

THE SHANTOU BEAT

April 2005

English Language Center Newspaper

Vol.5

From ELC to TESOL

A Message from Dr. Jun Liu, the ELC Executive Director



It was 2:30 a.m. on January 12, 2005, in Shantou when I received a call from the Central Office of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.) in Washington, DC. They informed me that the TESOL election results had been counted, and I am the new TESOL president-elect. I will assume this additional position while continuing my work as ELC Director.

I was both surprised and not surprised by the news of my election. First, I was pleasantly surprised because I am the first non-native English speaker in TESOL's 40-year history to lead this important international association with more than 17,000 members. However, I was not surprised to learn that the TESOL membership had enough faith in non-native speakers to elect one as their next president. This marks an era in which non-native-speaking teachers of English can rise from within the profession. The TESOL membership has come to the understanding that we are all professionals, and we are equal.

As a Chinese working at Shantou University I feel especially proud, though certainly aware of the pressures at the same time. In this issue of Shantou Beat, I would like to share with you my

vision as TESOL president-elect of what I would like to do to lead the association during the next three years.

I will focus on three major areas pertinent to TESOL today as a profession as well as an association. First and foremost, I will continue to promote TESOL to reach ESL and EFL teachers in every corner

of the world to ensure that the association is truly a global community. As such, I will support efforts to implement new TESOL governance models to empower members to take leadership roles in the affiliates, interest sections, caucuses, committees and beyond. TESOL's current demographics show that almost 80 percent of our members are US-based. In order to make TESOL more international, we have to be aggressive in expanding our international membership. Of course, I want all of our teachers at the English Language Center at Shantou University to become TESOL members.

Secondly, I believe that TESOL is an association for all its members and therefore, I am keen on working with the TESOL board - and the central office in Washington, DC as a whole - to enhance our responsiveness to the membership needs and improve member satisfaction. I will also support the development of financial resources to help expand member services and to assist with increasing TESOL's membership worldwide.

Third, I will focus on strengthening the academic and professional rigor of TESOL's conventions, symposia, and services as well as encourag-

ing all types of TESOL-related research that can be synthesized and disseminated to help improve classroom practices. Over the past few years, TESOL has tried to reach out to other professional organizations and associations to find commonalities and explore areas of mutual interest. The colloquium on TESOL and AAAL connections featured in the 2004 TESOL Convention is one of the examples. I believe there are many more such connections that TESOL can learn and benefit from. Although individual researchers are engaging in different kinds of research, and are making contributions to their respective fields, having a comprehensive research agenda will put TESOL in a position to create the future.

Being a TESOL president is not easy as it takes a tremendous amount of time and energy to do the job, and to do it well. I am fully anticipating the large workload ahead of me in the next few years. But I will find my job more rewarding if the members resonate with my perspectives and contribute to the joint endeavor to realize our vision. As a Chinese working in both China and the US, I am often faced with the different understandings and expectations towards teaching English from TESOL members and nonmembers. I am especially encouraged by the vision, energy, and enthusiasm of my colleagues at the English Language Center at Shantou University who work so hard to make sure that we are serving the needs of our students, and to improve their overall communicative competence. If my role as TESOL president-elect is to lead the international association to a higher level of excellence, my role in the English Language Center at Shantou University in China is to make what we are doing - creating a new model of English language teaching in China - internationally recognized.

P2 Campus Life



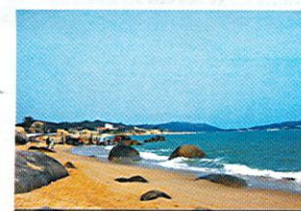
P3 Cultural Communication



P4 English Learning



P5 Art & Entertainment



P6 Focus on People



P7 Student Voice



Dr. Jun Liu's election to the TESOL presidency

News came recently from Washington that Dr. Jun Liu has been elected to the TESOL (Teachers of English to the Speakers of Other Languages) presidency (2005-2008). Dr. Liu is the youngest president in the history of TESOL, the most authoritative institution of English language education. He is also a recipient of the 1999 TESOL Newbury House Award for Excellence in Teaching, and co-founder and Past Chair of

Nonnative English Speakers in TESOL Caucus (NNEST), the only president who has come from a non-native English speaking country. Dr. Liu served on the TESOL Board of Directors as Director at Large (2001-2004), and was appointed as TESOL Representative in China in 2004.

Dr. Liu's success is a significant event as it encourages the English educators from both China and other non-native English speaking countries to have the confidence and passion for English education in the future. Congratulations, Dr. Liu!

"Faculty Lecture Series" in March

The ELC faculty held a "Faculty Lecture Series" throughout the month of March. In total, five lectures were given by both Chinese and foreign teachers held in both the Science Hall and ACC3.

The lectures' purpose was to create an English environment for STU students to practice their listening and speaking. Both teachers and students acquired knowledge about different cultures and topics as the professors spoke about their various interests and experience ranging from astronomy to skateboarding

to sports stars in China and the US. The lecture formats varied, but included interviews, discussion and multimedia presentations. The lectures were open-ended and allowed students to participate in the discussions following the lectures.

Each lecture was well attended, drew much interest and enthusiasm from the students and can safely be deemed a huge success. Thank-you to all who participated in this meaningful event.

By Angela Chen, 02 Chinese

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fears Slip and Slide Away

By Ann Li, 02 Liberal Arts

Have you ever had the dream that one day you could fly like a bird and kiss the soft wind as it passes by? I had, especially when I saw the young men on campus who skateboarded past me like angels. I wished I could be one of them, but fear inside my soul stopped me from trying. I admired those guys who skateboard with such skill. Filled with curiosity, I finally mustered enough courage to walk close enough to them to learn more about the sport.

I imagined that it must be a great experience to skateboard through the campus and I could tell from the guys' smiling faces and their happily yelling voices that I was right. The guys in the Skateboard Association and many other students on our campus cherish skateboarding as an avocation. One of my friends who is a member of the Skateboard Association told me he learned skating because it is interesting even though it is somewhat dangerous. He has fallen victim to its charms! No one could

refuse the temptation of such a wonderful sport, doing something that cannot be learned from text books – to challenge yourself, to test your endurance and courage. Riding on the skateboard feels like dancing with the wind. The sky is so blue and wide and you are like a child just released from school for the holiday. It is very difficult to resist, so I finally

decided to have a try. First I borrowed a skateboard from a friend and went out one sunny afternoon. That day I got nothing but wounds on my knees, but I was not disheartened. Quite the contrary—I was full of joy! I had faith in myself that before long, I could stand on the skateboard and ride all day and into the night. Nothing would stop me from enjoying the sight of trees passing by; they seemed to be waving hi. Through these day-dreams my fears all slipped away. From then on I knew I just had to practice with pride.

Learning to skateboard has been a great challenge to me and I am proud I can face the challenge instead of fleeing from it. Now I know how the wind smells when I am carried at its bosom; now I can fly. Come join me—run away from your computer and stride out of your dormitory. Take a ride on a skateboard; dance with the wind and fly to the sky. Let your fears slip and slide away.



Campus Life During the Spring Festival

By Daisy, 04 Journalism

While we were enjoying the Spring Festival with our families, some students were at school. They didn't go back home during the winter vacation for many different reasons. As we all know, the Spring Festival is a time-honored celebration and the most important day in China. How and why did these students spend their Spring Festival at the University? Upon interviewing some students who stayed at school, I learned some interesting things about their campus lives.

The library was opened only three times every week and little food was supplied in the dining hall. "It is not as conve-

nient as before," one student said. "I don't think the food is delicious." Many liked to stay in the dormitories playing computer games, watching movies or reading books. Sometimes they would do some sports such as running or playing tennis, but they couldn't find many people to play basketball.

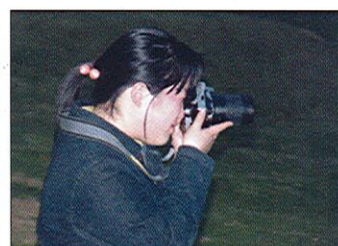
"Didn't you feel lonely?", I asked, puzzled. They told me that sometimes they had felt lonely, especially on the eve of Spring Festival. Although STU organized a supper that night and gave everyone 200 RMB, they still missed their families and friends and they regretted not having gone back home on that day. So, to reduce their homesickness, they talked on the phone or on the Internet to all the people they missed.

One student in the Arts school started a class about arts during this time and he succeeded in not only teaching the children some arts but also enjoying himself. After their class they learned to skateboard and, most importantly, had fun doing it.

Despite some of the drawbacks, campus life can be interesting if you put your heart into it and creatively find interesting things to do. If successful, even in a situation with the potential to be despondent, you can find enjoyment.

Our Photographic Association

By Christy, 03 Journalism



We are here—the Photographic Association of STU.

In our association, both guys and girls are enthusiastic and energetic in our work. We always keep our eyes open for picture-worthy events around us and we take joy in discovering beautiful sceneries. Photography becomes the way in which we express our feelings, film becomes the tool by which we record our lives and pictures become the language through which we communicate.

We are here because we share the same hobby: photography. We are here because we have a zest for life. We are here because we want to capture memorable moments.

Last semester, we organized a photography contest. Thankfully, we have many photography lovers in our STU campus so we received many wonderful works taken by our students.

This semester, a photography exhibition for East Guangdong Province is in the midst of being planned. Our aim is to let our photography lovers show different aspects of their lives and to communicate with each others through the use of photos. We will cooperate with Hanshan Normal University, Jiaying College and Shenzhen University at that time. We are looking forward to having more photographers join us by submitting their photos.

The Photographic Association is a home for all photography lovers. It is a place to come together with others who share the same interest. It is also a stage for you to show and express your creativity and your lives. Come join us today!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

By Dale Sroufe, ELC faculty

(Continued from page 4)

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS CLUB (CEC)

Join the group if you have an interest in drama or acting. CEC will be working on some English language plays during the course of the semester. Check the bulletin boards for more information.

CONVERSATION SERIES

The Conversation Series provides the opportunity to listen to well-known personalities discuss contemporary world issues in a relaxed and informative English language atmosphere. Check the bulletin boards for the schedule and topics.

FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

This is a new program this semester. Members of the ELC faculty talked about interesting topics that range from skateboarding to astronomy, and answered students' questions. The lectures were held on a weekly basis.

ENGLISH FILM SERIES

This is another new English language opportunity this semester. Come and enjoy full-length feature films on the big screen. This is still in the planning stage so watch for more information as the semester progresses.

STU LIBRARY

We often forget that the STU library has a lot of English language books available for use. Visit the Foreign Language hall to browse the collection of contemporary novels and the Foreign Language Periodicals hall to find English language magazines.

The library also has English language newspapers, and a good way to get your daily dose of English is to stop and "read the wall" as you walk by the library.

In addition to these, remember that your classmates are one of the best resources for practicing and improving your spoken English. Take time to talk to one another in English about your daily life. Whenever you see one of the ELC English teachers around campus, be brave and "strike up" a conversation. STU has provided many exciting English opportunities but you must choose to use them effectively.

A New Teacher's Look at Chinese Culture

By Mary Nicole Nazzaro, Journalism School faculty

Like any journalist who is asked to write an article about something she or he doesn't know much about, when I was asked to write an article for the Shantou Beat on Chinese culture, my first stop was the Internet. Typing "Chinese culture" into the English-language version of Google returns an amazing array of websites - over 18 million, to be exact! That's almost one for every 100 people in China. And that's just the websites that are available in English. I tried doing a Google search in Chinese too, and over 12 million websites were listed! That's incredible. In a way, though, it is also very appropriate, because I know from my friends that Chinese culture is a vast and complicated subject with a very long history.

It's funny to admit that even after almost seven years of studying Mandarin Chinese, I still don't feel as though I know a lot about Chinese culture. Maybe it's because, unlike many of my classmates in America who studied Chinese, I do not have Chinese parents. Most students who take Chinese in America, especially at the advanced university level, are simply learning to write the language they have spoken since they were children. There are many "ABC's" - Ameri-

can-Born Chinese - in America. Needless to say, when we were together in class, they spoke Chinese a lot better than I did!

The CUBA tournament was a great opportunity for me because it gave me a chance to observe a very important facet of Chinese culture - the love of sports in this country. This is something that China and the United States have very much in common. Basketball is one of the most popular sports at American universities. Somebody asked me during the CUBA tournament whether I thought there were any differences between Chinese and American sports culture. Based on what I had observed so far, I answered that I thought maybe in China it was even more fun to be at the games than in America! We don't often have famous singers like Wang Lihong come to perform at our games, for example. But we do have big tourna-



ments that are broadcast nationally, and they really are a lot of fun.

I'm looking forward to spending this year at Shantou University so that I can learn more about Chinese culture. Maybe you will see me in class or on campus and will tell me something new about this subject! And of course, if you have any questions about American culture, all of the American teachers here are very glad to answer your questions (including me, of course!).

The Lovely Customs

By Chen Peng, 02 Chemistry

There is a saying in China: "There are several customs in the distance of five kilometers." It means there are various kinds of customs in China. My hometown, for example, has some curious traditions that I like to call "lovely customs".

In China, many people go to others' houses to pay a visit during the Spring Festival. In my hometown, every family prepares many

mandarins for the New Year and then people will take two or four mandarins when they go visiting. The mandarin is a special gift that, when given, will bring "good luck" to the host's family for the whole year. Although the host physically accepts the gift of mandarins, he is in fact accepting "good luck" and the guest's best blessings. Then the host will give two or four mandarins to the guest

to take with him when he goes

home. In this way the host returns the guest's favor by offering him "good luck" as well. What a lovely custom!

During the first moon in my hometown, every family will save as much water as possible. According to the fengshui, water stands for fortune, so saving water means saving money and storing up wealth. What a lovely custom!

During the Dragon Boat Festival, every family in my hometown puts some willow leaves on the top of the gate. My mother told me that it is an old custom of mourning. It is a way that living people can express how much they miss their dead relatives. Families call

their ancestors back to visit their houses using the leaves as a signpost so that they can find the correct house. What a lovely custom!

These customs, which have been practiced for countless generations, are now being abandoned by young people. They try to be as modern and fashionable as possible all the while forsaking traditional practices they have grown up with. By doing this they are losing a part of their identity and a certain beauty that the modern world cannot replace. Can we let this happen? Let us join together and uphold these lovely customs and the traditions of your own hometowns. Let us never forget who we are and where we are from.



Chinese Culture in CUBA

By Yang, 02 Journalism

Girls are screaming, boys are whistling, colorful banners are flying. And everyone is shouting feverishly "I love Shantou University!" "Come on, Shantou University!" When I heard these words, I knew that basketball had conquered almost everyone's heart.

My new American teacher told me that there were not too many differences between CUBA and the American College Basketball Association. As a foreigner, she just saw the outer appearance of the game, but she did not know the inner culture under the game's facade. She did not know how Chinese people are unbelievably susceptible to the latest fad. She did not know how easy it is to lead and

influence Chinese students who are often native and gullible.

If you ask some students why they like basketball, they may say it is because many people like it. Chinese people tend to be followers, a trait that is not necessarily bad because popular public opinion is often right. Maybe this tendency is why the Chinese have a reputation for a lack of creativity. When our government implemented the CET (College English Test) policy in the 1990s, the media applauded and publicized it. And yet when our government tried to stop this policy in March 2005, many people said they had thought there had been problems with the CET for ages. A similar situation could hap-

pen with CUBA. One day our basketball team wins and the thrilled fans overwhelmingly support the team and the event. Then the next day our basketball team loses and some of those same people criticize the players and say we should not spend so much time on this activity. This flood of blame will accomplish nothing but it could discourage our team.

I am not good at basketball nor do I like basketball that much, but this doesn't mean I hate CUBA. I respect those hard-working players—they deserve the applause of the public. At the same time I am afraid of the "follow-the-leader" culture. It can make you fly to heaven; it can also make you go to hell.

Writing Mistakes that Drive Me Crazy

By Cheryl Traiger,
ELC faculty

Formal academic writing is very difficult, and even native English speakers have a hard time with it. Mistakes in grammar, sentence structure and paragraph organization are easy to make; as you learn more English you will get better at writing more organized, grammatical essays. You can learn how to omit needless words and make your writing more concise. However, there are some mistakes that make me want to scream because they are so unnecessary, very easily corrected and so common that I get tired of correcting them over and over in student essays. I thought I would share with you some of the most easily-corrected mistakes.

1. Exclamation Marks (!!!)

I hate these a lot; they are very disturbing. Exclamation marks are fine in imaginative writing, letters to friends or e-mails (but are overused there, too). I use them in e-mails sometimes - but they make your university



essays look childish and banal. This punctuation should only be used to indicate a shout - such as "HELP!" or "FIRE!" You should be able to show emphasis by choosing words which are strong, not by relying on your punctuation.

Top errors #2, 3 and 4 are based on the same basic rule about English academic writing. You want to omit needless words. If you include useless words or sentences in your writing, it makes you look like a sloppy writer who didn't bother to edit.

2. Asking your reader questions

Your readers can't answer you, so please don't ask them questions. Asking questions of someone knowing that there is no way for them to respond looks rude. It also shows laziness on the part of the writer, by making it seem like you just couldn't take the time to rewrite a sentence to keep the meaning while

eliminating the question mark.

So instead of:

What do you think is the most common reason students make errors? They make errors because (16 words)

Write:

The most common reason students make errors is (8 words)

3. Telling what you are going to do

There is no reason to use phrases like:

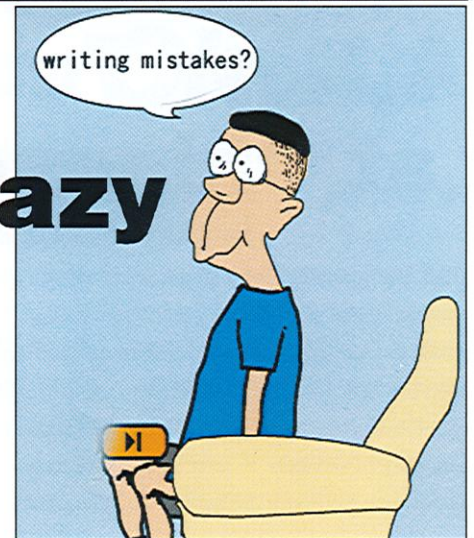
In my essay, I am going to explain why I believe that ...

The next sentence will show you that ...

Don't write about what you're going to write about. If you write clearly, the reader will know what you are trying to say.

4. Using meaningless phrases ("in a word", "and so on")

In China, the favorite meaningless phrases seem to be "in a word" and "and so on." These are used so often that I only need to go up to another English teacher and say "in a word" to make them start laughing. This



phrase is especially funny because students usually write "in a word" then follow it with about ten words. Because the phrase is meaningless, it should not be replaced by any other phrase.

Instead of, "In a word, the trip to Xiamen was exciting and meaningful." (note, by the way, that TWO words are used to describe Xiamen)

Change it to: "The trip to Xiamen was exciting and meaningful."

Instead of using "and so on", structure your writing a little differently.

Change: I like Chinese food, including dumplings, fried noodles, mooncakes, and so on.

To: I like Chinese food, including dumplings, fried noodles, and mooncakes.

5. Using commas instead of the word 'and'

OK - so this is a grammatical error, but it is easily fixed. If you write a list of things, just put 'and' before the last one.

English Learning and Literature

By Connie Malik, Liberal Arts faculty



was born in West Virginia, and lived in China with her missionary parents. She was a champion of children, cultural changes in China, and racial understanding.

◆ Supplies archetypes: Edgar Allen Poe was a master of the short story, able to chill your bones with a horror of evil or insane characters.

◆ Entertains: Chaucer introduced each pilgrim on the way to Canterbury as a storyteller, and produced a rhyme himself.

◆ Clarifies history: John Steinbeck wrote about California, rural labor, and social realities.

◆ Facilitates recall: Motifs provide repetition, focus and a resemblance to native literature.

◆ Is comforting: "Narrative is present at all times, in all places and ... societies ..." (Barthes, 1975).

◆ Provides agreement: "At first I hated the school, but by and by I got so I could stand it" Chapter 4, Huck speaking in Huckleberry Finn (1885)

Preparing for the future requires reading many levels and specialized genres of English material. Electronic gaming, international business articles, science fiction come-to-life in robotics, research materials, and culturally transmitted messaging are only a few of the reading media available today. Reading literature helps the language

learner to interpret motive, action and expression in a relaxed manner. It develops English language skills that are closely connected to true cultural expression.

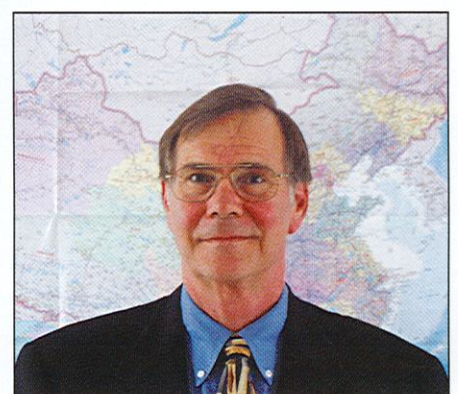
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

By Dale Sroufe, ELC faculty

A few days ago I received an e-mail message from a student that asks the question that we all have heard many times. Simply stated the question is, "How can I best take advantage of the resources provided by STU in order to improve my English?" During freshman orientation at the beginning of the year, all of the English enhancement programs were presented and described, but it might be a good idea to review that information as we start the second half of the school year.

As we know this is the most important of our English learning opportunities, so study hard and make sure you take advantage of your chances to speak and discuss the topics in your class.

English lounge is the place to go if you want to have the chance to converse in English with your classmates, talk to a foreign teacher, watch an English language



video, or just relax in a pleasant atmosphere. English lounge is open every night.

English Corner provides a once-a-week opportunity to take part in fun English language activities, often based on a game type format. Check the bulletin boards for times, venue and scheduled activities.

(Continued on page 2)

Any student of the English language should read the best examples of its use. Literature is history, ballad, drama, fable and tale; predecessors of the short story, poem and novel. What beginning English student could resist a brief fable with its important lesson? Fairytales are also easy-to-read cultural stories with brief and wonderful events. Marvelous things rather than thoughts or personality are brought to a swift conclusion. Reading augments language learning because it ...

◆ Creates community: Jack London wrote adventure anthologies about the Yukon, California, and the South Pacific.

◆ Provides hope: Ring Lardner wrote a diary of an 18 year old discovering suitors.

◆ Nurtures change: O. Henry's stories are parables to teach truth. "The Gift of the Magi" uses irony and surprise to describe everyday life in New York around 1900.

◆ Exalts independence: Pearl S. Buck

Basketball Fever

By Johnny Zhuang

As part of the new China University Basketball Association (CUBA) season, the opening game of the Southeast Division -- between Shantou University and China Mining University -- was held in the gymnasium of Shantou University on February 28, 2005. Shantou University took a third place in the Southeast Division's competition in 2004. Its strength is preeminent. STU's adversary, China Mining University, is one of the most powerful teams in the country. The average height of its team members is 1.95 meters.

Because of the good strength of each side, the game was brilliant. The score of the two teams was always close, each leading by turn throughout the game. But



due to the low rate of hitting the target on free throws (losing the chance to score on the free throw six times) China Mining University was defeated with a score of 59 to 64. Our host team, Shantou University, grabbed the victory from China Mining University!

I am a basketball lover. I can see the basketball fever of students in our university. We love the impassioned ambience of this game. I also can feel the basketball fever in China; maybe the main reason is the famous Yao Ming.

Basketball was introduced to China by Dr. James Naismith in 1871. Traveling to China to work with missionaries, Dr. Naismith brought with him China's first basketball. Since Dr. Naismith shot his first slam dunk on Chinese soil, the sport has been steadily growing in popularity.

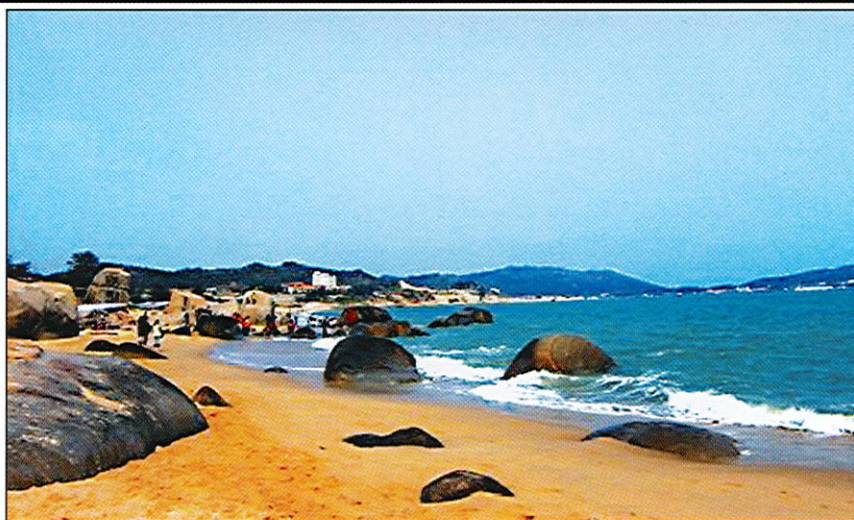
Nobody can deny, however, that China has recently gone basketball mad. Is it all thanks to Yao Ming? Or are there other reasons for basketball fever in China?

Soccer is still China's favorite sport, but basketball is quickly catching up. Some suggest that one reason is that cities are too crowded in China. It is difficult for children to find a soccer field to play on—there simply isn't the space. On the other hand, for basketball, you just need a ball and a rim.

In recent years, the popularity of basketball has skyrocketed with the success of Yao Ming, the 7-foot 6-inch all-star centre who has taken the NBA and the world by storm. With millions of fans in China, the NBA website saw an enormous increase in visitors from China. Chinese television is showing more and more NBA games and basketball courts are being built in Chinese cities at an amazing rate.

The tale of the growth of basketball in China and the celebrity status of Yao Ming can also be seen as the tale of a relationship between America and China -- just like the days of ping-pong diplomacy thirty years ago. As we saw, sharing sports is an effective way to solve political problems! Because of the exchange visits between the U.S ping-pong delegation and the Chinese ping-pong delegation, the rampart between America and China was broken.

Regardless of basketball's long history in China, it is exploding now. Whether this is due to the practicalities of the urban landscape or the rise of Yao Ming, what we know is that we all like this game. We just wish that Chinese teams will take on other teams and that the Shantou University team will always win its games in the future.



My Tour to Haimen

By Daphne,

04 Liberal Arts

Haimen is a quite famous place in Shantou because of its excellent view of the sea and the Lianhuafeng landscape. At the beginning of my winter holiday, my friends and I paid a visit there with great excitement.

The day we set out was both sunny and windy. It took us almost an hour and a half from our school to Haimen by bus and ferry. It was the first time my friend from Sichuan saw the sea, and she laughed and ran on the beach crazily when we first arrived. The sea was so large and blue, the waves moved back and forth time after time. I watched mesmerized, my heart filled with a strangely frightened and shaking feeling. The sun was shining brightly and the wind was playing with my hair as I approached the water—how wonderful it was!

Climbing up the ladder that stretched from the hill to the sea, we came into view of the Lianhuafeng landscape. It was quite beautiful there and some small shops provided different services such as camera rentals, seashell souvenirs and so on. Most importantly, the stone figure of Wen Tianxiang made a large impression on me. He was a well-known historical hero and writer who, during the Song period, came across Shantou when he was fighting against the Mongolians who were attacking the Han people. Facing failure, Wen Tianxiang preferred death to giving in to another Mongolian authority. He said, "Everyone since ancient times has died, but I prefer to have my loyalty live on in history." His spirit really touched many people's hearts and motivates us to move forward.

Later, as we walked around the whole small hill, we saw some strange, high stones where a middle-aged woman was telling the fortunes of some young people after talking to the stones. It seemed that she believed herself to be the spokeswoman of the stones. How interesting that sometimes people prefer to believe stones rather than themselves.

We continued on our walk, took in a few other sights and then made our way back home. I returned from my travels having seen and experienced many thought provoking things that I will not soon forget. I hope other travel lovers will have the same opportunity as I to go to new places and share their experiences with others.

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My Lover: Latin Dance

By Angela Chen, 02 Chinese

People choose different ways to express themselves according to their character, interests, experience and educational background. Dancing, in particular Latin dancing is what I have chosen.

I still remember the first time I watched a Latin dance performance on the TV when I was only a child. How amazed I felt! I fell in love with it at first sight. However, born in a small town, I was not able to learn this dance in my childhood. But the seeds of love for Latin dancing were sowed in my heart from that time on.

Years later, Latin dance came to me as if in a perfect dream, as if it had been right there waiting for me for a long time. During my first year of college life, I got the chance to be a member of

the dancing association. At that time, Andy, acknowledged to be the best Latin dancer in the group, became my boyfriend. I was very fortunate in that he led the way to Latin dancing for me as I learned almost as much as he knew. Unfortunately, our relationship did not go far because it was not for love but for dancing. Both of us were not sure whether we were in love with each other or dancing. Anyway, I thank him and wish him a bright future.

I can never forget how I feel each time the rhythm flows into my heart. My soul begins to fly like a bird; I always forget the world. There are no worries, no constraints and no loneliness. My heart fills with so much happiness that I don't mind who I dance to, dance with or dance for. I

just love it.

Until now, I still insist that I will have no boyfriend, but I cannot lose Latin dancing. It's my true lover. It is the one who brings me happiness and drives loneliness away. People say I'm crazy and I'm wasting my time on dancing. Maybe what they say is right, but I have no regrets, now and forever. I love Latin dancing with every beat of my heart. It gave meaning to this empty world of mine and made living fine. In my heart, there will always be a place for dancing: as time turns the page, my love for it won't age at all.





Curious in China

By Quist, 02 Administrative Management

Personal information: Mary Nicole graduated from Harvard in 1994 and worked at several jobs until starting her career in Journalism in 1999. In December 2004, she got a dual master's degree in Journalism and Chinese from the University of California-Berkeley.

At 10:42 am on March 11th in front of the STU store, a woman was making notes and referring to her dictionary. I recognized her distinctive face and apologized for being two minutes late. Her name is Mary Nicole, and she is a new American teacher in the Journalism School.

Nicole started her journalism career in 1999, and may have come

to China in preparation for the 2008 Olympics. She went to both the 2000 and 2002 Olympics as a reporter. In the summers of 2000 and 2001, she was in Beijing Normal University studying Chinese. Despite her specialties in Journalism and Chinese, she says she came to China for discovery.

"Journalists are curious by nature." Around 1994 she heard of "Chinese Medicine", which she thought meaningful and abstruse. She believed that she should first come to China and learn Chinese culture so that she could better understand "Chinese Medicine". Becoming a doctor is her future goal.

Now she is working hard in her area of specialty—sports reporting. She becomes excited whenever talking about a sports event.

She also came to our university partly for learning. In her opinion,

Shantou is a quiet city where the environment is good for study. And as an Italian-American and a journalist, Nicole knows the importance of understanding different cultures. She's always learning about the people here as well as improving her reporting skills, as she did in other places. "It's life-long learning," she calmly said.

At the end of the interview, we talked in Chinese. She asked me how to say "drop in" in Chinese. Hearing my answer, she took out the notebook and dictionary from her bag, which I had seen about an hour ago, to write down the Chinese expression and look it up in the Chinese-English dictionary for more explanation. I was impressed by this thorough study of the phrase and wish her well as she continues on in her pursuit of life long learning.

A Visit Home

By Kianoush Naficy, ELC faculty

Late last autumn, I decided that I wanted to spend my winter vacation with my family in Iran. It took considerable help from my friends in the International Cooperation Department to prepare for my trip to the Middle East, but after all the forms were filled, visas were issued, and money was exchanged, I finally arrived at the Mehrabad Airport in Tehran.

I had a wonderful time. It was my 12th visit since my family's immigration to the U.S. in 1985, but the first time I had seen snow in Tehran. In fact, I happened to arrive during the biggest snow storm Iran had seen in over 50 years. The capital—usually dirty, noisy, and crowded—looked peaceful and clean. Since I was determined to experience Iran with new eyes, I asked my family to treat me like a tourist and introduce me to new sights. I explored historical museums and art galleries, hiked a popular mountain which offered an incredible view of the city (as usual, I forgot to bring my camera), bought turquoise jewelry and souvenirs at a Friday bazaar, stood in line for hours during a blizzard to buy tickets during the Fajr Film Festival, enjoyed a music concert and theater performance, and, most important of all, in-

dulged in the delicious Persian cuisine. Nothing can be compared to the joy I felt while eating the various dishes, breads, and desserts made by my loving aunts. I admit that I am disappointed to have missed seeing the festivities of the New Year in China, but my trip to Iran was well spent.

Since my return, after hearing about where I spent my holiday, some people have asked me: "Why did you choose to go to such a dangerous place? Aren't you worried about your safety? Do you have to wear hijab? Was it difficult?" I think that, for many, the name "Iran" brings to mind certain images most often associated with concealment and restriction; for others, the name might induce feelings of fear. I can't blame those who fear Iran when it has been declared a member of the "axis of evil" by one of the most powerful men in the world. But, I can teach them about what I know.

Yes, it's true that Iran is not always an easy place to travel or live. Pollution, overpopulation, inefficiency, economic corruption, and strict religious laws are enormous problems. But, for me, these do not symbolize Iran. Contrary to popular belief, most people separate themselves from the views of the government; and culturally, Iran has a rich history with many interesting and beautiful customs. The people are warm and welcoming—and they cook fantastic food. I have lived in America for most of my life, but because of these reasons, Iran will always feel like home to me.

It Isn't a Dream

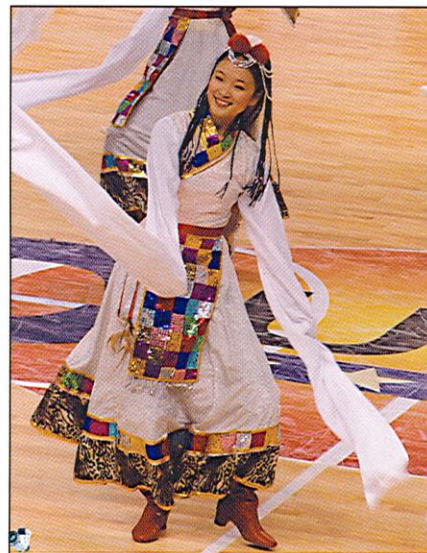
By Winter, 04 Law

Personal information: Susana (Zhang Shanshan) is a 2003 journalism student and a member of our university's dance troop who went on a dance tour to Europe a year ago. Susana performed with her group in the CUBA opening ceremony.

During the interview, what impressed us most about Susana was that she had plenty of pleasant facial expressions, which helped make it possible for her to join the dance troop. Susana frankly admitted that she wasn't as good at dancing as most of the other members in the group. The reason why the troop's leader chose her as one of the representatives was the sweet smile she always has on display while dancing, showing her love of it.

"When dancing, I was tired but I enjoyed it," she said, referring to the day and night training in preparation for the live dancing show on CCTV. "We did a live show at the CUBA opening ceremony with an audience of millions. All of us wanted to show our best on the camera."

While talking about her trip to Europe, we saw the familiar attractive smile and shining eyes. "Seeing many performances from other countries broadened my perspectives on dancing and culture. I knew that there were many folk dances in China, but now I know there are many more outside of China. Every nation has their own dancing style, reflecting different customs and cultures."



Her persistent devotion to this interest has provided her with amazing opportunities: traveling to Europe and performing on CCTV. "I never thought I would have chance to go to Europe. It was like a dream to me that actually came true." Susana began to learn dancing in primary school, but she didn't practice when she was in middle and high school. In 2004 she joined the dance troop and from then on she

embraced dancing. But like other university students, Susana is an ordinary girl in which study is her main focus and dance is just a hobby. She struggles to balance both of these endeavors, but she has proven that nothing is impossible if you try your best. May we all do the same!

A Day to Remember, A Day to Forget

By Yang, 02 Journalism

I decided not to go back home this winter holiday for various reasons, but after all my roommates had left I found that I had made a big mistake. It seemed that loneliness and emptiness would kill me if I could not find something to do.

Then one day when I was downtown, I found that many restaurants needed to hire some more staff during the Spring Festival. And that's when the idea first struck me: why not find a part-time job?

I noticed a dumpling restaurant with a help wanted poster at the gate, so I resolutely went up to the door and walked in. After a short and informal interview, the manager asked

me to come in to work the next day. I was very excited because I successfully landed a job to drive my loneliness away.

The next day the manager appointed a stout local boy a bit younger than me to train me. As it was my first time doing such work, I appeared somewhat awkward, but within about an hour I was already comfortable in my new job.

At noon, we experienced the lunch rush. Many customers poured into the restaurant until nearly all the seats were filled and, as a result, every employee in the restaurant became wildly busy. Some customers left very dirty tables, which I didn't want to clean, so

instead I followed a waitress. As she cleaned the tables I carried the bowls and dishes to the kitchen at the back of the restaurant. Whenever we moved slowly the manager glared at us, so I did everything as quickly as I could to avoid a scolding. Sometimes, the soup spilled on my trousers and shoes but I had no time to clean them. I felt like a machine going through these motions mechanically. Finally, the lunchtime crowd began to ebb and all the staff were able to slow down.

The staff had lunch at 3:00 pm. I was very hungry and expected delicious food to be waiting for us, but I was greatly disappointed. A lack of meat, and hard rice awaited me. I began to miss the unappetizing lunch sold in the campus cafeteria.

The hours after lunch were not too bad, although we began to move mechanically again at supper time. After an incredibly tiring workout, we cleaned the tables and swept the floor. I told myself this nightmarish experi-

though. I soon learned that you must use different skills to convince different people that your wares are well worth the price. For example, when young people come, you can tell them the candies are very good. For them, the price is not so important since they care more about the taste and appearance. But adults pay attention to the price, so you must say your things are economical, as they want to buy as much as possible with the limited amount of money they have.

Another important lesson I learned is that you should not exaggerate your merchandise too much. I told my customers the melon candies were fresh and tasted good, so they sold out very quickly. But a few days later,



ence would end forever after my supper. With this comforting thought in mind, I moved more quickly and more surely until my day finally came to an end, a day that I would never repeat. My lonesomeness had been driven away for a day indeed, but I swiftly came to the conclusion that there are worse tribulations in life to endure.

one of my friends told me that I had not been honest because he heard my consumers complaining that the candies I had sold to them were not fresh. At this time I realized my mistake and I am determined to be honest with everyone from now on.

This winter vacation I not only earned a little pocket money, I also learned many things that cannot be found in books. I realize that being a member of society is very important, and I should do more social activities because the world is a real place one cannot ignore. I also realize I must learn more in order to compete in society. As I make an effort to do these things I hope to become a great contributor to my world.

My Business Experience

By Mo, 04 Mathematics

During the past winter vacation, through my first business experience, I learned many things about how to introduce myself and my merchandise to my customers, as well as the importance of honesty in a businessman.

As the Spring Festival drew near, my elder sister asked me to help her sell biscuits, candies and fruits. At the beginning, because of my shyness and fear that strangers would laugh at me, I dared not ask others to buy my things, but the competition was so fierce that I had to try my hardest to con-

vince potential buyers that my candies and biscuits were the best! I began to persuade consumers to buy my goods, telling them how good my merchandise was. Persuading them was not as easy as I had imagined



New Year New Wishes!

By Steven, 04 Mathematics

On the 1st day of Spring Festival, my two best friends and I got together to visit Luo Fu Mountain. The mountain, one of the four best-known mountains in Guangdong Province, is located in Huizhou City.

The sights on the mountain were picturesque and the spring scenery was as pretty as a postcard. The flow of tourists to this area encourages the upkeep of the classical buildings so they remain in good condition. We enjoyed the sights of water lilies in the pond and worshiped in the Chong Xu Temple to pray for a lucky new year.

Finally, we visited the Memorial of Dongjiang Column. The memorial is not very large, maybe one third the size of Shantou University's campus, but it is nestled quaintly

on the side of the mountain.

Japan invaded China in 1937, an unrighteous and terrible event. Instead of shrinking back, numerous brave people in China fought to protect our country. At the same time, many organizations in opposition to Japan grew up quickly. Dongjiang Column in Huizhou, set up in 1942, became one of the most famous organizations. As it actively worked in the areas of Huizhou, Chaoshan and Hailu Feng, it heavily hit Japan.

The memorial exhibits such terms as rifles, swords, and linen clothes that the soldiers in Dongjiang Column once used. Upon seeing this crude equipment, it is staggering to discover that the soldiers were able to resist the cruel and aggressive invaders and eventually win the war. Beside every exhibit on display,

there are captions relating stories about the items. I was attracted by a rusted cup made of iron. Its owner was the commander of Dongjiang Column, Zeng Sheng. His clothes and linen blanket were also displayed behind the glass.

One can hardly imagine the difficult conditions experienced in this war. I was impressed by the soldiers' great endurance and patriotism. Many photos, hung on every wall, recorded the crimes that Japan committed. Every tourist would stand up before these photos and fiercely glare at the intruders. We should not forget the misery our predecessors once underwent. At the same time,



as we enter this new year, we should also look to the future and wish for peace to overcome war, friendship to replace hatred, and violence to die out from the world.

Kissing the World

Snapshots of my fall 04 Semester at Sea voyage

By Camille Xiong, 02 English

"Everything was too fast, too ecstatic, and too complicated before I could taste it. I was too busy to shed any tears, including my tears of joy and appreciation."

Although it seemed like an eternity, the 13-hour flight to Vancouver was just the starting point of my Fall 04 Semester at Sea. When I arrived, I embarked on the MV Explorer, the carrier of my dream, a dream that saw me almost around the world by crossing 3 oceans, touching the soil of 11 countries, and visiting 12 places.

Shipboard Life

"The ship was Americanized."

There were about 800 people on board, of which 682 were students, mostly from America. Culture shock and seasickness made me at first quite homesick. At this critical moment, I, together with 5 other students, was "adopted" by a couple on board, who were in their 70's. They seemed to be the remedy for seasickness as I returned to normal when talking to them.

Community College was one of the highlights on board. Almost every night we received different topics to discuss or even debate. I was greatly influenced by this active atmosphere. As in class, students were not forced to express their opinions, but were encouraged kindly by the professors to communicate with their peers. Sometimes, I was not

even able to get in a word!

Before we docked in Shanghai, I became famous on board overnight. After making a presentation about Chinese traditional culture in a community college, I was praised for my English proficiency and informative talk. The prosperous Chinese traditional culture and STU's glamour (I used it as the example of Chinese university education) amazed the people on board.

The Black Pearl

"Black and white are two extreme colors; they are getting closer and closer to harmony."

I admit that I had stereotypes about Africa. However, when I got off the ship in Cape Town, South Africa, I was shocked by the beautiful landscape before my eyes: blue sky, white clouds, green trees, seagulls, seals, and pigeons. European style buildings were here and there, and musicians were playing diverse musical instruments on streets. What a fabulous view it was!

However, there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor. We performed at a high school in a township where HIV, AIDS, unemployment and rape are rather severe. They don't have fancy buildings, nor advanced facilities. I was deeply impressed by their souls, though, as they performed a skit, dance and chorus for us. The director could not help weeping at the end of the skit, because he thought of his father, who died of AIDS. The



little girls who danced to the bouncy rhythm were fascinating. It seems that the rhythm was right there in their blood. The chorus resonated within me, though I did not know the language. All of a sudden, the words HIV, AIDS, unemployment and rape were erased from my brain. They were replaced by this thought—only love and understanding can bridge the gaps.

Re-entry

100 days were over and I became mentally stronger, and more knowledgeable, from the experience. The change is not dramatic, but subtle.

I flew back to Hong Kong, and went home via ferry. The familiar sights made me burst into tears, which concerned my mother, who was sitting beside me. I told her I was OK, and those were the tears of joy and apprecia-

tion. I don't think she can understand what Semester at Sea has brought me. A number of sentiments deep down in my heart—a deep love and a mission—have been given to me from people all over the world.

I wish for my experience to positively influence as many people as possible!

I wish for a peaceful world!

The Shantou Beat Logo Design Contest

Organized by:

English Language Center

Who: All of the students in Shantou University can participate.

Task: Design a logo for the Shantou Beat.

Deadline for Submission:
30/4/2005

Logo requirements:

1. As a second-language newspaper, the Shantou Beat is an information window, which brings Shantou univer-

sity to the world and brings the world to our university. The logo should be able to express this point.

2. The logo should emphasize and match the meaning of the name "Beat".

How to submit an entry:

Please upload the file, which contains the logo (jpg style), the logo introduction, your personal information and contact information (Chinese and English name, email address, college, phone number and mobile number) to

ftp: 10.10.35.20. user: Shantou beat.
Code: Shantou

Prizes:

1. Certificate awarded by ELC for the logo design.
2. Special gifts offered by ELC.

All of the participants will get a special gift from ELC.

For more information, please send an email to angela225300@163.com.

The 2nd Annual International Symposium

Shantou University will be holding its 2nd Annual International Symposium on April 8 and 9, 2005, and will be welcoming speakers from many esteemed universities in both China and the United States. This symposium will address four components of com-

municative competence development: theorizing about communicative competence, learning/acquiring communicative competence, teaching communicative competence, and testing and evaluating communicative competence. In addition to providing a plat-

form for ideas, this symposium will also act as a forum for discussion, drawing professors, lecturers, and students from diverse backgrounds.

(The information is from: <http://elc.stu.edu.cn/Symposium/rationale.htm>)

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