year. When I am evaluating an essay, I am first of all looking for the overall impression of the writing. Did they answer the question? Do I understand the message? Then, more specifically, I look at organization, development through examples and how the writer demonstrates his/her style through grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure. The task for these essays was to write about one skill that is necessary to be successful in today's world, to give specific reasons and/or examples supporting that skill, and to explain how such a skill can be learned as a university student.

Leadership—

The Most Significant Skill We Need to Succeed

Undoubtedly, being successful is every person's dream and goal. We are all ambitious, but how to achieve our goal is a question worthy of a second thought. From where I stand, I would choose the skill of leadership as the most necessary one to be successful. There are several reasons for this.

To start with, though there are different factors that contribute to great figures' success, we can obviously find that leadership is the characteristic most of them share. Surely, a person good at leading a group will bring great success to his company, and most importantly, to his life. This is true especially when we are living in today's world, full of fierce competence, which requires people to cooperate and be efficient.

Secondly, it is he who masters the skill of leadership that can call on his staff to serve him. The really able person can make his staff obey him, respect him and confide in him. Those who place themselves above their staff can never win their hearts. Their staff may listen to his directions, but they only treat him as their boss rather than their friend.

Since leadership is extremely important in our society, how can we learn this skill on campus? As university students, we can take steps as follows. First, we should develop our communicative skills, which are the foundation of leadership. Secondly, we should join various clubs. These things will benefit us a lot in the development of our leadership skills.

All in all, the skill of leadership can't be learned quickly. It requires constant practice. Let's work together to be successful leaders.

Comments:

In this essay, there is clear organization. It has an introduction, supporting paragraphs and a conclusion. The writer gives some examples of good leadership qualities that are relevant to the topic.

This writer also uses transitions well. Notice how the transitional phrases in these essays are varied (From where I stand, To start with, All in all, questions, etc.). S/he doesn't rely on the same phrases or sentence structures over and over. Using transitions well adds a lot of sophistication to any essay.

There are some grammar, spelling and vocabulary errors in this essay, but the overall comprehensibility of the message is not seriously affected. The biggest strength of this essay is the writer's ability to take risks, particularly in the third paragraph. A good essay isn't just one that is grammatically correct and well organized. A good essay must also have something important to say.

So, the key to writing a good essay is no secret. You will succeed if you combine good organization, examples, varied grammatical structures, and have a strong message. And, finally, as with the development of any other skill, good writing requires practice.

Ask Jennifer!

Jennifer Nowicki is an ELC Level 4 instructor. She has been working as an ESOL Instructor and Civics Program Coordinator at Pima Community College Adult Education for 7



years in Tucson, Arizona. You may e-mail your questions to be considered for the next issue to jlnowicky@stu.edu.cn.

Q: What is the best way to get in touch with western culture so that we can share the same background?

A: The best way to learn about a culture is by building relationships with people from that culture. Even though STU students may have limited access to westerners and western culture, technology today is a very useful tool that can be used to help you. I know that many students use chatting programs such as QQ, BBS and MSN. Try meeting westerners to chat in English on these websites or try other popular western blog/chat sites such as MySpace.com. Not only will you have a chance to meet westerners online and improve your English, but you can represent Chinese culture so that they can learn about you too!

Q: What is your opinion of the CET? How can students make good use of it?

A: Nobody likes standardized tests. They might be quick and easy to grade, but they don't really test your ability to communicate. Even in the USA, students struggle with the need to pass certain standardized professional exams that don't truly reflect their knowledge. But until there are better versions, we must do our best to prepare for them without getting discouraged. My advice is to think of it as one tool out of many to help you achieve your goals, and not as a true reflection of your communicative competence. What it does test are your test-taking strategies, which are useful skills to master in today's world, whether we like it or not. You can try www.studygs.net for some practical tips on test-taking strategies.

Q: Is there any way to help remember vocabulary well?

A: Unfortunately, the best way to remember vocabulary is just by practicing and using it. I am having a difficult time remembering Chinese vocabulary now too. I find that I remember words better when I notice them being used outside of class. For example, when I hear the woman at the store tell me the price for something, I remember the number words better than if I just tried to remember them from the book. They are no longer abstract. Pay attention. Look for connections or associations that you can make with other words that you do know. Listening to the words (in movies, songs, or conversations) as well as reading them is a good way to reinforce your ability to remember them.

Welcome to the ELC

We are happy to have 12 new instructors from home and abroad to join the English Language Center this semester. In the following year, you will see them in your ELC classes, talk to them in English Lounge and English Corner, read their articles in the newspaper and even become friends with them. The Shantou Beat is honored to introduce 12 new faces to you, tell you what they think of STU and what advice they would like to give to STU students.

Home Away From Home

ELC Instructor Claudia Kunschak

Huanying! Huanying! Welcome to China, welcome to Shantou! These are the words that most accurately describe my first weeks, actually a little over a month, here at Shantou University. When I decided to come here to teach, I knew little more than that this was a small town, for Chinese standards, on the southern coast, located somewhere between Hong Kong and Xiamen. However, it did not take long for me to feel quite at home here. I guess I have to say at this point that this is not the first time for me living abroad; I have spent the better part of my adult life working and studying in various countries around the world. China has always been on the top of my wish list though, and I am very happy to have found this great opportunity. Even though my Chinese is very limited, I love exploring the campus, downtown and the surrounding areas. On campus, there will always be somebody who will come to your rescue. What I enjoy most at Shantou University, and ELC in particular, is the wonderful community. Chinese and international teachers had a great time getting to know each other while attending professional workshops during our back-to-school retreat in Sanya. By the same token, teachers and students mingle freely at English Lounge, in the cafeteria, on the sports grounds, and in the library. To sum it up, I am a happy camper here at STU and am looking forward to getting to know my students better, exploring different parts of China, and acquiring some of the Chinese language, culture and philosophy.



Insiders and Outsiders

ELC Instructor Peter LsTerra



When I first interviewed to teach with Shantou University I was in Tampa Bay, Florida, U.S.A. Initially, I was very interested in Shantou University because of its fledgling English program. The interviewer mentioned several projects at Shantou that really caught my interest. They include the Creative Expression Club, the opportunity for research

in the field of Linguistics, and the opportunity to be a part of the first Chinese Linguistics journal, which Shantou produces, RALC, or The Review of Applied Linguistics in China. In addition to all Shantou University had to offer, coming to China has been a big dream of mine since I was 5-years-old. I got hooked on Saturday Matinee Gung-fu movies, and I imagined someday, if I went to China, I would meet a "true" Gung-fu master. I'm still waiting to go to Shaolin.

After I arrived at Shantou University, I felt nothing but respect from the people here, in addition to feeling like part of a big family. I learned of a concept that is very big in China, the concept of being an, "insider or outsider." That is to say, you are Chinese or you are not; you know the way or you do not. But to tell you the truth, I have never been made to feel like an "outsider" here at Shantou University. My Chinese co-workers, as well as my students, have always been warm and patient with me as I learn the ways of this great land, China. My experience at STU, I am sure, will help me to sharpen my skills, as well as add flame to my passion for teaching English. I look forward to the rest of this year and I look forward to becoming even more a part of this big family at STU.

Impressions of STU



"I am very happy to be here at STU where I have met lots of

wonderful people— both teachers and students. "

—Gaelle Sabben



"I've been impressed with the community here and

excited to be a part of that experience for students."

—Philippe Bierny



"I look forward to sharing my culture and experience

with my students ."

—Kate Hardeman



"I am eager to become even more involved in this thriving

learning community."

—Robyn Wall



"I enjoy my campus life here and I have found that the class

structure and daily life at STU and US universities have many similarities."

—Molly Anthony

Advice for Freshmen



"Youth means limitless possibilities, so your future is not just a dream,

come on! "

—Su Li



"Try more new things, be brave and never be shy."

—Amy Kunkel-Patterson



Take risks. Don't be afraid of making mistakes.

—Jennifer Nowicki



"Just hold on, keep going and keep trying."

—Lisa Parrish



"Work hard. Study seriously, because the work you do

now is very important for your future."

—Kari Biggs

Arizona Living

ELC Teacher
Kari J. Biggs

Arizona is rich with culture and tradition..

The influences of the state's Native American, Hispanic, and Asian American populations can be easily seen. Arizona is home to 21 recognized tribes and over 250,000 Native Americans. Reservations and tribal communities comprise over a quarter of Arizona's lands. The largest tribes that come from the Southwest area are the Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Pueblo, and Zuni. Even when looking at Arizona's state facts, you can find references to its cultural heritage. The state gem is turquoise, which has been used for centuries to make Native

American jewelry.

In March 2006, people were invited to participate in a Pow-wow at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. The Wildcat Pow-wow was a two day festival that celebrated diverse Native American cultural traditions. Guests learned about the various types of Native American pow-wow dances, the different costumes worn for each dance and got to listen to the distinct singing of Native American songs.

This blending of cultures has woven itself into many of the restaurants and recipes commonly found in Arizona. Mexican food is quite popular. Refried beans, tortillas,

Spanish rice, shredded beef or chicken, tortilla chips and salsa all come together to form a complete, satisfying meal. Yum!

The city of Phoenix is home to the COF CO Chinese Cultural Center. Located near

downtown Phoenix, the center features beautiful Chinese architecture, traditional Chinese gardens and replicas of ancient Chinese pagodas and statues. The Mid-Autumn (Moon Festival) is even celebrated in Phoenix!

Arizona is a place where one can find a wide array of cultural

influences. Through the food, jewelry, festivals and traditions, the Native American, Hispanic, and Asian American cultures can be experienced and appreciated.



Native American jewelry

World Heritage in Macao

05 Journalism
Lin Wanqi (Sadonna)

Macao is an important gateway through which Western civilization has entered China. For hundreds of years this small piece of land has experienced large amounts of cultural exchange, which has shaped its unique image. It



The inviolable Ruin of St. Paul's

also deserves to be mentioned that the historic centre of Macao has now been added to the list of World Heritage.

As the 31st World Heritage Site in China, the Historic Centre of Macao contains the oldest and the most complete array of European architectural structures in Chinese territory. It includes several historic scenic spots which can all be traveled to by foot. The local residents generally believe that the Historic Centre of Macao not only stimulates tourism, but also promotes

Macao's international status.

Macao is also famous for its gambling industry and is praised as the "Las Vegas of the East." There are plenty of glorious casinos that operate around the clock every day. In addition, some types of outdoor gambling, such as horse and greyhound racing captivate many mainland tourists in the summertime.

It would be a pity if you never tried the native cuisine of Macao. Macanese food is an excellent fusion of both Portuguese and

Asian cooking elements. If you enjoy traveling or you want to escape from your busy daily life, Macao is a suitable place for you. Here you can admire 400 years of Portuguese influence and 3,000 years of Chinese history.



Holy House of Mercy and Senado Square

Cultural Melting Pot-Xiamen

04 English
Zhang Minli (Germany)

Xiamen, the capital of Fujian province, lies on the seashore of the Taiwan Straits. As a result of its wonderful and profitable geographical position and certain historical events, there are great quantities of people who arrive there annually for import and export business and travel. In Xiamen, foreign culture meets and fuses with Chinese traditional culture. During the recent golden week, my friend and I went traveling there.

Café and Church

Walking along the streets, we were surprised to see cafes almost everywhere. We entered one that had decades of history, where we had a drink and talked with the host. He told us that over the past hundreds of years lots of Chinese have returned to Xiamen from overseas to invest and settle down there. With their return, they have brought foreign cultures and opened cafes and churches, which have flourished. When we were in Gulangyu, a small isolated island of only 1.78 km² located off the coast of Xiamen, we found six or seven existing churches. Curiously, we stepped into one church named Fuxingtang. The gatekeeper was a nice local senior. By listening to her, we learned how Xiamen had the first Christian church in China, which explains why there are a number of local Christians there at present. As we can see, foreign diet and beliefs have had a great effect on the people of Xiamen.

Cake-Gambling Festival

A local waitress told us that on the annual Mid-Autumn Day in Xiamen, they hold a Cake-Gambling Festival. Players gamble for mooncakes by throwing (掷骰子) six

dice. Whoever can throw the dice and get two *ones* and four *fours* wins all the mooncakes from the other gamblers. Local people enjoy this traditional festival a lot, especially the seniors. As we observed, people usually played among family members, neighbors and friends, and ultimately the winner shared his awarded mooncakes with others. There were no real winners and losers, but everyone did have fun. Gambling plays a significant role in building good relationships with others.

Otherwise, influenced by nearby Shantou and Taiwan, people in Xiamen love Kongfu tea and they make Taiwanese snacks quite skillfully.



Theatrical performance

In Xiamen, different kinds of customs and cultures come together. These cultures do not conflict with each other; on the contrary, they coexist harmoniously and make Xiamen colorful and charming.

English Teacher Development in EFL Contexts — TESOL Symposium

A TESOL Symposium

English Teacher Development in EFL Contexts

Guangdong Province, China
Shantou University ■ November 10, 2006

Featured Speakers

Donald Freeman
Jun Liu
David Nunan

The TESOL Symposium on English Teacher Development in EFL Contexts is sponsored by

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TESOL Education Programs
700 South Washington Street • Suite 200 • Alexandria, Virginia 22314 USA

On November 10, 2006, the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL) will hold a symposium in China at Shantou University. Founded in 1966, TESOL is a global education association with its headquarters in Washington, D.C., USA. TESOL has approximately 13,500 members in over 120 countries, and is recognized as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations Department of Public Information. This is the first time for TESOL to hold a symposium in China and it expects to attract 150 English teaching professionals from home and abroad to participate in this event.

TESOL is honored to invite Ms Wu Qidi, the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education to give the opening remarks for the symposium. Three featured speakers are Dr. Donald Freeman, Director of the School of International Training's Center for Teacher Education,

Training and Research; Dr Jun Liu, President of TESOL and Executive Director of English Language Center and Dr David Nunan, Chair Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of Hong Kong. Each of them will present highlights from their work and share their perspectives on English teacher development. Discussion sessions will follow the presentations. Professor Wen Qiufang from Nanjing University will also be invited to synthesize key speeches and give the closing remarks of the symposium. Other invited speakers include Gu Peihua, Vice President of Shantou University and Charles S. Amoroso, Jr., the Executive Director of TESOL.

The TESOL Symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for English teaching professionals in Asia to interact with experts in the field and learn more information about global trends in English Education.



Dr. Donald Freeman



Dr. Jun Liu



Dr. David Nunan

Time: November 10, 2006

Topic: English Teacher Development in EFL Contexts

Location: Shantou University, Guangdong, China

Upcoming English Festival

Zhai Wanyi
05 Liberal Arts

It will be a wonderful and exciting event. The 5th English Festival at Shantou University is coming. There is a big and free stage for all the students to showcase their talents. During the past four years, the English Festival has provided a good opportunity for all the English learners to improve their skills. This year we again have an Intercollegiate Speech Contest and an Intercollegiate Singing Contest. Both of them will be held on December 1st and 2nd. The topic of this year's speech contest is "Dare to Lead". The participants are required to prepare an essay which focuses on this topic. There will be preliminaries and semi-finals before the final contest comes. The finalists have to compete against students from Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Beihang University), Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Last year, both contests were amazing. Undoubtedly, there will be even greater competition this year. All of the applicants for the Singing Contest are required to submit an application form and record a song. For detailed information, you can visit our website at <http://ef.stu.edu.cn>. Please stay tuned for more news about the English Festival - the one event you do not want to miss this year!

English Festival Timeline:

November 4th, 2006 Speech Contest Semifinal
November 5th, 2006 Singing Contest Semifinal
December 1st, 2006 Speech Contest Final
December 2nd, 2006 Singing Contest Final

Participating Universities:

Bei Hang University
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
University of the Philippines, Diliman
Shantou University



The Shantou Beat

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Editor-in-Chief: Jun Liu

Managing Editor: Li Yuan

Assistant Editors: Robyn Wall

Kate Hardeman

Column Editors: Huang Zengfei

Jennifer Nowicky

Hou Yanmei

Zhang Weizhun

Li Yuan

Bai Xi

Lin Wanqi

Coordinators: Zhang Bingyan

Li Likui

Art Designers: Jiang Yuanting

Huang Xiaochun

Xu Yunhui

Lin Wanqi

Email: yuanli@stu.edu.cn

telephone: 0754-290-4639

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