

The Shantou Beat



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Our thoughts and wishes to those who have been affected by Sichuan earthquake



Dr. Jun Liu, ELC Executive Director

In the latest issue of *The New Yorker* (April 28, 2008), there was an article written by Evan Osnos about Crazy English: The national scramble to learn a new language before the Olympics. It talks about the impact of Crazy English on mass English learning in China in preparation for the Olympic Games, and the enthusiasm people in different walks of life have for Crazy English, which is believed to be able to help 300 million Chinese "Conquer English to make China stronger."

Over the last few years, I have been asked again and again by media and newspapers in China about my perspectives on Crazy English in China. I have turned down the opportunity several times to be interviewed by the Crazy English Magazine as I feel strongly that this is misleading, and potentially setting people up for believing in a magic formula for learning English, which, as we all know, does not exist.

Crazy about English, not Crazy English

It reminds me of the mysterious claim of Suggestopedia, an accelerated method for learning more than 2,000 new words a day by sitting in a dimly-lit lab on a soft couch with light music playing, advocated by a Bulgarian psychiatrist, Georgi Lozanov, in the early '80s. But after paying high fees to go through the program, the learners only know how quickly they forget almost 99 percent of what they have learned overnight.

Crazy English's main goal is to help learners overcome the psychological barrier, and learn to speak aloud without inhibition. Like Total Physical Response (TPR), another fashionable method in language learning in the '80s that mainly reduces what there is to learn through commands, Crazy English is limited in moving people beyond the initial enthusiasm of learning a language by shouting. It breaks down natural communication into chunks of words or phrases, forcing people to unnecessarily yell with passion what they should communicate naturally.

Ignoring the basic principles and theories in second language acquisition and foreign language learning, Crazy English mimics the earlier models in language learning that mainly rely on stimulus-response pattern drills and the aural-oral method, which came into fashion in the early '50s. We all understand the fundamental reasoning that in order to speak well, we have to have enough language input first through extensive reading and listening, and then we can try to communicate with people by using what we have learned, switching our roles from pure language learners to language users. What amazes me is that Crazy English seems to over-rely on the appreciation of one's own voice to the extent that learning English becomes a dramatic endeavour. Mentally half-drunk through soaking in the craze of wonderland, how can we expect our learners to

understand and experience the processes of learning a foreign language and strategize their own learning with communicative competence as its goal?

An overestimated belief in Crazy English is that it can greatly enhance English learning efficiency because it motivates students to learn. Since motivation has been consistently claimed to be one of the main factors for the success of learning, especially language learning, many students and parents alike, believe that if students are motivated to learn, they can learn well. However, research results indicate that motivation does not equal learning efficiency, nor learning success. Motivation is a condition for success, but other factors need to present. Only appropriate and customized learning methods or strategies, along with strong motivation, can take us far.

I doubt the effectiveness of millions of people learning English through Crazy English if indeed such a "huckster nationalism," according to the author of *China English*, Kingsley Bolton, exists and achieves what it purports to achieve. I want to urge you, my dear students at Shantou University, to move away from this craziness, and get real. There is no best method in learning English, nor is there a short-cut. Follow what you have been given through the ELC curriculum and co-curricular activities; you will eventually see the light, like Jamin (Li Zhimin from Engineering) who won first-place in the recent 13th "21st Century Lenovo Cup" National English Speaking Competition (April 13, 2008). It is the constant practice and persistent quest with extra effort and belief in yourself, coupled with the language environment which we in ELC uniquely provide for you, that will help you turn your temporary craziness into sustainable drive that will enable you to fulfill your personal goals.

Li Zhimin, the Pride of Shantou University

Sunday, April 13th, 2008 once again placed Shantou University squarely on the map of higher education and English language teaching in China. The 13th 21st Century Lenovo Cup National English Speaking Competition, which was held in Beijing that day, saw STU senior Li Zhimin, Jamin, sail through the semi-finals and finals with flying colors, leaving behind all other contestants except for three participants, one each from Beijing Foreign Studies University, Tsinghua University and Ningbo University. After a several-month-long selection process via regional contests, drawing over 10,000 hopeful participants, 63 speakers qualified to represent their schools in the Beijing event. The semi-finals in turn reduced this number further to the best 26 speakers countrywide, who competed for the honor of gaining the top award. These 26 outstanding



Jamin Li and Dr. Jun Liu

young people won the audience's hearts, delighting listeners with thoughtful speeches, impeccable English language skills and a desire to show their best. Measuring himself against China's best-trained English language wizards, Jamin not only delivered a powerful speech on the

challenges and opportunities of globalization, but left a deep impression on everybody due to his eloquence, poise and winning smile. Coming out number four among the ten first prize winners, Jamin achieved the highest honor in STU's history of participating in this renowned contest; he was rewarded with a study abroad opportunity in Australia and took away an unforgettable memory. We are proud to have him as our student and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. Our thanks go to Executive Director, Dr. Liu, for organizing this inspiring event, the Li Ka Shing foundation for sponsoring the participation of the entire ELC, and Jamin's team of indefatigable tutors and supporters for contributing to this big success.

Claudia Kunschak, ELC Assistant Director

Road to the First Prize

——An interview with Jamin Li (Li Zhimin)

Jamin Li (Li Zhimin), a senior student majoring in Electrical Engineering, won the first prize in the 13th "21st Century Lenovo Cup" National English Speaking Competition, held in Beijing from April 11th to 13th. As part of the prize, he was rewarded with a study tour in Australia and a potential job opportunity with the Lenovo Company. Li told Shantou Beat about the contest and his English learning experience.

SB: Could you use one sentence to express how you feel after winning the competition?

Li: If you want to do something well, you have to work hard; there is no other way.

SB: What are the main factors that contributed to your success?

Li: In my opinion, it is due to a combination of many factors: my hard work, my passion for public speaking and also the help from ELC coaches.

SB: We know that the English Enhancement Program (EEP) has been talked about a lot at STU. How do you think the program has benefited you?

Li: There are a number of reasons why I have benefited from the program. On the one hand, unlike the conventional teaching style in which teachers often monotonously preach about English grammar, the ELC classes are highly interactive. Being assigned to small groups, we were offered many opportunities to present our ideas using



Jamin celebrating his win

English. On the other hand, just as important, if not more important are the extracurricular activities organized by ELC, all of which have proven to be highly rewarding for my English learning. I once was a staff member at EL and EC. I went to EL frequently to practice my English. When I was a sophomore, I competed in the speech contest during the English Festival, and the next year I hosted the contest. All those experiences have helped improve my English proficiency and maintain my enthusiasm for English learning.

SB: How did your coaches help you prepare for the competition?

Li: I was lucky to have a group of ELC teachers as my coaches. I am thankful for

their help. They met up with me on a regular basis. Oftentimes, I would deliver my speeches in front of them and they would comment on my performance. With the constant training, I improved greatly on my speech delivery, such as pronunciation, intonation, hand gestures and facial expressions. Furthermore, the diverse perspectives of foreign and local teachers provided me with a great chance to critically examine the same issue from different angles.

SB: From your English learning experience, what tips do you have for students who want to improve their English?

Li: A simple answer, "practice more". Everybody knows that. It is just about how we are going to do that and how well we

can keep doing that. Here are some of my experiences with English reading, writing, listening and speaking.

For reading, reading English newspapers is helpful. I improved my vocabulary and comprehension of complex sentences by reading CNN online and The New York Times. I love reading international news since I am interested in politics and world affairs.

For writing, I practice by writing essays on different topics and if I have time, I sometimes go back and revise them. Also, after you read articles in English, you can even try using some of the sentence structures that you encounter in your writing. In this way, reading helps your writing, too.

For listening, I listened to BBC, CNN or VOA a lot. I once owned a short-wave radio and I used it to receive those programs. As for speaking, of course, speak more. Take advantage of every opportunity to speak in English. Make full use of the ELC classes and speak up when you get a chance. Go to EL or EC often.

Remember, what matters is persistence. Learning English, or any language for that matter, is never an overnight success.

Yang Minyuan 05 Journalism,
Huang Yuepeng 05 English

Testing, testing!!

Tests! Just as death and taxes are certain for most people, tests are certain for most Chinese students. With this in mind, the whole ELC body, teachers and staff, attended a forum in Beijing on April 14 to coincide with the Thirteenth, 21st Century, Lenovo Cup Speaking Competition. The purpose of this forum was to examine and consider different aspects of Assessing Oral Communication.

The forum was hosted and chaired by Dr. Jun Liu. With a firm hand on the controls he brought together distinguished guests from TESOL, ETS, the BBC and Cambridge University Examination Services.

Welcoming speeches were given by Nie Lisheng, Editor-in-Chief, 21st Century magazine and Ms. Sandra Briggs, President of TESOL. Mr. Nie outlined the topics that would be covered in this forum and the interest his publication has in

promoting the use of English in China. Ms. Briggs then gave an informative description of the growth of the TESOL organization paralleling the rapid growth of English Language use around the world.

The focus of the forum was to consider specific practices in testing for oral language proficiency. Dr. Jun Liu started with a presentation of the T-BEST test, with which all STU students are familiar, as it is the basis for placing all incoming students into appropriate levels for further instruction within the ELC program.

Mr. Daniel Tumposky, from Education Testing Services (ETS), gave us a view of the procedures used by his organization to measure the validity of large scale oral assessments, such as the TOEFL test. The main point was about the evidence that such large scale evaluations provide for examination of the effectiveness of this type of test and how this evidence can then be

used to improve the validity of the test.

A fascinating and interactive presentation was given by Ms. Li Yang and Mr. Andrew Thompson from the BBC, of how an English Language instructional program is created and tested for its relevance to a diverse audience of language learners from around the world. They also went on to discuss the type of accents which are now used to present these programs to reflect the very wide range of people now using English in their daily lives.

Ms. Angela French from Cambridge University Examination Services gave us a very measured and thoughtful analysis of the relationships between testers and testees in situations where candidates for oral examinations are required to interact with each other. She went on to describe the criteria for tests in accordance with the Common European Framework (CEF) and



Dr. Jun Liu, giving a presentation of the T-BEST test

other tests conducted under the guidance of Cambridge University, such as BEC, IELTS and BULATS.

All in all, these speakers illustrated some parts of the spectrum of views that exist on the subject of oral language testing. The audience was well informed by these experts in their respective fields of study and the time was well spent in opening the subject for further discussion.

ELC teacher Alan B Fenwick

Let Showing Talent Become a Part of Your Life

Do you have confidence in yourself? Have you ever had a great desire to show your talent on the stage? If you have not tried this before, but are interested in it, please follow me. I will take you to the English Talent Show, which was hosted by CEC on May 11th, where you can find out the meaning of showing talent to your peers.

After a hot dance by CEC members, the creative contestants came forward with their introductions. Each of them expressed passion and creativity in only one minute. Then, the MC announced the start of the competition. The contestants brought us a wonderful audiovisual feast. Meeno gave us a heated speech from Abraham Lincoln. Potter's classic song won the loudest applause. Siumlin's speech sent us into meditation. Reakl's soulful song impressed us deeply. In fact, what moved us most was not their talent, but their great confidence and enthusiasm.



CEC English Talent Show participants with CEC advisors Pat and Henry

Perhaps all the contestants would say, "I came, I saw, I conquered myself." And the audience might say, "I came, I saw, I was conquered by the contestants." As the Canadian student Steven Marshall said, it was very impressive how

well-prepared the contestants were.

Audiences were moved by the story about Kinki (07 Chinese), one of the contestants. First, Kinki was told that she had lost the contest in the first round. But she didn't believe it, so she called the organizers and asked whether or not they had made a mistake. Why did she do a thing like this? "Because I am so confident and I believe in myself," she said. "Most importantly, I have a strong desire to show my talent." Her attitude was the spirit that the judges really wanted to see from the contestants and they had done it.

Showing your talent doesn't mean showing off. In fact, it is a reflection of your self-confidence and self-affirmation, which was the significance that the English Talent Show held for all involved. Let showing talent become a part of your life.

Lai Rui Jing 06 Engineering

Visitors Have Their Window on ELC Widened



Introducing EC Programs



Kids with David Stearns



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helped to move the chairs, post the fliers, connect the projector and laptop, test the microphones and conduct rehearsals.

Crowds of students and families began to come in at 9:00am. Three organizations took turns introducing their activities and performing their prepared programs. EC brought out its Warm-Up Game, Amazing Image and Model Congress, while the EL staff hosted the Mini-Speech Contest and CEC presented a musical performance. Waves of laughter rippled throughout the room and a lot of questions were raised by the visitors.

For the curious kids who had just stepped onto a college campus for the first time, meeting foreign teachers was the most interesting and exciting experience. "Where do you live? What is your favorite vegetable? Do you like football?" a 10-year-old boy fixed his eyes on David Stearns and put what he had learned from a local English institute into practice. "I was happy that six foreign teachers volunteered to come to support STU students and talk to visitors," said Elinor Westfold, the EC advisor who helped invite ELC teachers. "The level of involvement of foreigners and cooperation between foreigners and locals are two of the things that make STU and ELC special, and I hope that visitors got a chance to see that."

Chen Zhile 06 Journalism

Mini Speech, Big Experience

Chen Yan Hong 06 Journalism

A Mini Speech Contest was held in English Lounge recently. This is a new activity in EL which will be held weekly as a routine activity. This competition is organized in the first three weeks every month while the final contest is set for the last week, where the best nine contestants chosen from the weekly contests will compete with each other for a final prize.

Now EL has already conducted the Mini Speech Contest for a month and many students have participated in it. The top three contestants of this past month were Liang Ruiyun, Chen Chengwu and Mai Liming. First prize was awarded to

Lounge opened wide its big glass doors, welcoming outsiders to enjoy English inside. The reason for this development was special: STU was having its first Opening Day. The ELC was responsible for presenting its best to the public and EL serves as the headquarters for all English activities for visitors.

Early on the morning of May 1st, volunteers from English Corner, English Lounge and Creative Expression Club arrived at EL to decorate their showcases. "Let me place these newspapers like a blooming flower on the desks," said Amber Zhong, an EC staffer, as she pointed at a stack of Shantou Beat newspapers on the floor. Other volunteers

Liang Ruiyun.

Potter Chan, an EL staff member, is in charge of this activity. He said that the aim of the Mini Speech Contest is to provide more chances for guests in EL to enhance their English skills, including oral English, public speaking and critical thinking strategies.

"English Lounge will invite winners of 'Semester at Sea', exchange students at Whitman College, managers from EC, EL or CEC, and ELC teachers, as well as the top five contestants in the English Festival activities to be the judges," said Chan. Judges will comment on contestants' performances based on different aspects, such as stage manner, pronunciation and use of language. What's more, they will give participants some suggestions and share their experiences with them, in order to help improve their general abilities in English public speaking.

The Mini Speech Contest will still be held next semester. It will provide preparation for the English Festival Speech

Contest and a good opportunity to choose some strong contestants for that very important event. In order to encourage students to take part in this new activity, students will be given double stamps for their English Extra-Curricular Participation Records, which are required as an ELC 4 assignment outside class.



Summer, 1 place winner of the first EL Mini Speech Contest



Brief Introduction to Cross Country

Cross Country 2008, sponsored by ELC, took place on May 17. Seventeen groups of four signed up for this activity and finally 13 of them were enrolled as participants. A group named "The Couples" won the first prize, "Fighting" came in second and "Drive Baby" was third.

The organizers made the Beijing Olympics the theme of this year's Cross Country. It consisted of two parts, the game segment and the Q&A segment. There were five stations during the first part, called Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying, and Nini. Each of them had several games for the participants to compete in. After finishing up, the participants were required to go back to the English Lounge and get ready for the second part: the Q&A section. All of the questions were related to the Olympics and getting the right answers could help cut down the minute counts. In the end, those who finished up with the best time record won.

Tang Yin, one of the organizers remarked that this activity had only a few flaws which didn't hurt much. "We should have given each volunteer a logo to make them easily recognizable. The participants could thus turn to them for help if necessary," he added that the activity was successful and the students enjoyed it.

Huang Xingxing, 06 Journalism

Chatting with Canadian Students

Chat with: Bianca Courtright

Topic: Language of Music connects Culture

"Music is an International language," Bianca said. "We can play and enjoy music together no matter what cultural background we are from." With 15 years of experience playing violin, Bianca Courtright, from the University of Calgary has mastered a high level of proficiency and a deep understanding of music.

It is true that the language of music is hard to resist. When Bianca played violin on campus recently, the brisk and beautiful sound led many people to stop and listen. "I cannot speak Mandarin, but I can use music to communicate," said Bianca, with a radiant smile.

The biggest honor Bianca has ever received was her participation in the National Youth

Chat with: Eric

Topic: A Canadian Chinese

Eric: Shantou University has a beautiful environment, but the buildings are a little old. What interests me most is that the classrooms are like a maze. This is my first time visiting mainland China. I moved to Canada when I was ten. Since then, every year I have gone back to Taiwan. The main reason I came here is that I want to learn more about my mother tongue. My family members originate from Fujian. I know the local language of Shantou is allied to the Fujian and Taiwanese dialects. I have found that people here will ignore me when I am with my classmates from Canada. I remember when I was in English Lounge once and a student came to talk with me only after Rob, another student from Canada, told them I came from Canada, too. The other reason I came here is the food. I'm a big fan of delicious food. Food here is different and authentic.

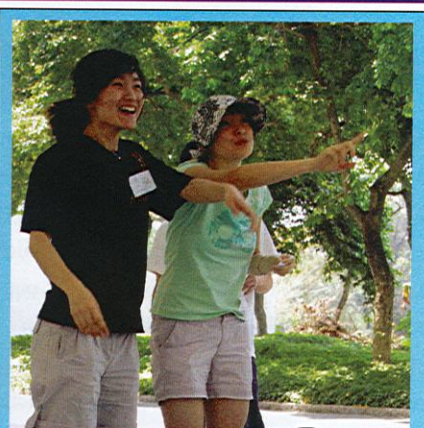


Eric and Li Likui

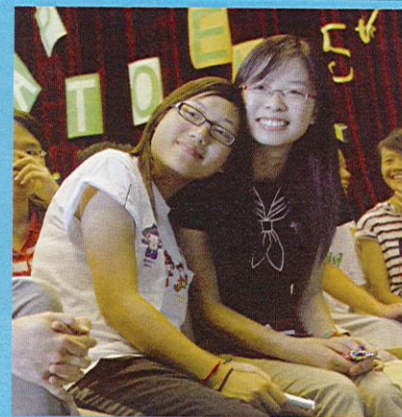
Li Likui, 06 journalism



We did some preparation before this competition. We sorted ourselves into pairs after we knew the basic rules of the game. We were well-equipped though Wesley said he suffered from insomnia (ha ha).
He Lizhu, 05 English



It proved to be a great game and we loved it a lot. We all did a good job though we couldn't make it to the top three. It was my problem. I did a bad job in running. Anyway, we had lots of fun.
Chen Zhao, 06 Law



We won the first prize and we were wild with joy! Knowledge is power and I think we just deserved it!

Li Shan,
06 Journalism (from the Champion group)



It was a great game yet there were still some problems that needed to be fixed. The first part was a bit of a mess and we didn't know who we could turn to for help. Even some volunteers didn't seem to know much about the rules of the game.
Wang Yuzhen, 06 Journalism

---A group of Canadian students came to STU's campus as part of a cooperative course with the Business School and the University of Calgary.

Orchestra of Canada, which allowed her to travel to some big cities, such as Toronto and Ottawa. Majoring in Engineering, Bianca hasn't stopped playing the violin because of too much homework. She simply can't imagine how her life would be without music. To her, music is her passion, while engineering is her career. So she plays music as her leisure enjoyment, at times even performing in other students' wedding ceremonies.

Bianca describes herself as energetic because she likes traveling, making friends, and now especially enjoys learning about Chinese people and their culture. She has also been willing to play violin for her new Chinese friends as a way of communicating through music.

Ye Huitao 06 Journalism

Chat with: Alexandra Nuth
Topic: Image of China
Alexandra Nuth: We spent roughly a week in Beijing before we started our trip to Shantou and then I noticed the major difference in heat. Calgary was very cold when we left but Beijing definitely is not. Shantou is even 15 degrees hotter than Beijing.

It seems to me that in China, everything is quite in order. I went to the auditorium for a Rock & Roll music concert Saturday night. It was excellent though a bit different from what we have at home. In Calgary, everyone in a music concert stands, yelling and dancing.

Canadian students spend a lot of time off campus while Chinese students don't. I worked about 20 hours a week in Calgary and I could pay my tuition though I didn't have much left. The students here all value education very much. They never take it for granted. I visited English Lounge, where tons of students come and chat. They are so eager to practice English and very motivated as well.

Huang Xingxing, 06 Journalism



Alexandra and Xingxing

What a Difference a Teacher can Make

Many students in China, especially those from the countryside, never complete their studies. There are several reasons to explain this. One is that there isn't enough money to buy teaching materials; another is there are few qualified teachers. As a result of these and other factors, a lot of students give up before 9th grade. In fact, I would be one of them if I hadn't met my homeroom teacher.

Before 8th grade my study result was poor. What I thought about most was playing soccer and having fun, but not

studying. Consequently, I did poorly in school and I had no confidence in myself. Even worse, my math teacher in 8th grade ridiculed me in class. He always said to me, "You are a fool," or "That question is so easy that anyone could work it out except you." I often thought about quitting school at that time.

Luckily, my homeroom teacher was very different from this teacher. He encouraged me and built up my confidence. He would often tell me, "Believe in yourself, you can catch up with others and finally surpass

them." I used this as my motto and it spurred me on after I had failed to do something well.

After a long time, my improved study habits and attitude began to show results. When I was in the second semester of 8th grade, I took a test held by my school District in Anshan city, Liaoning province, and I reached the 20th position among three hundred top students in the whole district. All my hard work finally paid off.

What I want to say is that a teacher can make a big difference in a student's life. If a

teacher encourages his/her students, rather than mocking and ridiculing them, I think it will help students like me a lot. I can't imagine where I would be if my homeroom teacher hadn't encouraged me. Maybe I'd be working in a factory or a restaurant or I could even be in prison.

Today I am a postgraduate student, and I feel I can overcome any problem with the self-confidence I have gained. Sometimes, it takes a teacher to give us the encouragement we need not to give up.

PG Business
Li Wenpeng



Kristin and her students

Expand Your Skills through Journaling

My post-graduate students must write 5-6 pages a week in their journals. The topics can be anything related to their personal life - their memories of the past, the present situation, their future dreams. The goal is not perfect grammar or essay structure but just to write and express their feelings, thoughts, and ideas. Journal-writing can help students develop fluency and better language awareness. The stories here have been revised from original journal entries. One is about spring festival traditions in North and South China. The other two are about school memories before college. I hope you enjoy the stories.

-Kristin Helland

Lying in Bed Chatting

PG Business
Lai Yu

High school was the first time I had ever lived in an apartment with classmates, since my home was far away. I still remember the Room number 502, which is a famous glue brand. My roommates and I got along well with each other. We always chatted, lying in bed, before entering Dreamland.

We talked about many topics, such as our courses, recent exams and the universities we wanted to enter, but more often, we talked about football stars, important matches, such as FIFA World Cup, and of course, the beautiful girl in the next class.

We always recall how we used to lie in bed and chat together when we have a reunion of high school friends. It's really funny.

However, everything changed when I got to college. I no longer think about lying in bed chatting with my classmates.

There might be some reasons for this phenomenon. First of all, having computers, most of us played computer games, watched movies or viewed websites before bed. These were all activities that we did alone. Secondly, many students in college didn't want to share with roommates their values, goals or personal ideas. Some of them considered their classmates as competitors so they didn't want them to know their actions on study, entering students' societies or other things they thought would help in pursuing a good job after graduation.

In my opinion, it's unhealthy to always stay in front of the computer, especially before going to bed. It makes you too excited to fall asleep. Furthermore, it's short-sighted to worry about others doing better than you. Actually you are competing not only with your roommates, but also the college students around the world. Your roommates should be your best teammates. We should help each other, share knowledge and experiences, and improve our abilities, especially we should raise team awareness which is important nowadays. Last but not least, it's amazing for us, coming from different places, to be roommates in college. This experience of living together is the best period of our lives and is really worth cherishing.

Celebrating the Spring Festival in North China

PG Law
Lu Yuling

This year's spring festival was different from other years. Many areas of Northern China had snow disasters. Fortunately, my hometown escaped the snow disaster and I could enjoy the beautiful snowy scenery. I made a lovely snowman with my brother and my friends in our yard. We dressed him with a red hat, a pair of my grandma's glasses and a red chili pepper for his nose. We played with snow balls and had a "snow ball fight." It seemed that we had gone back to childhood and brought back a lot of beautiful memories.

Like every family in China, we made a lot of food for celebrating and entertaining guests. In Northern China, people eat jiaozi on New Year's Eve, while people eat glutinous rice balls in Southern China. Rice balls are a sign of safety and reunion, and jiaozi symbolizes prosperity in the coming year, because the shape of jiaozi is very similar to old Chinese coins.

In my hometown, we have a special tradition of making one jiaozi with a small coin inside and another with a piece of candy

inside on New Year's Eve. If you eat the one with a coin, it means that you will make much money in the coming year. If you eat the one with candy, it means that you will be good at communicating with others in the coming year. I was lucky, I ate the one with a coin.

On New Year's Eve, most people in China paste couplets on their doors for good wishes for the coming year. In the North, the colors of the couplets are red, purple and green. People usually paste red couplets with pictures and words; however, if someone has died in one's family in the past year, people will paste purple or green couplets with white words to remember their loved one for three years.

People also like to hang red lanterns to celebrate and welcome the New Year. The lanterns also let the dead see the way clearly to their home so they can celebrate the spring festival together with their families. People also light a lot of fire crackers. These are the traditions that I will remember and pass on to future generations.

Passover and Easter: Two Spring Holidays

ELC Teacher
Yuan Mingming

ions - Easter Egg Hunts
children believe the Easter Bunny
eggs and candy for them
Easter Bunny or parents will hope
the children to find



Beth and Ora

On April 1, three days before the Qingming Festival, China's own celebration of spring, students at Shantou University had a chance

to appreciate how other cultures rejoice in the season of promise and hope. Ora Karee and Beth Rathe, teachers from the English Language Center, shared the story of two western spring holidays: Passover and Easter.

Passover is intertwined with the history and religion of Jews. However, this did not prevent Chinese students from understanding it. "Being a Jew has nothing to do with your DNA," Ora said to a crowd of students in the Science Hall. Students learnt about the history, tradition and special food of the

holiday, and were also treated with a Jewish Passover song.

For many students in the Science Hall, it might have been a revelation that Easter means more than chocolate and dyed eggs. Beth shared with the audience the religious origin and the customs of Easter, as well as her own experience of trying to dye Easter eggs using dragon fruit skin this year at Shantou University. The students also got their own chance to try hunting for Easter eggs in the Hall. The practical demonstration

sparked much joy and fun.

In the Q & A session, a student expressed concern about the loss of Chinese tradition. "Why do so many Chinese forget our own holidays?" he asked. Students and the speakers also exchanged views on the commercialization of holidays, cultural tolerance, the importance of freedom, and many other interesting issues.

The lecture was the first installment of ELC's Faculty Lecture Series coordinated by Philippe Bierny.

English, Omnipresent and Omnipotent

07 Engineering
Wu Yuting

ELC faculty members Gabriel Fang and Mingming Yuan gave a lecture entitled "English - Omnipresent and Omnipotent" on the evening of April 9, 2008. The lecture attracted many students with its special title and attractive topic.

English is a language which we have learnt for many years, but what is the background of this language? Gabriel kicked off the lecture, listing some sample words that showed how English has been influenced by many other languages and

how we can find the signs of other languages in English words. Then he introduced the history, economy and customs of the UK and the USA, from where English developed and spread. Using these three aspects, he explained why English has become a worldwide language.

As English is spreading throughout the world, many different varieties of English are beginning to appear. Therefore, Mingming showed us some words and phrases from Chinglish, a kind of English used in China.

While looking at Chinglish and thinking of the mistakes they make in their English study, students could not help laughing. Mingming continuously introduced the reasons why Chinglish appears and why we use Chinglish without realizing it.

At the end of the lecture, the two speakers patiently answered the audience's questions. During this Q&A session, other ELC teachers also joined the discussions, chiming in on such questions as "Will Chinese take the place of English?" and "

Can foreigners understand Chinglish?"

At last, the lecture ended with a big round of applause and anticipation for the next lecture in the Faculty Lecture Series.



Gabriel and Mingming

Environmentalism in the US, Europe and China

07 Science
Luo Guanshui



From L to R: Kristin, Claudia and Rita

On Earth Day of 2008, a crowd of students gathered in the Science Hall to attend a lecture on environmentalism. The lecture, entitled "Thinking Green around the Globe: Environmentalism in the US, Europe and China," was presented by ELC teachers Kristin Helland, Claudia Kunschak, and Rita Zheng.

Kristin was the first to give her speech on environmentalism in the US. She first listed some key words, such as ecology, land ethic, endangered species and conservationist. Then she mentioned some of the people who have been important to the environmental movement, such as Gaylord Nelson who founded Earth Day and banned the use of DDT. She also mentioned anti-pollution campaigns across the US, which have been successful. Kristin ended her speech with the hope that the environment will be better in the future.

Claudia's speech referred to many international organizations around the world, including WWF and Greenpeace, whose goals are to stop climate change and to protect ancient forests. During the speech, Claudia emphasized what we can do to protect the environment. As she said, students should try to be a model to their classmates by doing their best to protect the environment in daily life.

Rita, a local ELC instructor, said that the quality of the environment in China is getting worse because of industrial pollution, agricultural pollution, and land pollution. China has become aware of these issues and has taken a series of measures. Rita discussed some big events on environmental protection in China, including environmental protection laws passed by the National People's Congress in 1983, and the Industrial Law published by the State Environmental Protection Administration in 1998.

Home Away From Home

ELC teacher
Philippe Bierny

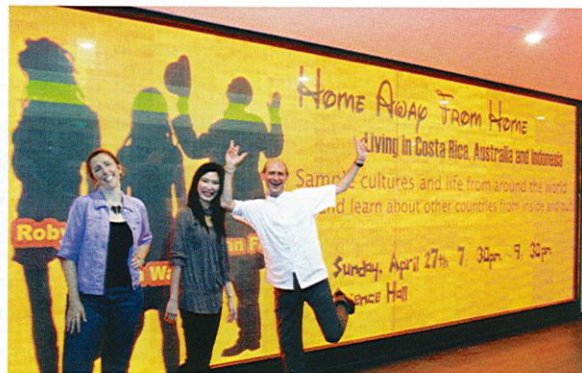
What do hammocks on the beach, pizza, and active volcanoes have in common? They were just a few of the topics discussed on Sunday, April 29, in the final installment of the English Language Center's 2008 Faculty Lecture Series. In the lecture, ELC teachers Robyn Wall, Ada Wang and Alan Fenwick shared their joys, difficulties, experiences and photos from living in Costa Rica, Australia and Indonesia, respectively.

While studying Spanish in Costa Rica, Robyn lived in a house with a family of 11 locals and was deeply touched by the warmth and openness that they showed her. She was also struck by the people's close relationship to their natural surroundings, eating in open-air restaurants and often sleeping in hammocks between palm trees along one of the country's famous beaches or in its tropical rainforests.

Ada studied for her Master's degree in the concrete jungle of Sydney, Australia. Ada confessed her difficulties in adjusting to the new culture as she concentrated on her studies and a part-time job at a pizza parlor. She exhorted students not to forget their own identities and to be proud to be Chinese even if they find themselves far from home.

Alan brought a more personal touch to the evening's presentations, introducing the audience to his Indonesian wife and her family. He taught students a number of useful Indonesian phrases and described the environment of the crowded Bandung valley surrounded by potentially deadly volcanoes. In spite of its differences, Alan claimed that the similarity of the city's culture and surrounding rice paddies to Shantou played an important role in helping him to feel comfortable here.

Robyn, Ada and Alan had very different experiences in very different places during very different periods in their lives, but obviously those experiences continue to affect them deeply. They hope that more and more STU students will also have a chance to participate first-hand in new cultures and ways of life.



From L to R: Robyn, Ada and Alan

A Small Peep at Chaoshan Gong-fu Tea

05 English
Zhai Wanyi

Do you know how to appreciate Chaoshan Gong-fu tea? Xinxiazi, the minister of the Cha Tao club in Shantou University, who has been practicing the Ceremony recently, is willing to lead the way.

Actually, Gong-fu tea is a tea species, which originated in the Song Dynasty (A.D 960-1279). It is not only popular in the Chaoshan area, but also in the Zhangzhou and Quanzhou areas. The delicate tea sets,

special brewing techniques and drinking procedure attract the interest of people all over the world. Gong-fu tea combines spirit, ritual, brewing technique, art, and appreciation into one. Just as Xinxiazi said, "Tea drinking is a pastime and a social activity to build a good relationship with others and a good approach to keeping fit as well."

The exquisite tea set includes a pot and three cups in most cases, sometimes two or

four cups. According to Xinxiazi, the tea set has its unique symbolic meaning. For example, the cover, the body and the bottom of the teapot symbolize the sky, people and the earth respectively. Therefore, the teapot symbolizes the harmony between people and nature. Moreover, the three cups symbolize a Chinese character "Pin" which means appreciation and morality.

In conclusion, Chaoshan Gong-fu tea has its profound historic and cultural

elements. Hopefully, Chaoshan people will pass on this tradition from generation to generation.



A ceramic tea set

Natives of Chaoshan in Foreign Lands

05 Law
Zheng Haidan



From L to R: Leanne, Gabriel and Ada

Three local teachers, Leanne, Gabriel and Ada, who have studied in Canada, UK, and Australia respectively, shared their experiences of studying and living abroad with the *Shantou Beat*. The unfamiliar exotic cultures differ from Chaoshan on convictions and lifestyle, and give us interesting insights.

Convictions

Compared to Chaoshanese, the pursuit of independence, individualism and freedom are convictions that live in the

Westerners' bones, as Leanne, Ada and Gabriel explained.

Talking about independence, Leanne appreciated the independence of Canadians and succeeded in following them—she found her first job on her own, which was the highlight of her life in Canada. Canadians like to deal with problems that arise in their lives independently rather than lean on others, while most Chaoshanese rely on their relationships. Ada added that both Chaoshanese and Australians value the family in most cases. What's different is that the former often dote on their children too much and don't allow them to be independent.

As for freedom and individualism, Gabriel took his schoolmates wearing flip-flops to the library as an example to illustrate that Westerners live with their hearts; they don't want to be restricted by some unnecessary rules about formality. Ada said Australians think they have the right to choose their clothing style no matter how unique it is, while Chaoshanese must wear formal suits to avoid criticism from other people. For Chaoshanese the more formal the suit is, the more dignified they are.

Lifestyle

How the foreigners spend leisure time and entertain themselves amazed the three teachers when they were abroad.

The attitudes toward festivals are different from country to country. "Unlike Chaoshanese, most Canadians are more relaxed in every way. Even when a big festival comes, most Canadians just have small parties to celebrate. For them, festivals are just a regular part of life," Leanne commented. Gabriel explained that even a small festival would be a big event for Chaoshanese, who like to visit friends or relatives when a big festival comes. Ada said festivals for Australians are for enjoying the break, and the shops close early. However, Chaoshanese still stay busy to earn money by selling festival gifts.

The ways of enjoying entertainment are diverse also. Gabriel said, though British people are crazily working and studying, the pace of life in Leeds, the place where he studied in the UK, is not as fast as that of the Chaoshan Area. The locals in Leeds go to bars when they have leisure time. The pub culture of the UK can be seen all over the world. "It's so amazing to see many drunkards lie on the street overnight too," Ada added. Instead of going to pubs or singing karaoke, Leanne said most Canadians prefer physical training.

The experience of studying or living abroad can give us a picture of how foreigners lead their lives. Although some of the differences can be shocking at first, Leanne, Gabriel and Ada were able to adapt to their new surroundings and gained a better understanding of the world.

Life as an International Student in Canada

ELC Teacher
Haley Zheng

If seeing is believing, then you simply have to see Canada. Otherwise, you won't believe the expanse of the land, or the feeling of serenity that the constant, distant horizon brings to your soul. Regina, the Capital City of Saskatchewan, is located in the Mid-West of Canada. It is my home away from home.

It all began when my two elder cousins decided to go to Canada for their degrees. I was tempted to pursue a degree in Canada as well. I thought it would be nice to get away from the large population in China, avoid the great pressures in local universities, experience a different life, have fun and earn a prestigious degree.

Coming from a city in the Tropic of Cancer, the first few days in Canada were very exciting, but a drastic change. Perhaps you would think that getting away from the watching eyes of your parents would be the best occurrence ever in your life, but living in a foreign country, you need to cope with all the difficulties by yourself. Living in a foreign country is not as easy as I had expected, and obstacles in real life are inevitable. Since it was my own choice, I tried hard to overcome all the difficulties and make sure my parents would not worry about me.

The great struggle of my life began when the new semester started. For the first weeks, I could hardly understand what the lecturers were teaching. It wasn't that I couldn't understand the theories or concepts, but I couldn't understand their English. Despite the fact that I had been studying English as a foreign language for 10 years, I simply could not understand their accents. Most of them did not speak standard American English. There were French accents, German accents, British accents and many other accents from all around the world. To make things worse, some lecturers scribbled which made their handwriting illegible. Even if I could make out what it was, I still had to go back through the notes back at home, because I was bound to misread the handwriting. It took many weeks before I started to understand the different accents and the lecturers' handwriting.

Hanging around with my multinational roommates did help me a lot. I was living in harmony with my roommates: a Nigerian, a Mexican and a Canadian. We joked together, played together and ate together. Thanks to the excellent cooks in our suite, I learnt to make lasagna, pizza and even homemade bread.

If you have a chance to come to Canada for further studies, seize the opportunity. You are not just getting a degree there, but learning to be independent and have fun. It is a wonderful experience and I have no regrets about getting a degree in Canada.



Haley enjoying a day of skiing

First Chinese Nobel Laureate Taking STU by Storm



Mr. Yang Zhenning lectures to STU students

Renowned physicist Yang Zhen-ning, the first Chinese Nobel Prize winner, presented a lecture called, "The Groundbreaking Discovery of 1957: Parity Non-Conservation in Weak Force Interactions" at STU on Monday night, May 5, 2008. His presence in front of the crowded auditorium with his wife drew a standing ovation from the crowd.

The 86-year-old Nobel laureate elaborated the illuminating discovery of parity violation by describing how he and his partner Li Zhen Dao, also a Chinese Nobel Laureate, unexpectedly overthrew the long-held space time symmetry law in the late 1950s. He praised the efforts of physicist Wu Jinxing, who experimentally verified their almost forgotten principle. She also specified the far-reaching influence of the theory through further study of parity symmetry, neutrino, and charges conjugation. Mr. Yang's speaking style, combined with easily understood explanations and lighthearted quips, naturally struck a chord with the audience.

During the Q & A session, students needed no encouragement to ask questions. The lively discussion ranged from the subject of the Chinese educational system to growing pains, from college romance to the national Olympics obsession. The world-famous physicist also gave some very practical and inspirational advice to the audience about academic choice and life planning.

Yang's remarkable visit with his wife, Weng Fan, brought media attention to STU. The following days also witnessed a campus obsession with the couple, who got to know each other in 1995, when Yang and his previous wife attended an international conference at STU, with the then freshman Weng in charge of the reception. Students curiously sought Wing's pictures on the school BBS and asked for her comments on her alma mater during her first return in 13 years.

06 English
Ke Rensi

Torch Relay Ignites Passion in Shantou

06 Journalism
Ye Huitao

It was a rainy day on May 10th, an unusual day for the history of Shantou – the city welcomed the Olympic flame.

"The temperature has lowered, but our passion keeps still," commented 19-year-old Haoxin Huang, who painted many fancy flags on his face, as many others did. He expressed great wishes for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The torch relay, a carnival for the Chaoshan area, went along a route of 36 kilometers, beginning at Longhu District and ending at the training base of the Chinese diving team. The torchbearers joined dozens of Olympic champions, especially twins who represented the five mascots of the Beijing Olympics along the route. The final celebration ceremony was put on at Renmin Square.

Along the way, the torch evoked endless enthusiasm and passion from the people. In the morning when the rain was at its heaviest, people moved and shook their umbrellas to honor the torch. The flame glittered as the rain drops hit.

After an afternoon of relaying, the torch reached its last stop at Renmin Square at 4 pm, where a multitude of people had assembled. It was a sea of red flags waving frantically, multicolored balloons and excited faces. The audience roared with "Come on, Beijing! Come on Olympics! Come on Shantou!" because the torch had arrived successfully. At last, the Mayor Zongze Cai, along with Olympic diving champion Shuwei Sun, lit the last flame on the top of the diving stadium. While looking up to the raging flame burning, people could feel the spirit of the Olympics—peace, love, and friendship.

"The Beijing Olympic torch today lit up our Shantou people's enthusiasm," Government spokesman Darong Deng said, "We will put the patriotic enthusiasm for the Olympic Games into a new impetus to the future construction of Shantou."



Torchbearers igniting the torch

2008 ELC Film Series Begins

The 2008 English Language Center Film Series started on May 11th. The final movie selections are *Philadelphia* (1993), *Erin Brockovich* (2000), *Thank You For Smoking* (2005), and *Blood Diamond* (2006). They are the best representatives of "Advocacy in Action: Addressing Social Issues through Film," which is the theme of this year's series.



Thank You for Smoking Poster

Michael Clayton, which was first selected as the main movie, was cancelled in favor of *Erin Brockovich*. Movies originally chosen all had a majority of male characters, so Film Series organizer, Kyle McIntosh, decided to add *Erin Brockovich*, which features a female lead character.

ACC Room 3 was full of participants on the opening night. The atmosphere was a little bit different from the Film Series held last semester. Kyle gave students a brief introduction before showing *Philadelphia*. After the film, the audience's discussion drew more attention to the social issues shown in the film. The Film Series this year is intended to help students understand what social issues the movies address and what type of attention the films received in society when they were released.

Movies selected this semester are critical and a little bit serious. "There is no 'too serious' about it because you are college students now. You should use your mind, not only watch movies for entertainment," Kyle said. After *Philadelphia*, there was group discussion. It was a sad movie, so it was difficult for students to begin the discussion. After a while, they started to express themselves naturally.

"I felt satisfied about the group discussion," Kyle said with a smile. The second film *Erin Brockovich* was shown on Wednesday, May 14th.

06 Journalism
Li Ziying

The Shantou Beat

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