

# The Shantou Beat

English Language Center Newspaper

**BEAT**  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER  
英语语言中心

March 2006, Vol. 8

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## Practicing Oral Presentation

Dr. Jun Liu, English Language Center Executive Director

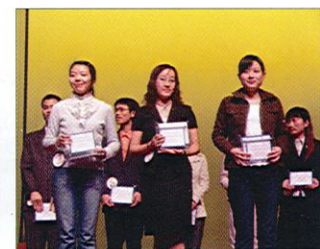
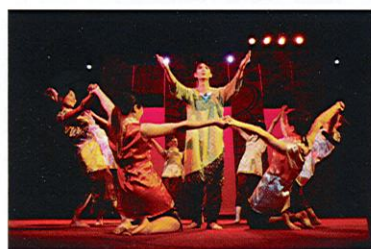
Many of us experienced the excitement of watching the Intercollegiate English Speech Contest at our 4th English Festival (Dec. 8-10, 2005). Perhaps you were impressed by the powerful speeches delivered by many contestants and their concise but meaningful answers to the unseen questions. I have to say that this kind of performance—delivering a speech in front of a large audience—is by no means easy, as it takes years of practice to reach this level. But all of you have the chance to become good public speakers in English, so long as you try hard.

I am going to introduce you to a way to start: oral presentation. By which I mean, you present

your ideas or viewpoints to a small group around a table or in a classroom, and you don't even need to stand up to address the audience. Oral presentation is different from public speaking in that the latter usually occurs in a formal setting with a lot of people in the audience. An oral presentation is rather informal and it can be delivered from an outline, while public speaking is formal and speakers usually deliver their presentations from a prepared manuscript. Moreover, an oral presentation is more interactive, and it is often short and delivered to smaller audiences. Because oral presentations will always be a part of your academic and professional life you should practice this skill.



There are several factors that will make your oral presentations effective. First of all, a good oral presentation is goal-oriented. Each time you speak to an audience, you should be clear on what the purpose of your oral presentation is. If you are unclear about your main points, how can you expect others to follow? Secondly, a good oral presentation is audience-centered. It is important that you connect with your audience, and you are sensitive towards your audience's reactions and make appropriate adjustments during your presentation, rather than sticking to what you have planned and ignoring the audience's response (to be continued P.5)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ELC Basketball Championship

In November, the combined ELC and Liberal Arts College faculty basketball team wrapped up an undefeated schedule to win its first ever tournament championship. The team steadily improved throughout its season before claiming an easy win in the championship game.

### Campus Christmas Caroling

The evening of December 23rd nearly sixty STU students, faculty members and their families strolled through campus singing traditional Christmas songs. Before serenading the student dorms

the group met for about thirty minutes to learn and practice songs like "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bells," and "Silent Night."

### Conversation Series Showcases Elite Guests

During the fall semester the ELC Conversation Series provided students an opportunity to hear from several well-known guests who work in a variety of professional fields.

On November 7th Mary Meeker, one of the world's leading financial and internet analysts also known as "The Queen of the Net," spoke with

Dr. Jun Liu in a forum entitled "Listen to Mary Meeker as the World Does!"

On November 21st Fulbright Scholars Dr. Earnest Suarez and Dr. Paul Levine were interviewed by Dr. Jun Liu on the topic "The Power of Literature in Reading."

Finally, during the afternoon of December 9th Dr. Jun Liu and Ms. Diana Liao, a United Nations interpreter for 32 years, talked about Diana's language learning journey and some of her experiences as an interpreter.



# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE: ARE THEY RELATED?

Tony Becker, ELC Foreign Instructor

When learning their native language, most people never think about the cultural implications of their language use. For example, sometimes you might hear people say, "I don't know why we say 'that,' but we just do!" Certain language usages are often influenced by culture, and sometimes different aspects of culture(s) are also contained within the language itself.

Let's consider English, more specifically English used in the American culture. Many experts claim that America is a DOING culture (as opposed to BEING or THINKING), which simply suggests that the Ameri-

can culture is oriented towards activities that promote striving, achieving and accomplishing. All of this is reflected in the fact that most Americans are very time-oriented and conscious of how they spend their time, which is largely indicated in American English language.

Most noticeable in the English language is the use of troublesome tense structures (i.e., Past tense, Past progressive, Past perfect, Present tense, etc.). These structures suggest that time is very important to the English language, particularly in the American culture. Furthermore, many idiomatic expressions that relate to time also

occur in English. For example, "Time is money," "Haste makes waste," "The early bird gets the worm," "In a New York minute," and "Waste time." All of these examples refer to the importance of time in the culture, and also support the notion that America is indeed a DOING culture.

It's essential to consider the language when considering the culture and vice versa, because knowing this information can prepare you to better understand how language and culture interact. When learning the English language, paying attention to its time-orientation will help your un-

derstanding of how the target culture operates and thinks. Overall, this might contribute to promoting cultural understanding, simply by looking at the language of that culture.

In the end, it's important for language learners to understand that when you are learning another language you are incidentally learning something about that culture, whether you realize it or not. Therefore, pay attention to all parts of the language now and it might help you avoid communication problems "From time to time."

## Improve Your English Skills at the Reading Club

Joshua McNeal, ELC Intern



The English Language Center at STU provides a wealth of English language activities to help students improve their English abilities outside of the classroom. In order to give students a chance to practice their English reading skills, the Reading Club was launched earlier this semester.

Now, students meet every Thursday at 7:30pm in the 789 building to discuss topics they have read about during the previous week.

Each Thursday they are given new material on topics ranging from sports to poetry to current events in China and around the world.

But many students think that reading is their best English skill. So, why should they bother to practice reading when they could spend the same time working on writing or listening?

Actually, there are many ways English learners can benefit from consciously developing their reading skills.

First, by reading authentic English materials more often students can improve their reading speed and comprehension as well as enlarge their vocabulary. Also, as students discover new and different sentence structures in books, magazines and other readings they can put these to use in their own writing.

The Reading Club also provides students with an opportunity to practice their critical thinking skills. Each week members meet to dis-

cuss the materials they have read. During this meeting students share and challenge each other's opinions and ideas that have been informed by their reading.

Furthermore, every member of the Reading Club helps to decide what topics will be read. This way, students read about issues or stories that are interesting, relevant and important to them.

In order to actively par-

ticipate in the weekly discussion students must have read the material for that particular week. This is not easy, but the Reading Club students have enjoyed lively sessions only made possible by their hard work reading.

The Reading Club welcomes every student interested in improving their reading skills as we begin a new semester learning together.

## Confident English Learner

Lucky, 03 English

During their first program of 2005, Hugo and Ah Zhi, hosts of the popular radio program "Yi Xie Shi Yi Xie Qing" (一些事一些情), defined the year 2005 as "the year of self-confidence." The year 2005 was to be a year filled with self-confidence regardless of how you may have acted or what you were like in the past. I bring this up nearly a year later to encourage you to be a confident English learner.

Confidence is especially important in spoken English. Many students dare not speak English because they don't believe in their own abilities.

These students are afraid of making mistakes and losing face. However, if you never speak your oral English will never improve. Progress is made through mistakes. Therefore, make mistakes, but make them confidently. If mistakes are made confidently, nobody will lose face.

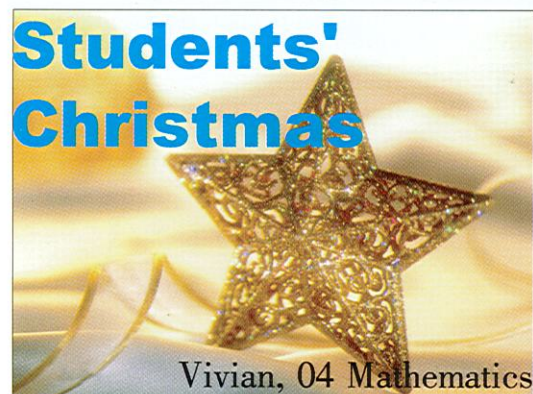
Confidence is also badly needed to deal with frustrations in learning English. For many students, including myself, learning English seems to take forever. During the process there will undoubtedly be difficulties. It is normal to spend a long time working hard without making much progress. But

this is very frustrating and some people may choose to give up at this point. However, those who have confidence clearly know they are going to succeed some day, if not today, so they will carry on. Eventually the confident English learner will overcome these frustrations and continue their learning process.

I am not saying English is easy to learn. But I am saying English is just a language and nothing more. Therefore, build up your confidence and work on your English skills. You may not be the best English learner, but at the very least please be a confident English learner.



## Students' Christmas



Vivian, 04 Mathematics

Christmas, which comes in the same season as the cold weather, has its own way of driving people crazy. We all enjoy it very much. It's a time to sing, a time to dance and most importantly a time to care.

### I am excited about it!

Karry, a sophomore in the Science College, spent her first Christmas at STU with her roommates on campus. They sent oranges and candy to each other. "Oranges represented our friendship and candy because we are sweet, ha!" she laughed. She continued, "I had a wonderful Christmas last year. I am in a state of excitement looking forward to it this year. I'm also concerned about what kinds of gifts to send my friends in Guangzhou."

### I'd like to go to a church!

Most students will share Christmas with close friends, but some think they should visit a church. "I would like to spend my time in a church because I haven't been there before," one student said. "I want to know more about Christmas," he continued, "Maybe I will understand Christmas better after going to church. And I'm curious about it because it is new to me."

Many students are curious about Christmas. For one thing, Christmas is a part of western culture. It's different from our Chinese festivals. Christmas is also a time to assemble together. It makes college life colorful. For students, it's an opportunity to have fun, relax, and develop friendships.

Another student said: "I don't know why, but in our middle school students weren't very excited about Christmas. We sent cards or gifts to each other, but we didn't celebrate. There is a prevailing atmosphere of celebration in college. I am a college student, I feel excited and I want to make Christmas special and know more about it."

Christmas is an exotic festival and students have different opinions about it. It seems we should not only know more about it, but also about other western customs as well. Whether we are in China or not, understanding other people's cultures will help us understand their behavior. And this will help us to communicate more effectively.

## Seal Cutting in Shantou

Sadonna, 05 Journalism

Have you ever been to TuoPu near Shantou University? Have you ever met an old man who sits below a tree concentrating on his work?

Despite his rich face and friendly smile, this seal cutting craftsman has a hidden psychological weakness deep inside his heart. He lacks self-confidence and hope in the future of his skilled career.

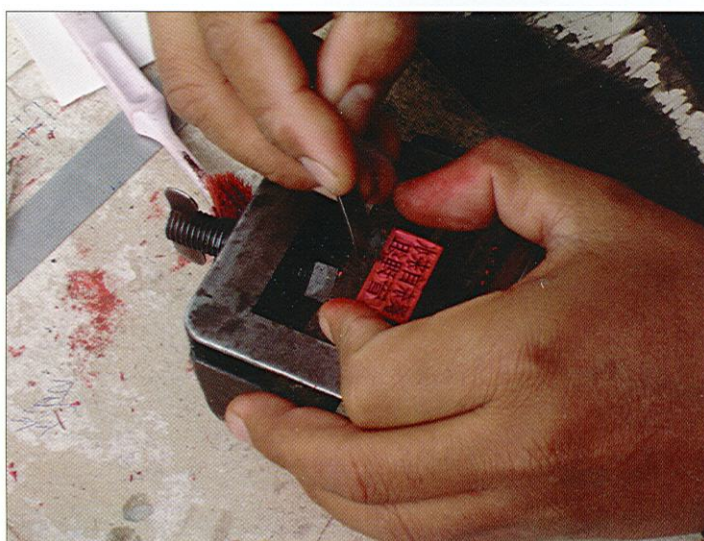
Chinese seal cutting, a combination of calligraphy and carving, is a rare art form with distinct style. When I mentioned the word art, the craftsman interrupted me immediately saying,

"This is just a very low level career, no one will look down his nose at it, but it couldn't really be described as art either." He only sees his handicraft career as a way to feed his family and doesn't think of himself as a traditional artist.

"Nobody loves his own career, it just depends on how much you can enjoy it," the craftsman said. With this motto, he cheers himself up to

support his family by working hard on this rare kind of art.

Shantou had a very prosperous economy in the time just after the area was declared a special economic zone in China. At that time



many customers came and supported the seal cutter's small business. But his sales have decreased slowly through the years. It's not easy to continue in such work nowadays, especially in the TuoPu area.

But the seal cutter still chooses to stay open and refuses to change the location of his business. He has worked in the same store since coming to Shantou thirteen years a-

go. It was his first foothold and contains lots of memories. The seal cutter also doesn't want to lose the loyal customers who know his shop. He believes in destiny and that heaven will always leave a door open.

"I used to be a worker in a company," he said. But later admitted that he was often late to arrive at work and always yearned for freedom. So, the seal cutter ventured into his own career. But he won't let his son inherit his business be-

cause he doesn't want his son to live such a hard life. The world is always changing. Youth should appreciate the past, but move on and never stay in the same place.

"If the economy becomes better, art will also have a good market," he concluded, "No money no art, it is an unchanging principle."

## Summer in Kabul

Germany, 04 English

Afghanistan, a small and poor nation in southwest-central Asia, was relatively unknown to the world until war between the Taliban and America broke out four years ago.

John Noonan, a journalist from the U.S, chose not to spend his last summer vacation in the sun of a relaxing beach. Instead he traveled to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, as he said, "not for pleasure, but for journalism."

Several weeks ago, he shared his experiences,

wonderful photos and video with students in English Corner.

He and a colleague prepared for six months leading up to the trip, but after arriving in Kabul found things were completely different from anything they had read. "We just forgot about all the reference books and started over," John said.

As we know, battles happen frequently in Afghanistan, and John admitted that he and his colleague were very afraid. He said that on

one occasion a hotel that they'd just left five or six hours earlier was bombed. Everyday death seemed close.

What impressed John most about his time in Afghanistan were the people, the refugees there. Before arriving he had thought most people there were terrorists whose eyes were filled with revenge.

However, after talking to and staying with the refugees, John discovered they were normal folk with normal desires, such as finding

stable jobs and feeding their kids. The local people were also hospitable. John explained that he got nervous when he was invited to dinner by a family because the family was usually poor and would use all their food to serve him. Amidst the horrible daily battles, the Afghanis led a simple life.

John gave students at English Corner a chance to open their eyes and see a whole different view from another corner of the world.



## A Letter to STU Students

Dear STU,

Only a few days with you and these scenes keep reappearing before my eyes:

Your eager faces: so young, so enthusiastic and so full of life! The different levels of English did not prevent us from having a direct, intense and memorable connection. You wanted to learn, all of you, and I enjoyed giving whatever I knew. More than just a teaching/learning experience, our brief encounter inside and outside of the classroom was a true exchange – of experiences, knowledge, wishes and feelings. Back on my island in nearby Hong Kong, I keep on wondering: how are you doing now?

The beautiful campus: nowadays, most campuses have only half your space for twice as many students. You even have plenty of ‘secret’ places to disappear into whenever you wish! What luxury, when most people are living on top of each other in other parts of the world. the comfortable ratio of students to teachers, and the host of available facilities open to all. You are so privi-

DIANA LIAO served the United Nations as an interpreter for 32 years before “retiring” in July 2004. She now calls Hong Kong home, and came to STU in December to share with students the role languages have had in determining her rich and eventful life. Diana also wanted to hear first hand how today’s students envision their future, and what role, if any, English will play in their unfolding drama.

leged that I wonder if anyone ever wants to graduate! This realization, naturally, will be all too clear to you only after you have joined the real world outside.

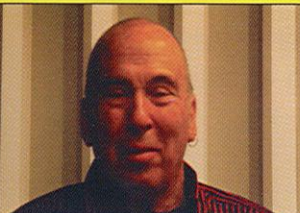
Our workshops: though short and sweet, these precious moments confirmed what I had always known – that youth is magic, and magic can make any dream come true. Whether it is to become an interpreter, a lawyer, a civil servant...get your tools ready while you are young, and the rest will take care of itself.

I leave you now with my favorite quotes from “Desiderata”: “Be yourself. .be cheerful, and strive for happiness!”

All the best,  
Diana Liao

## An Inside Look at North Korea

Prof. Peter Herford,  
School of Journalism



Visiting the DPRK is like looking at China 35 years ago during the Cultural Revolution. You’ll hear that said often by recent visitors. Arguably the most isolated country in the world, the DPRK is a monoculture where the government owns and operates everything. Everyone who works, works for government. There is no private property, there are no private cars, and there is no private business.

So what was a US citizen doing in North Korea when visas are supposedly impossible to get? Times are changing in the DPRK and one of those changes permitted me to spend a long weekend and look through a window of change.

When we landed in the capitol Pyongyang aboard the daily flight from Beijing in a 40 year-old Russian aircraft we parked near two modern South Korean airliners carrying tourists from the South. Big change.

What got us all visas were the tri-annual (once every three years) Arirang Games. These spectacles take a year and more to produce and rehearse. They use the talents and skills of 100,

000 people.

Pyongyang has the largest sports stadium in the world. It hold 250,000 people, and the floor of the stadium can accommodate about 15,00 dancers and gymnasts and acrobats. The changing backdrop to the games is not a projection; it is 30,000 cardholders switching their cards with military precision. The two-hour show draws on talents from all over the country. Young people come to audition for the prestigious right to spend nearly a year in training, and rehearsal before going back home. Chinese will find the Arirang Games familiar. Watch the opening ceremony of any major event on Mainland China and you will see similar spectacles. But in the West this extravaganza is a miracle of human precision.

The games brought me and 90 other Americans to the DPRK. What we found was a country on the edge of change. There are now street kiosks in Pyongyang where individual citizens sell small useful items from soft drinks and snacks, to nail clippers and hair-ribbons. The old prohibition against taking any pictures of people was

ignored. Our guide answered questions that made it clear she knew her country had massive problems that must be solved. The problems could not be more basic. Food, energy, medical care, transportation, and a working economic system.

We were only a small opening in what may be major changes ahead. The DPRK desperately wants reunion with its neighbor and sisters and brothers in S. Korea. The two countries are talking regularly. The DPRK has said it will not wait for another three years for the next “games,” they have announced new performances for next year, and yes, US citizens will again be welcome and this time for longer stays. The DPRK has likely been inspired by its big northern neighbor China where changes have created the world’s 7th largest economy growing faster than any other major country in the world. The DPRK can’t hope to achieve the same size, it’s a small country, but then who would have believed that S Korea would be among the major industrial powers of the world as little as 30 years ago?

## An Interview with Professor Qiu Qifeng

Cindy, 05 Liberal Arts

Professor Qiu Qifeng was born in Brunei, and studied at Taiwan Normal University. He has worked in Singapore and Hong Kong as a reporter and editor. He came to Shantou University in September, 2004 as a professor in the School of Journalism.



**Q:** Hello! Qiu sir, I heard that you lived in Brunei for many years. So, what do you think of Brunei?

**A:** Yeah, I lived there for forty-one years and I have deep feelings for it. Brunei is really a wealthy, beautiful and harmonious country. It is rich in petroleum and natural gas. It is actually one of the richest countries in the world; the GDP of each person is nineteen thousand dollars. Moreover, the government and people of Brunei make a great effort to make the country greener. Furthermore, since the crime rate in Brunei is very low, a Burundian can enjoy a comfortable and peaceful life.

**Q:** That sounds good. As a student, I wonder what the educational model in Brunei is. Is the way you study in Brunei different from the way students study in China?

**A:** There are three commonly used languages in Brunei:

Malayan, English and Chinese. English is the most important. Anyone who wants to achieve great things must learn English very well. Many students also study Chinese, but they focus on phonetics instead of paying attention to the essence of the splendid Chinese culture. And because of wealth, the citizens of Brunei can go to primary school through university for free.

**Q:** We know that most of Brunei’s wealth comes from petroleum and natural gas that cannot be reused. What do you think about this problem?

**A:** Yes, resource depletion will be a big problem because these resources have so great an effect on the Brunei economy. But actually, in recent years, the government of Brunei has taken many measures to change the situation that the economy of Brunei depends on.



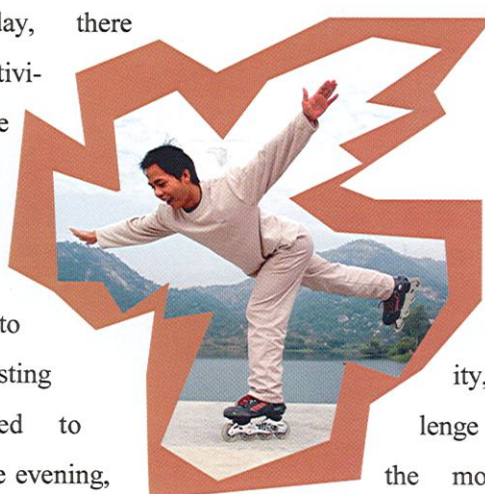
# I Believe I Can Fly

Daniel Xuan, 03 English

When you are skating, you can learn a lot of challenging roller skills as well. For example, Slalom Style\* is my favorite. If you like dancing, Roller Dance\* would be a wonderful choice for you. Of course, the first and most important step before whirling on stage is laying a strong foundation in basic roller skills.

Last month roller lovers had a wonderful gathering at Shantou University's first Roller Festival. During the day, there were fun activities on the Walking Street. Many students joined in to play interesting games related to roller. In the evening, there were fantastic roller performances in the rink. Students showed all their roller skills, such as One Cone, Double Back Cross, Crab Cross, Back Stroll, and Crazy Legs. It will be hard to forget either the birthday party during the Roller Festival or all the fun students had throughout the gathering.

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"Show your personality, and challenge yourself" is the motto of The Roller-Lover Association of Shantou University (RLA). There are now more than 150 student members of the club and the number continues to grow.

Roller is a positive and healthy sport that helps us keep fit. We roller skills.

\* Slalom Style: A form of roller with some intervals between cones, judged by disciplines of speed and style

\* Roller Dance: A dance form that mixes dance movements with roller skills.

Roller is a positive and healthy sport that helps us keep fit. We roller skills.

# Two Gifts for the Price of One

Nikki, 04English

Shortly before Christmas a volunteer delivery team was created to take Christmas greetings, good wishes and presents to students on Christmas Eve for a small fee. The money raised will go to help a school for disabled students.

This activity attracted quite a number of students this year. There were many students surrounding the volunteers at the center of the activity on Tuesday, December 20. They were busy writing cards and discussing which presents to send. There were several different options to choose from including oranges, apples, roses, and chocolate. Students could pick their favorite as a gift for someone special.

As students decided which presents to choose, the volunteers explained the meaning of each gift: "Apples, red roses and chocolate symbolize true love between boys and girls; An orange symbolizes pure friendship. And you can write your best wishes on the small

cards." When asked why he was interesting in the delivery service, a student said: "It will be a big surprise if the presents are sent this way. I am also looking forward to getting a present like this."

The master of volunteers reported: "We are going to send 800 presents to students this year. The presents are popular. It seems friendship is very important in our daily life, because the oranges are very popular. The money we raised will be given to The North Star Volunteer Team in order to fund a scholarship for excellent students in a school for deaf-mutes this year. We hope those students will have a happy new year. This is the third time we have collected money to help others in this way."

By sending Christmas gifts through the delivery team, students can kill two birds with one stone. They can send presents with best wishes and also help deaf-mute students.



# Practicing Oral Presentation

Dr. Jun Liu, English Language Center Executive Director

(continued P.1)(e.g., silence, confusion, and boredom). Thirdly, a good oral presentation is ethical, by which I mean, you will try to present with good logic and reasoning, and at the same time, with empathy and sympathy. For instance, if I present to you my idea of what a good learner of English should be, and I ask those of you who failed your English finals to raise your hands, I will likely cause the embarrassment of those students. The bottom line is that, as a presenter, you should put yourself in the audience's shoes and not advocate any behavior that may cause potential unease for your audience.

To help you practice your oral presentation

skills, I would like to offer the following tips:

1. Write down your presentation in an outline, which should be appropriate in length, well organized, with adequate support.
2. Practice delivering your presentation from your speaking outline and rehearse the presentation a few times until you are comfortable with the outline you have prepared.
3. Once you are familiar with what you are going to say, try to add some of the aspects of delivery (e.g., body movement, eye contact, gestures, pauses, and pitch) to your oral presentation.
4. Try videotaping yourself speaking into a tape recorder, or talking in front of a mirror - all these

will help you get a good sense of what your presentation might sound and look like to your intended audience.

5. Rehearse in a similar situation such as a classroom or lecture hall to get comfortable with the place where you will make your oral presentation.
6. Carefully observe how others do their presentations, and then learn from their strengths and weaknesses. It is always helpful to watch some professional speakers on the Internet or video.

Good luck, and I hope you enjoy the experience of practicing, and become good English speakers.



## Just Show Yourself

Tracy, 04Biology

The curtain has fallen on the 19th Annual School Sports meet at Shantou University. However, there are many exciting, moving and inspiring pictures that remain in our minds even now. For example, one of the spectacular shows was Athletics Baby, who gave spectators a calisthenics demonstration during the opening ceremony.

Athletics Baby members were female students who chose calisthenics as their PE class this term. When they were asked whether they would like to perform during the opening ceremony, almost everyone said yes without thinking twice. For the girls, this was not only a great honor, but also a golden chance to put what they had been learning into practice.

However, during their training the girls faced some difficulties. First of all, most of the girls had never had any callisthenic

training before this semester, so they had to be taught step by step. In addition, there was no time or place available for so many girls to rehearse at the same time. At last, with the help of their trainer Miss Yi, Athletics Baby danced to exciting music on the big stage of the track field, showing themselves in good condition.

"The reason why we chose these calisthenics novices is

because we really wish to create more opportunities for everyone to take part in school sports in order to exhibit their talent." Miss Yi said. Given their wonderful performance the girls clearly learned team-spirit and developed the ability to show off their talent. Other students should have as much confidence in themselves as the Athletics Baby girls did. In a word, when opportunity comes, just take it, enjoy it and show yourself to the world.

## The First Campus Dancing Contest

Sindy, 05 Liberal Arts



and individuals taking part and the number of awards, you will see the great success of "Our Happiness," a group that was made up of twelve students from three different colleges. They were lucky winners that night, taking two more prizes, The Best

The first campus dancing contest was held December 18th in the Great Hall. With sixteen groups and individuals competing, the contest turned out to be a great success.

After fierce competition, nine awards were shared by six groups and individuals. As was expected, the dance group "Games," which includes six muscular boys, won first prize. The dance group "Our Happiness" and the solo dance "A Girl Pursuing the Sun" took second place, the latter also received The Most Potential Award. Third prizes were given to "The Hunter," "Circling in the Air" and "Shan Lie." Though the competition lasted for less than three hours, it took the dancers months to prepare. Congratulations to all of them!

If you think about the number of groups

Original Work Award and The Most Popular Award. Their lovely dancing together with comical actions amused the audience tremendously and drew thunderous cheers from time to time.

After practicing for over two months, the group said that they were pretty happy to receive something in return for their great efforts. They also said that they didn't feel much pressure while competing because dancing was only a hobby. "It's about being okay with ourselves, no matter how people talk about us. We're doing what we'd like to do," one of the members said.

The first campus dancing contest sparked a lot of interest in dancing throughout STU. Students are already looking forward to the second and third dancing contests.

## The Top 10 Singing Contest

Sabrina, 03 English

Can you guess who will be the top ten singing stars at STU this year? I believe most of the students already know the answer.

On Dec. 17th, the Top Ten Singing Contest was held in the Great Hall. With great curiosity about this year's top ten singers, students arrived at the auditorium to enjoy the contest. Although they were busy preparing for upcoming final exams, the Great Hall was still so crowded with students when the annual contest began that there was hardly any standing room left.

After long-term preparations, all the contestants did their best and performed very well. ChenShanyu, a freshman from the College of Liberal Arts, gave a touching song that expressed her gratefulness for the support of her parents and friends. The audience was moved by her song and gave her warm applause

in return. YeYina, a Medical College student, sang a really difficult song that left a deep impression on the crowd. Before the singing contest she had practiced on the top floor of the girls' dormitory nearly every day. The contestants tried their best and their hard work paid off.

After the first round, the top ten singers were selected according to their scores. The top five then moved into the second round and sang one more song respectively. Finally, first prize was awarded to LuXuyuan from the College of Liberal Arts. Zhailiu, from the same college came in second place and ZhengWentao & LaiZhiquan from the Medical College received third prize. Congratulations to all of them!





# SLC in Students' Eyes

Megin, 05 Literature

The SLC, or Student Learning Center, was founded in August, 2004 and has attracted many students' attention. It really gives students a lot of opportunities by aiming to help them improve their communication and leadership skills. The SLC offers two kinds of services, one is tutoring and the other is group discussion. The tough but important subjects are taught by tutors who have done well in them. Students can choose whatever course they want to attend. Additional-



ly, if you gather five or more people who want to study a certain course you may ask for tutoring sessions for that course. In a word, SLC is a very good place to learn.

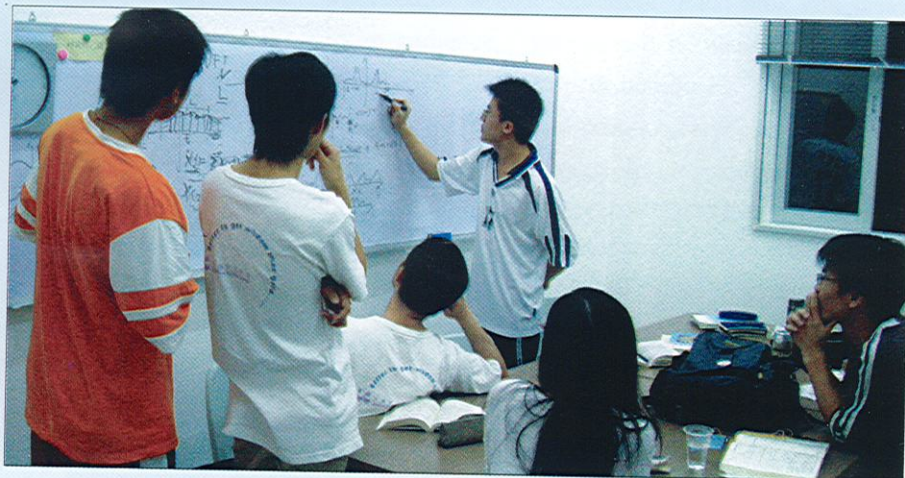
What do students think of SLC? "Quite good!" a student answered before I could finish my question. "It improves my study a lot! The tutors are pretty good," he said. Another student named Zhu said that he learned a lot from a speech given by Cao Feiyue. Some sophomores said, "It's quite a good place to study. It's quiet!" Some students fell in love with the SLC the first time they entered it. The tutors who are also our fellow STU students said that they had improved their communication skills, gained abundant experience, and an-

other very important thing, remembered old knowledge. Through teaching, they pick up again what they have nearly forgotten. To sum up, both students and tutors benefit from the SLC.

However, students as well as tutors gave some suggestions to improve the quality of the SLC. They said it would be better if there were fixed rooms for each course. This way, students could go straight to the room where the subject which they prefer is taught. Also the SLC is not the best place for computer learning because the computers are in front of the receiving desk, where people come in and out. The SLC manager, Carol, also said the tutors could use more training.

Learning centers like the SLC at Shantou University, which use peer tutors to teach, are hard to find elsewhere in China. Carol has studied the SLC's strengths and weaknesses, and plans to learn from this kind of center in other cities like Hong Kong. She also plans to improve the tutors' training.

May SLC have a bright future!



## FINDING JOB

### Hunting for a Job

Kristy, 04 Literature

These days, university graduates have three choices: hunt for a job, go to graduate school or study abroad.

Last month many companies came to STU to participate in a job fair. Also, on Nov. 25th, a large job fair was held in Guangzhou. Thousands of graduates went to both events to search for a job.

It follows then that a fair proportion of gradu-

ates choose to hunt for job when they finish their university life. However, many say there is a big difference between the ideal and reality. From our investigations, there are three main reasons graduates are looking for jobs right away. The first is that they have to find a job to support their family even though they are eager to study further. Secondly, some graduates are curious about social life, and lastly some feel that hunting for a job is not as

risky as the other two choices.

Though they have all kinds of reasons for finding a job, most graduates seem to have the same feeling that there really may be a big difference between their ideal job and the actual job they find, especially regarding working conditions and level of pay.

Here are some suggestions for job hunting:

1. Stay positive. Don't let all the hard work of hunting for a job frustrate you.

2. Don't have an impractical goal or purpose before hunting for a job.

3. Don't just look for jobs in big cities. You should know that the bigger the city, the keener the competition.

4. You should have long-term objectives. Don't just think about what you want right now, but also consider what you want in the future.



Broadway, often called the longest street in the world, is located in New York City. It is home to hundreds of theaters where music, drama and dance are performed. It is the main theater district of New York City and where the term Broadway Musical comes from.

Broadway is made up of three general districts including Broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway. At the very beginning, Broadway stood only for Broadway. As time went by, musicals performed on Broadway became commercialized. So, some people who wanted to make real musicals moved their shows to the jumping-offs of New York, which developed into Off-Broadway.

Unexpectedly, Off-Broadway followed in Broadway's footsteps, Off-Off-Broadway was formed.



## Broadway Musical

Heather, 05 Law

and answer? Oscar Hammerstein said: "It can be anything it wants to be. There is only one thing a musical absolutely must have - music."

## Lovely Band, Lovely Family

Margaret,  
04 Business

How Time flies! I have now been a part of the STU band for one year. I still remember feeling happy and warm the day I joined it.

In October 2004 when the band was started I was able to pass an interview and join as a flute player. Interestingly, I had studied the violin for a few years, but like many of the band members didn't know how to play my new instrument at all.

Our first performance was to be for the CUBA basketball tournament at the end of February 2005. That meant we didn't have enough time to learn our new musical instruments from ABC. We just had to prepare several songs to play for CUBA. At the same time, we received a second mission. We had to prepare two symphonic songs for a music contest for Guangdong university students.

Though the band members were just starting to learn our instruments, we performed very well during CUBA and at the contest. How was that possible? During our training, on top of a basic study class, we practiced music twice a week for two hours. Nearer to the dates of our CUBA and Guangdong contest performances we were asked to practice basic music skills every morning from 7:00am to 8:00am. During the winter vacation we stayed at school ten days for training.

Though the hard work required a lot of time, we didn't have any complaints. The whole band understood and believed that if we tried our best we would be the best. Besides, the band was like a big warm family. The big family made all the individual members warm, giving us the confidence and power to overcome difficulties. We felt happy to be with each other.

It's great to be in the band. I have not only learned how to play the flute and made many friends, but I have also learned many important things about working with other people. I am growing up with the band, and welcome new students to join my band family. I hope they will appreciate this lovely band family as much as I do.



## Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Mandy, 05 Public Management

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is another masterpiece in the Harry Potter series. It has been transformed from book to big-screen hit, opening in theaters around the world November 18, 2005.

The main characters include: Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger, Albus Dumbledore, and Rubeus Hagrid.

Rubeus Hagrid.

This movie is very fascinating. At the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry Potter is in grade four. Shortly before a new school term is set to begin, Harry wakes up with a terrible pain in the scar that Lord Voldemort gave him. This happens again for a second time later in the film.

After arriving back at school Harry learns that the annual Triwizard Tournament is going to be held at Hogwarts this year. The winner will receive the Goblet of Fire. The Beauxbatons and Durmstrang magic schools send their competitors to take part in the match, and Harry's name unexpectedly jumps from the Goblet of Fire giving him a chance to join even though he is too young.

Harry hopes to become much braver through this match, and is able complete the three arduous tasks. However, the match was a trap set up by Lord Voldemort who challenges Harry to a duel. Lord Voldemort says a terrible Avada Kedavra that puts Harry in danger. But luckily, Harry is able to break away from Lord Voldemort's persecution and return to Hogwarts.

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is popular around the world and a big success in China as well. The novels *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* and *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* have already been released to very warm welcomes. Harry Potter fans look forward to the movie versions of both of these books.

