

The Shantou Beat



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Seize the Time and Seize the Day

--- Dr. Liu's advice to our new students



Dr. Jun Liu, ELC Executive Director

My dear friends, what can you do to make your four years at Shantou University more meaningful?

Every year we enroll a great number of students. Regardless of majors, one fundamental skill that is essential, and makes you successful in job hunting, is English communicative competence. Over the last five years, those whose English abilities were deemed high, as the result of hard work and active participation in all sorts of co-curricular activities organized by the English Language Center, were usually more marketable than those whose English competence was far below average. Some students, upon enrolling in Shantou University, might feel less excited, if their first choice was not honored due to their less than satisfactory performance in the college entrance exams. Others feel that their final destination is predetermined by the kind of university they find themselves in. But accomplishments and a positive career path will ultimately be in the hands of individuals who have visions for themselves in the future.

When I entered Suzhou University, the then Jiangsu Teachers' College in 1977, as my third choice, I was so embarrassed that I did not get into the first two choices of my dream universities -- Beijing Foreign Language Studies University and Shanghai Foreign Language Studies University. I had a moment of despair that I would never be able to do simultaneous interpretation for the United Nations, nor would I be able to travel abroad as a diplomat. But what really hit me hard was the realization I was not even ranked in the top half among 80 students enrolled in the English Department at that time. I was disappointed in myself as I had not studied hard enough to have a solid foundation in all the school subjects, partly due to the political situation that deemphasized education, and partly due to my lack of motivation to study hard under the given circumstances.

Struck by self-humiliation, I gave a lot of thought to my future. I tried to imagine what would be the best scenario for me. I had three options. First, I should study hard to become a high school teacher in my hometown. Second, I should study really hard to get into a graduate program upon my graduation, and third, I should study

really, really hard to stay on at the university to become an instructor. Regardless, I figured out that I would accomplish nothing if I did not put my heart into studying.

As I recall, we had intensive English classes every day, focusing on grammar and word studies of model essays and excerpts from classics. I spent a lot of time deciphering the selected readings from 18th century British literature with the help of dictionaries and grammar books. At that time, speaking English with native English speakers, so-called "foreign experts," was something I could only dream about. The small auditorium in which weekly thematic lectures were alternatively given by a couple of foreign experts was always packed. I did not know how much I was able to digest out of an hour-long lecture, but the feeling of the exposure to authentic English was great. Sometimes I laughed while others were laughing without knowing why, though I always made an effort to tape-record the lecture and then spent hours listening to the tape until I found out why I laughed with others during the lecture. Like some of my classmates, I was curious to see whether the pattern drills we practiced in listening and speaking courses and the vocabulary we learned from the textbooks could be used in real communication.

Fortunately, Suzhou, the city where my university was located, was known as the Venice of the East, full of beautiful gardens and pavilions open for tourists. They were usually packed with visitors from China and abroad. Whenever there was a chance, I would go to one of those gardens either by myself or with my friends to seek opportunities to speak English with foreign visitors. I worked very hard to commit to memory English versions of introductions to, and descriptions of, those gardens with the hopes of using them in real communication. I wanted to make sure that I sounded British as the result of constant listening to and mimicking BBC and Linguaphone tapes. Although my eagerness to gain communicative competence in English was sometimes responded to less than enthusiastically because the very people I wanted to speak English with were busy enjoying the scenery, I felt encouraged even with a mere exchange of greetings.

I was obsessed with English, and I resumed my habit of morning exercise and recitation. I set up very high standards for myself and buried myself in practicing the four language skills, and I trod every corner of the campus whenever I had time to read aloud whatever I learned in class, not giving up until I had a full grasp of the texts, whether it was an essay, a poem, or a dialogue. I jumped from a mediocre student to one of the top ten candidates with the possibility of being asked to join the faculty upon graduation. As luck would have it, I was.

My dear friends, whenever I recall my college days, I cannot help envying you with such great opportunities to learn and practice your English. You can drop by our English Lounge whenever you want to practice your English. You can visit our English Corner whenever you hope to discuss something in depth. You can contribute to our Shantou Beat whenever you want to express your ideas, and you can participate in our English Festival when you feel like competing with your peers either in speaking or singing. It is really up to you to take advantage of these opportunities, and to make your learning more meaningful and rewarding while at Shantou University.

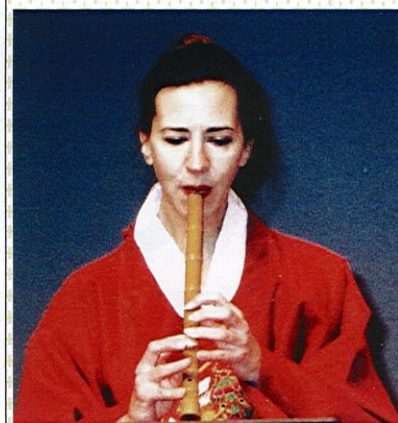
News in Brief



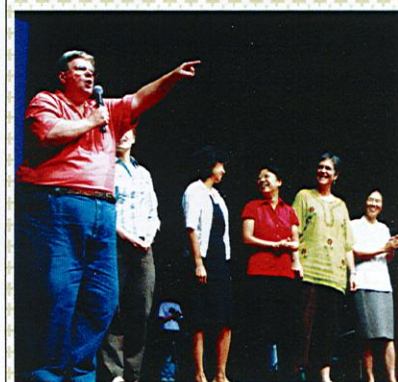
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Inspiration Overflows

BBS- Information Station

Li Likui
06 Journalism

"Hey, let's talk on BBS later!" You always hear this saying among STU students. BBS, short for Bulletin Board System, is a website where you not only get information about STU, but also share comments with unacquainted schoolmates about various other topics. Besides, on BBS, you can chat with anyone you like, just as you do on QQ.

BBS has many features. In addition to the STU-Info Section, where many big events are presented and sections for each college are posted, you can also find a variety of helpful resources. Now let me show you around BBS. The Section of Part-time Jobs, just as the name implies, provides you with a lot of information about employment opportunities, such as a family tutor or a salesgirl downtown. Usually, the person who provides the information will charge the job seeker a fee. Meanwhile, the Finding Section is for second hand items that are needed and for sale, and it is also a "lost and found" section. Sections like the STU_Lecture, Computer Technology, Postgraduate, English, and a few others, are available

for further exploration.

Checking BBS is a routine for most students at STU. "It has been a part of my daily life," says Qinyin Qin, a sophomore from the Journalism School, "I open the BBS once I turn on my computer." While Ling Zhong, a freshman from the School of Business, thinks the BBS is too complicated to use for a freshman because some of them know little about computers. "But it does have lots of information," he added with a smile. "And sometimes there is a lot of hot air, which you should not take seriously," Huang, a junior student, commented.



Moving day for freshmen

Wang Xiaohong
06 Journalism

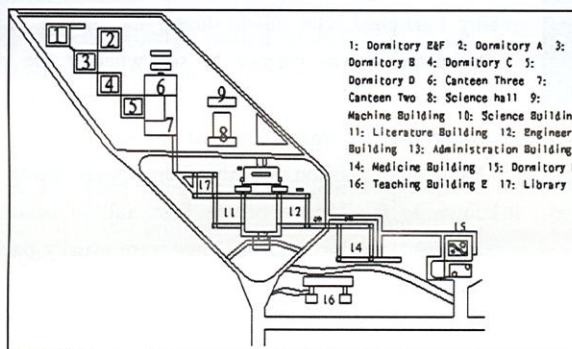
As fall approaches, universities begin their new semesters and many new faces show up on campus at Shantou University (STU). If you observe closely, you may find that some are confused about how to get to find their classrooms, some are busy with extracurricular activities, and some get lost on the Internet.

Lost on Campus

STU is large, with so many buildings and alleys. For a freshman, it's difficult to know specifically where to go. Shantou University is different from other colleges, with teaching buildings, offices for each colleges, and the library

Lost in Shantou University

lined up in succession between the dormitories. New student Hongwei Zhang, from the Chueng Kong School of Art & Design says he always gets lost on the way to the teaching building. Here is a map of the main buildings, provided for freshmen so they won't get lost.



Lost between activities and study

College life is colorful, and first-year students are excited to take part in numerous extracurricular activities. Some even participate in five or six organizations at the same time. That is why they are so busy. Imbalance between

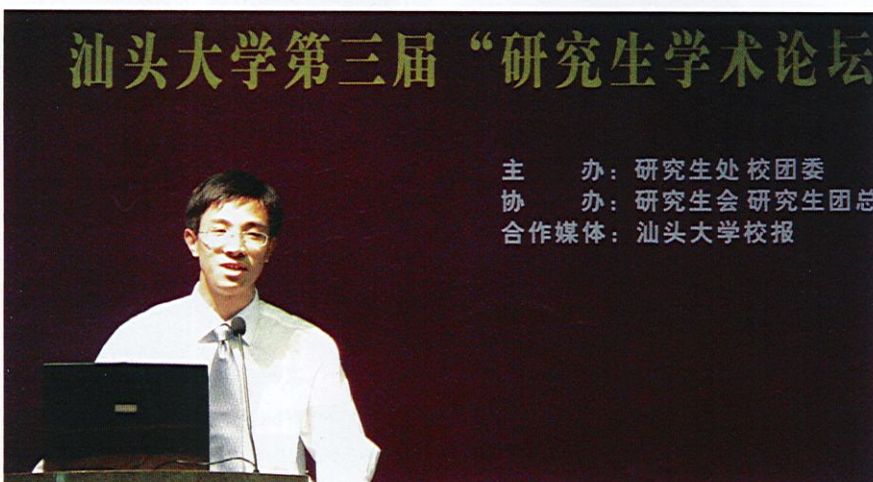
activities and study may make them feel like they didn't learn anything or they learned only a little. So here is a suggestion for the freshmen: "Do not join too many activities, spend more time studying, and you will feel you have a wonderful and colorful college life".

Lost in cyber space

For a college student, a computer is a good friend when you study with it, but a bad friend if you indulge in it. Using the computer to look for information, check e-mails and contact schoolmates is a must in daily life. So we must get familiar with "Web mail", "My STU"—visual classroom, "Notes" and "BBS", where various information is published. However, some students ignore those routines; instead, they spend much more time on computer games and they get lost in them. Students should place their emphasis on gaining knowledge rather than wasting time playing on the computer.

Dear friends, are you clear-headed enough not to get lost on campus, in balancing activities and study, and on the computer?

PGs Ask "Who Am I?"



Postgraduate giving a speech in the 3rd Postgraduate Academic Forum

You can always find smiles on their faces, expressing nothing more than an enthusiasm for learning and a degree of curiosity about a new campus, which for them may be the second or third university they have attended in order to extend their academic careers. People may ask "Why such passion?" and I say that we are talking about postgraduates.

"Lost in Translation"?

Life as a postgraduate serves as the important transition. "We are in the jungle of either

establishing another version of romance, finding a job, or even advancing to a doctorate; yet I wonder whether I would trade the fun of youth for responsibilities and serious studies," Juanjuan Sun, a first-year postgraduate, writes in her Blog. I had exactly the same thought as she did and I know other postgraduates often express similar heartfelt concerns. You see, they have already matured enough to question, yet more often, they question whether they want to become more mature. They are postgraduates.

Gone with the Wind

Postgraduates in written Chinese are "research student body", which is next to impossible to explain to a foreigner. What messages does the title of "postgraduate" imply? They need to choose a topic to work out in depth; they are allocated to tutors who guide them in a certain way; they attend seminars and talk like a would-be scholar; they participate in all kinds of academic forums; and finally, they sit to defend their dissertations in a formal setting where a couple of scholars in suits read and question their papers. "Then we are gone with the wind, and new faces of Harry Potter come to do wonders instead of us--the coming gone ones," said Xiaotiao Lee, a third year postgraduate of the Multidisciplinary Research Center. While it is true that postgraduates' academic years are shorter than undergraduates', the public has far more expectations of postgraduates. So postgraduates should make full use of their time to live up to people's expectations, and ascertain "Who am I?" They must be level-headed if they encounter "lost in translation" and "gone with the wind".

Xiao Pinghui 05 PG Public Administration

CEC & Me

Lai Ruijing 06 Engineering

Photo by Xu Qin Cheng
06 Business Postgraduate

CEC staff perform drama "Lion King"

Check Us Out

Chen Yanhong 06 Journalism

Are you looking for a comfortable place for speaking English, a wide selection of English language movies and books, a lot of English enthusiasts and foreign teachers? The English Lounge is the right place for you.

EL is a free and interesting student-run organization which opens every night for students to practice their oral English. Students can learn many other skills besides oral English. A freshman from the Engineering School, who comes to English Lounge very often, said, "I cannot only improve my oral English but also make many friends here." Shadow, who is a staff member of EL, added, "English Lounge is a club where students can study and play. What's more, they can build up their confidence through EL."

Upon their first visit to EL, many freshmen guests have expressed feelings of excitement. They can speak English and play with foreign teachers freely, even though they may made mistakes.

English Lounge also holds some activities to further students' interests in learning English. Natalie, EL's student manager, stated, "The purpose of holding activities is not just to have fun but also to benefit students by exposing them to English culture. We will try our best to create more opportunities for our guests." One of these special events for STU students to enjoy in the near future is English Speech Contest. EL staff members will oversee this particular aspect of the Sixth Annual English Festival.

You will find out there are always fun with the English Lounge while you are practicing your English. Remember to check us out every night between 7:30 and 10:30p.m.

Photo Taken by
Huang Xingxing

EL Open Night

I joined in the Creative Expression Club by chance last semester. Even after I had become a member of it, I didn't know what CEC was and what CEC was doing for students at Shantou University. Maybe some people are in a similar situation. Several days later joining the CEC, I realized that I should change this embarrassing situation.

All the members of CEC are full of creativity and enthusiasm. These qualities are, what we as CEC members, really need. Take Joanne for example, a junior in the Journalism School, who is able to sing well and dance beautifully. Aslo, we have Lok and Rose, two lovely girls majoring in English, who are good at creating and performing dramas.

Later in the semester, to my disappointment, they rarely had chances to express their creativity and show their talent in performances. This was partly due to some management problems within the club. At that time, it felt like CEC, which once seemed so promising, was cut down in its prime. So a lot of outstanding members left. That was one of the worst periods for CEC.

However, time passed and things have changed. CEC has came back to life again. We did a good job at the Promotion Night early in the semester. Moreover, many excellent students who have a strong desire to express their creativity and perform on the stage have become part of this big family. Even better, we have two wonderful advisors this year, Pat and Henry. Both of them bring new ideas and values to CEC. It seems that we are on a roll and nothing can stop us.

Now, I am still a member of CEC and I enjoy the time we spend working together. Of course, as a part of this big family, I will jump on the bandwagon and keep moving forward with them.



Elinor talking with EC students

Friday Night Fun

Chen Zhile 06 Journalism

As one of three English organizations within ELC, the English Corner plays an important role in improving STU students' English proficiency. Run by student staff members, EC opens to the whole campus every Friday night from eight to ten in the evening at the gymnasium.

English Corner not only provides students chances to practice oral English and share ideas with foreign teachers, but also a place to play games and have fun. It usually features several programs to engage the audience in a lot of interesting games, as well as abundant foreign cultures and customs. Besides the five regular programs: Warm-Up Games, Crazy English, Teacher Conversation, Culture Express and Around the Corner, EC has devised a new program called "Student Symposia" this semester, in which students who have received scholarships, such like "Semester At Sea", will be invited to share their experiences with the audience.

Aiming at enhancing students' public English speaking ability, English Corner trains their members to be MCs on-stage. What's more, an English major and experienced member of EC said, "Having joined in English Corner for one year, I have made great progress in spoken English and reached a high level of public speaking. Now I have more confidence to meet people and try out English-related activities."

English Corner is also in charge of the Intercollegiate Singing Contest for this year's upcoming English Festival. This important event provides a stage for students from different colleges to show their talent through the medium of English songs. Furthermore, EC cooperates with EL and CEC in the Cross Country Activity held during the second semester. With the goal of teamwork in mind, EC creates interesting games at different stations for contestants to play together in a relay race.

Kellerman, a new addition to EC, stated, "I think what EC requires is a well-organized mind. I can learn how to be fully prepared and punctilious before I begin. What's more, EC teaches me how to be perfect!"

Different Majors Similar Dreams

05 Journalism Feng Miaolan
05 Journalism Ma Shibei

In early July of this year, ten girls from the School of Journalism traveled to Shanghai from Shantou and began their two-month internships with six different news media organizations.

Stepping outside the classroom to start their internships during the summer vacation is popular for many students at Shantou University, especially sophomores and juniors who have accumulated some professional knowledge and want to practice what they have learned in real society.

This summer, more than ninety students were sent to thirty media outlets as interns in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shantou and even Hong Kong by the Journalism School. Most of them were sophomores and juniors.

Unlike the Journalism School, sophomores in the Engineering School must first finish their basic courses before seeking internships. Liang Huajin, a sophomore majoring in Mechatronics Engineering (ME), finished his Metalworking Practice at his college's base this summer as an intern.

"It required the precision of 0.1 mm," said Liang. "It was extremely tiring to spend some whole days incising pieces for metal fittings."

However, juniors majoring in ME will be sent to The Second Car Producing Factory at Wuhan, Hubei province. Lin Yaohui, a junior in ME, who took that trip to Wuhan this past summer, thought this trip expanded his vision of the whole production line.

Generally speaking, the Law School sends only juniors to Beijing and Hong Kong during each summer vacation for internships. But the quota is limited to about twenty. The



J-School Interns in Foshan

winners are students who do well in almost all examinations and demonstrate excellent public communication skills.

Of course, many students will also find internship on their own. "We can work in website, production and logo designing as a part time job when we are at school," said Wu Dongyu, a senior in the Art and Design School, who just finished his internship at an advertising company in Shenzhen. "We can find these jobs to serve as our internships in our extracurricular time."

Similar to the Art School, students in the Business School do not need to wait to start their internships until summer or winter vacations. Since May of 2001, the Commercial Practice Centre has offered a broad stage for the Business School students to get closer to a business life. The center holds business practices like computer services, tour guide training, organizing tours, express delivery services and ordering books. Plus, they have to throw themselves into social internships as early as the end of their first year at STU, following the credit requirements of the school.

My Internship

05 English Zhai Wanyi
05 Journalism Yang Minyuan

Last summer, many junior and senior students at STU started their internships in different organizations. How do they feel about their first internship? Nervous, excited, or disappointed? Let's hear what they had to say.

Peng Xiaohang, 04 Law: "I think a good work environment can help people do their jobs more efficiently. Take me, for example: I worked in the courthouse this summer vacation. I really respected the lawyers and judges because of their professional knowledge and hard-work. I hope I will be an excellent lawyer in the future."

Deng Haihui, 05 Business Administration: "I worked as a translator for an electric company during my internship. I benefited a lot because I got in touch with many kinds of people and jobs. My boss trusted me and gave me high praise. Especially notable was a man from Hong Kong, who taught me a lot about business, and I was so grateful to him."

Liu Xuan, 05 Accounting: "It's my first time to work in the society. I had a lot of difficulty when I had to visit some businessmen. I had to make many calls and take buses many times. Fortunately, I successfully finished over forty investigations."

Wang Guifen, 04 Computer Science: "Since my major is CS, I usually use my computer skills in my work. Through this internship, I found out that the personal relationship is very important. A good team is based on good communication."

Lu Guanfeng, 05 Journalism: "I felt really sorry during this internship. Firstly, we arrived there late and too many interns were in the same newspaper office. We had small assignments, and I thought it was really a waste of time. However, because of our lack of preparation, we couldn't finish any project even if we wanted to. I learned a great lesson from it."

Sweating the Small Stuff

04 English
Gao shunzhi



Gao Shunzhi in front of her work place

I was lucky to be accepted by Schindler China Elevator and Escalator Co., Ltd. as an intern. Schindler, a company famous worldwide for its escalators and high rise elevators, is a family operated Swiss company formed by Mr. Schindler.

On July 16th, I arrived in Shanghai for my internship with the purpose of practicing my skills and discovering the intersection of my interest and specialty. I served in the position of project manager's assistant, which is part of the Human Resources Department.

My first main task was to assist the new graduates' orientation program, similar to what we do to welcome the freshmen in every September. The only difference being that no mistakes were allowed. So I had to be very careful with the logistics and details. For example, I even needed to consider how to arrange the pens when setting up the meeting room.

My attitude towards details was actually influenced by my supervisor, HR Project Manager Lily Lin. Lily is a postgraduate of Harvard University with rich working experiences and a strong reputation in the company. She never

looked down on my level of attention to details but handled each situation with great enthusiasm. For example, she would go to check the hotel for the welcome dinner and take out a calculator to inspect the bill for accuracy.

In most students' minds, including my own, people with powerful backgrounds are expected to sit in the office and take charge of big events instead of minding details, but Lily set up an opposite example for us. For new staff without any experience, there is a gap between the work one wants to do and the work one can do, so it is easy to feel frustrated when the gap is as large as Yangtze River or even greater. The most important thing is to clearly define ourselves. Background can be the powerful support of your future, but it is not the only necessary thing. When one newly graduates from college without work experience, it is important to pay attention to details and produce precise work.

If you want to become a person of influence, never forget to be someone who is detail-oriented. In this case, it is necessary to "sweat the small stuff."



Duff Johnston

Duff holds a Masters Degree in TESOL from the University of Arizona and a Bachelors Degree in Communication Arts (with an emphasis on Radio-TV-Film) from the University of Wisconsin. Currently he is completing his PhD in Applied Linguistics at Penn State University.

Duff Johnston has taught English in a variety of places around the world including Poland, the Palestinian Territories, and the United States. This fall will mark his second time teaching at ELC.

Duff's introductory comments:

Writing advanced persuasive essays in English is a difficult but important skill to learn. Such writing can both help you organize and support your ideas for other people and help you learn how to read other people's writing.

Although many English teachers will focus on grammar and correcting spelling and punctuation mistakes, it is important to also know how to order your thoughts so they are truly effective. Also, it is a good idea to take risks by adding personal examples or other stories and facts to illustrate and support your arguments. Without such details, your writing may look correct, but it will not have the originality or liveliness that will attract and convince readers.

The essay presented here is one of the very best essays written during this year's ELC placement examination for new students.

Although it is not a perfect essay (you will find some spelling and grammar mistakes for example), it does have interesting ideas, accurate and complex grammar, good organization, and a very attractive supporting example about a high school teacher. Together, all of these factors make this a memorable and effective essay.

Alongside the essay, you will also see some of the comments I have made about good essay writing as well as the work that the essay's author has done. In addition, you will find suggestions for how the author might improve this essay in the future.

Getting help with your English writing is an important part of learning how to write well. Share your paragraphs and essays with classmates and teachers and ask them for their ideas. Don't be afraid of making mistakes - learning where you need help is the only way to get help and improve!

Topic: Some students like classes where teachers lecture (do all the talking) in class. Other students prefer classes where the students do some of the talking. Which type of class do you prefer? Give specific reasons and details to support your choice.

¹ Different Classes

—By Gao Yunjun

² As we know, different students like different kinds of classes. ³ But, when it comes to me, I have a passion for the classes where we, students and teachers can do the talking. ⁴ The reason why I like this kind of class is that in the classes, we have the chance to show our opinions and talk freely. What's more, while talking about different topics, we can learn more from other students, not just from what our teachers say. The most important reason is that while listening to our talkings, our teachers can gain more information. For instance, they can know what we think in our mind, what we should be corrected and what they should improve in their classes.

On the other hand, it is necessary for us to have this kind of class. Because this kind of class, I think and I believe, will be the most interesting class. In order to increase our studying interest and make us study hard, teachers had better arrange this kind of class for us. Besides, we can imagine that in this kind of class, everybody, no matter who it is, has the opportunity to show their ideas about the teacher's topic. So, how lively the class! While having classes, we, students can make friends with our teachers and can talk all we know to our teachers. Under this circumstance, our study will improve quickly and we can have a good relationship with our teachers.

Now, I can give an example to support my opinion. When I was a senior 3 students in my high school, we had a very good Chinese teacher, Mr. Zhang. Unlike other teachers, he didn't talk according to the Chinese books. ⁵ On contrary, he spent more time in making Powerpoint and adding more videos to his Powerpoint. In his classes, we always saw his Powerpoint. ⁶ After seeing the Powerpoint, we could talk freely to him and class mates. In this way, we found that even though the things we should remember were difficult, we could remember them easily. So, we all got a high mark in the final examination.

⁷ In conclusion, according to me, I like the classes where we have the chance to do some of the talking. As my teacher's saying goes, classes is the bridge between students and teachers and should be used well.

Comment 1 :

It is a good idea to give your essays a title.

A title can help readers by telling them your topic and/or your opinion. By being humorous or interesting, a good title may also attract readers.

Although the title of this essay does not tell us the exact topic of the essay or the author's opinion, it does give us a general idea of what the essay will be about.

A helpful strategy is to wait until you finish your essay to write a title. In this way you can be more certain that your title matches your essay.

Comment 2 :

Before giving their opinion, good writers like to introduce the topic to readers by sharing a story, giving examples, or choosing some other way to prepare readers for the essay.

This information should not only share your topic with readers but also attract them to your essay through vivid pictures, or interesting information.

These introductory remarks can last one sentence, several sentences, or even a paragraph or two depending on how long the essay is.

This essay does have a brief introduction to the topic. To improve this, the writer could add more information to prepare and attract readers.

Comment 3 :

In English academic essays, writers almost always introduce their topic and opinion to their readers early in the essay (most often in the first paragraph).

The sentence where the writer first gives her or his main opinion is called a thesis or thesis statement.

Thesis statements are important because they let readers know exactly what the writer wants to say. If there is no clear thesis, readers may be confused and even lose interest.

This essay's thesis statement is effective because it appears early in the essay and is easy to understand.

Comment 4 :

After your thesis statement you should provide clear and effective supporting arguments to help prove your thesis and persuade your readers.

In short, one paragraph essays, supporting arguments appear immediately after the thesis statement.

In longer essays, supporting arguments usually appear in separate paragraphs called body paragraphs. These paragraphs appear after an introductory paragraph, which includes the thesis.

This essay has good supporting arguments, but it does not put the thesis statement in a separate introductory paragraph. The author might provide clearer organization through the use of words. ("The first reason...", "An additional reason why...", "Finally,...").

Comment 5 :

An advanced essay will almost always include detailed, persuasive examples to support the author's thesis and supporting arguments. Without such unique details, an essay may appear very ordinary and not very interesting or persuasive.

In this essay, the example of Mr. Zhang's teaching method is both interesting and persuasive. By providing details of a personal experience, the author makes good but rather ordinary arguments come alive with images readers can easily picture and understand.

Most essays will combine supporting arguments with examples in separate paragraphs. This essay puts the main example in a paragraph after its main arguments. This is unusual, but the strength of the example makes this choice effective.

Comment 6 :

The most advanced writing will use both complex sentence structures and transitions between sentences and between paragraphs.

First, the author regularly begins sentences by putting adverb phrases ("After seeing the Powerpoint, ...") at the beginning of sentences before the subject noun. This makes sentences more complex and interesting for readers. Usually the best essay writers know how to combine simple and complex sentences to attract and persuade readers.

Second, the author uses excellent transitions between sentences to connect their ideas. In this example, the adverb phrase "In this way" connects its sentence to the sentence that comes before it. Readers will know that "this way" actually means using Powerpoints and student discussions in class.

Comment 7 :

Longer essays should end with a separate concluding paragraph (also called a conclusion) that summarizes your ideas and arguments and leaves readers with something to remember.

This essay does both things in an effective way. The most attractive part is the final sentence that shares a saying that creates a supporting argument and a vivid image for readers. This image is memorable and effective - a fine way to end an essay.

To improve this conclusion, the author might add more final thoughts for the reader to think about.

Features

Eighteen new ELC teachers from both China and abroad have come to Shantou University this semester. Like freshmen coming to school for the first time, they are filled with joy, curiosity and loving hearts. They are willing to share their feelings, experiences and favorite mottos with STU students.



Rome wasn't built in one day. The way of improving English comprehensive skills is to accumulate your knowledge daily and seize any kind of opportunity to practice.
--- Ada Wang



The race is won not always by the fastest, but by the best prepared.
--- Alan Fenwick



Work hard and don't be scared to try something new. Push yourself beyond your skills or you will never improve.
--- Augie Williams



"This above all things, to thine own self be true."
--- Eric Morris



I'd like to encourage students to make use of the English Lounge to practice English in a relaxed setting where they can speak about whatever interests them.
--- David Stearns



"Know yourself. Be true to yourself. Doing this, you will be true to others." University is a time to learn who you are. Enjoy!
--- Duff Johnston



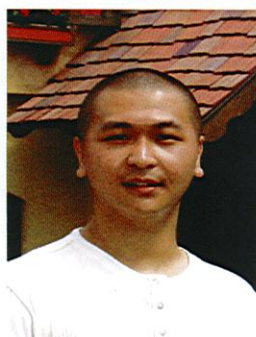
Growing up in California, I never dreamed that I would teach in Shantou - but it has been a fascinating journey. I encourage students to take risks and explore unexpected paths.
--- Elinor Westfold



I was surprised that my student changed her cell phone options to English. Using familiar activities to practice English is a great idea. Find opportunities to learn, and challenge yourself!
--- Beth Rathe



Keep making progress on your English study every day. Believe, be persistent to pursue your future. Remember, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Keep going!
--- Gabriel Fang



"Success comes when opportunity meets preparation."
--- Henry Fang



Challenge yourself academically, but give yourself plenty of time for fun as well. Get the most out of your college experience.
--- Haley Zheng



I'm delighted to be teaching at Shantou University this year. I love the campus, the students, and the faculty and staff. Let's make the most of our time together!
--- Kristin Helland



Relax! Be patient and keep this in mind: learning English well offers you the chalice of opportunity.
--- Lavender Yuan



Thank you for making me feel so welcome here at STU. I enjoy working with all of the students. Be determined! Keep working hard!
--- Megan Vetter



Ask not what you can do for English; ask what English can do for you. Enjoy life. Enjoy your English.
--- Mingming Yuan



This is my first trip to China, and I am very excited about being here. My advice is to keep speaking English. Don't worry about mistakes. A mistake is a great opportunity to learn something new.
--- Ora Karee



I have really enjoyed getting to know Shantou University students inside and outside my classes. You have such wonderful stories to tell!
--- Pat MacKenzie



I believe in what Samuel Johnson said: "Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance."
--- Yolanda Yang

Journey to Asia

ELC Teacher Kristin Helland Kristin Helland's journey to Shantou University began 17 years ago in San Francisco, California where she was a graduate student. Prior to this she studied Anthropology and Latin American Studies at the University of Wisconsin and lived for extended periods in Italy and Mexico. But it was in California where she developed an interest in East Asian cultures while studying for her Master's Degree in Teaching ESL/EFL from San Francisco State University.

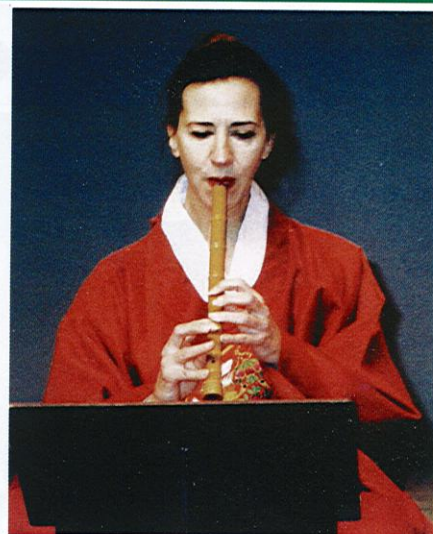
In 1996, Helland left California to teach in

South Korea. She taught at three universities there including six years at Seoul National University before returning home in 2005. While her students learned about American culture beyond Hollywood films, Helland learned about Korean customs and studied Tanso, Korean bamboo flute.

Among the aspects of the culture she had to get used to was the exam-driven teacher-centered education system, which keeps students from voicing opinions or asking questions. Helland said her students found her teaching methods to be liberating in those respects.

"They have so much respect for teachers in Korea," she said. Nearly every day, students would greet Helland with a respectful bow and on Teacher's Day students would give her gifts or letters of appreciation.

When Helland was about to leave Korea in 2005 a revered literature professor and colleague suggested she consider teaching in China. It was that conversation that



Kristin Helland playing Tanso Flute during her time in South Korea.

eventually led Helland to her current position of English instructor here at Shantou University.

"Korea has so many connections to China historically and culturally, so ... I felt this was kind of the next natural step for me in terms of my cultural study and broadening my knowledge of the world," she said.

In short, Helland stated, "I am sure that my experience in China will be rewarding both professionally and personally."



Kristin Helland enjoying a day at Toksu Palace in Seoul, South Korea, where she taught for six years.

Explore New York City

ELC Teacher Emma Zhang

Have you ever dreamed of visiting a city of world class, sky-high towers? Have you yearned to see the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Times Square, Metropolitan Museum of Art, United Nations Headquarters and Central Park? Ever thought of touching a squirrel peacefully eating his acorn? This dream came true for me in July 2007 during my brief trip to the Big Apple---New York City.

This summer I was delighted to get a chance to attend Hunter College's English Language Teaching Institute at City University of New York. There English teachers from eight countries:

the United States, Italy, Korea, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Nicaragua, and China met together with TESOL professionals at Hunter College, learning the latest developments in ESL/EFL methodology and sharing new ideas and strategies in the innovation of English teaching.

Meanwhile, I could not miss this valuable opportunity to explore New York City and meet real New Yorkers. Hunter College is located at the center of Manhattan, and many attractions and resorts are within walking distance. I started my walking tour after each day's session of the seminar. Metropolitan Museum of Art was my first choice. However, when I saw the guide booklet, it took my breath away to discover that the museum has collected 2,000,000 works of art, displayed in more than thirty galleries. Therefore, it was impossible for me to cover them all in one day, so reluctantly I gave up many of the fabulous modern galleries.

The next day I decided to stroll along the famous 5th Avenue, window shopping, street-market browsing, fashion show watching, and even enjoying a street musician's flute

performance. As I passed by the NYC public library, a team of black kids ages 5-18 caught my eye. I was so excited and impressed by their skillful singing and dancing tricks.

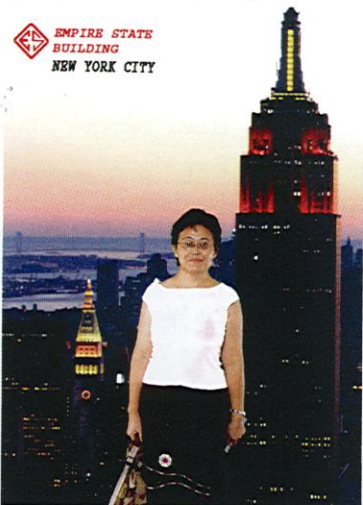
I continued exploring downtown. In St. Patrick's Cathedral, to my great surprise, not only could I take in a view of spectacular Catholic artwork, but was also allowed to sit and take photos wherever I wanted. Equally surprising were the many dog owners who picked up their dogs' manure and put it into plastic bags which they then stored in their pretty handbags until they could find a trash bin.

When dusk fell and the skyscrapers were all lit up, I arrived at the Empire State Building on 34th Street and 5th Avenue. I took the elevator to the observation deck on the 86th floor where I watched the most beautiful, memorable sunset amidst the great canyon-like skyscrapers and brilliant neon lights in Manhattan. The magnificent view reminded me of the most romantic film scene: the New York sky-ride in Sleepless in Seattle.

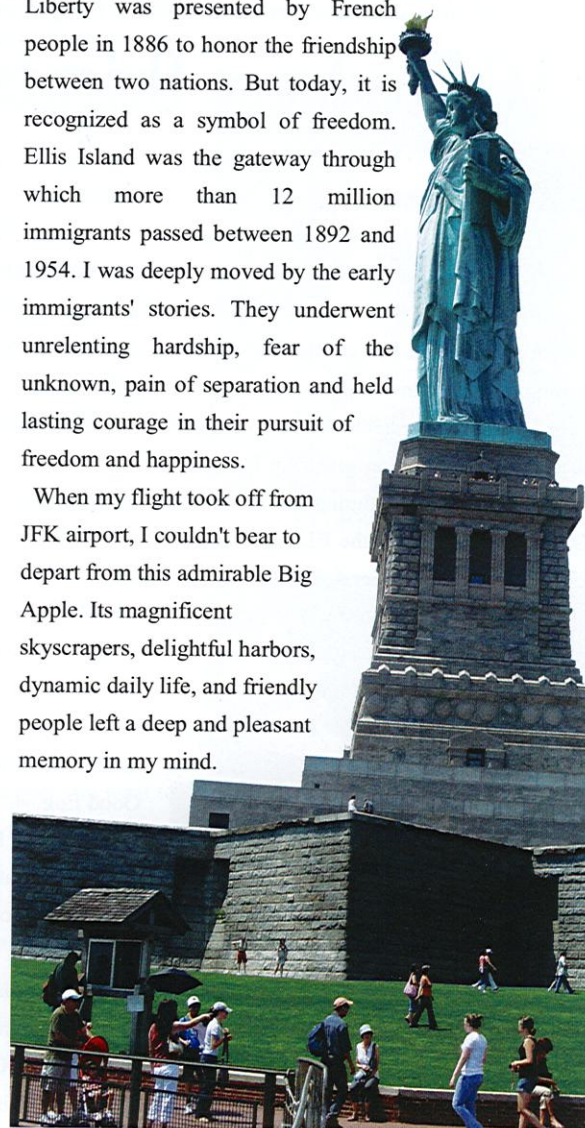
Another breathtaking spot I have dreamed of visiting is the Statue of Liberty and Immigration Museum at

Ellis Island. The huge Statue of Liberty was presented by French people in 1886 to honor the friendship between two nations. But today, it is recognized as a symbol of freedom. Ellis Island was the gateway through which more than 12 million immigrants passed between 1892 and 1954. I was deeply moved by the early immigrants' stories. They underwent unrelenting hardship, fear of the unknown, pain of separation and held lasting courage in their pursuit of freedom and happiness.

When my flight took off from JFK airport, I couldn't bear to depart from this admirable Big Apple. Its magnificent skyscrapers, delightful harbors, dynamic daily life, and friendly people left a deep and pleasant memory in my mind.



Emma appreciating the view of the Empire State Building



More Participation More Enjoyment Military Training Leaves Impressions

05 Law

Zheng Haidan

Preparations for the 6th annual English Festival (EF) are underway at STU. This year's festival will be held from November 30 to December 2, according to Ming Luo, EF coordinator from ELC.

"It goes without saying that it will be a wonderfully exciting event at STU," Luo tells The Shantou Beat, "Plus, this year's EF will have some special highlights, such as a celebrity who will be invited to give a forty-five minute Keynote Speech for the first time and the drama for the kick-off ceremony will be longer, about one hour, organized by CEC."

Luo said that this year's Speech Contest will be more rigorous. Only by passing three rounds of preliminary selection, can the most promising students compete with contestants from invited universities, including Thailand University, HK Baptist University, and East China Normal University. "We have prepared a hot topic for the students this year - Diversity in



Last year's English Festival saw CEC's dramatic adaptation of "The Lion King".

a Global Village. It is worth thinking about this issue and we are looking forward to more participants!" said Luo.

For the Singing Contest, this year will witness a preliminary selection reform in an effort to ensure fair competition. Semi-finalists will be selected by students' voting (taking up 30%) and judges' evaluation (taking up 70%), after all the contestants record and submit their songs to the EF website.

While the EF offers a platform for talented contestants, it will also provide those volunteer wannabes with a great opportunity. "We hope all the students join the upcoming English Festival and make it the best one ever!" said Philippe and Gaelle, co-chairs of the EF.

The ten day military training for the sophomores came to an end on September 14 when the students dedicated flowers to their drill instructors as a farewell gift. As choruses of parting songs were blowing in the wind, a question was posed: What effect has military training had on the students?

"I appreciate class solidarity, in light of military training," said Wang Bocheng, who was awarded as an Excellent Individual. "The whole class holding together - that makes me feel so good!" Wang said that he shed tears over the departure of his drill instructor. "The ten day military training has made the soldiers and us like peas in a pod."

Wang claims he had a lot of fun by experiencing life in the army. They had army song competitions among companies and chatted with their drill instructors a lot. Wang said that he admired soldiers' dauntless quality. "I have learnt a lot from my drill instructor and the training, and we didn't have a hectic schedule."

Lu Lisen, however, complained that he had spent ten days singing army songs and having breaks every now and then. "The training is loose and easy, far from its aim to discipline us."

Not only students like Lu, but also some STU foreign teachers, have questioned the necessity of military training. Diane, an American professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, doubted whether a ten day training would really strengthen students' physical and mental conditions. "Maybe the only effect will be a bonding experience to increase patriotism," commented Diane.



Students having fun during the break between trainings.

ELC Freshmen Orientation Inspiration Overflows

06 English

Ke Rensi

"My name is Eric and I'm the man, I teach Level 3 as hard as I can. I'm from the states and that's no jive. So when you see me, give me 5..."

With vibrant rock beats filling the air, the gaping multitude in the Great Hall couldn't help but swing to the funky rap. The rap was a self introduction given by Eric, one of the ELC teachers, during the Freshman Orientation hosted by the ELC at Shantou University on September 4, 2007.

"I am swept off my feet by Eric's fantastic rap!" said Zhou Ritian, laughing with glee, a freshman from the School of Business, "All the ELC teachers are incredibly friendly and interesting and I am struck by



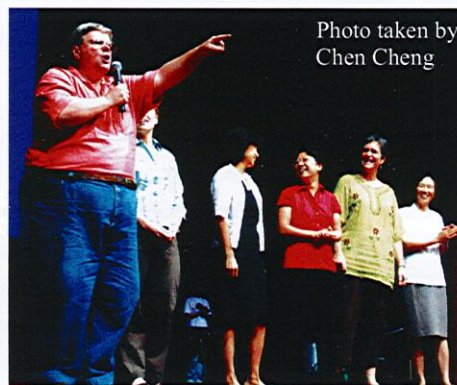
English Lounge staff members presenting a promotion show

their zeal for teaching. It is definitely a never-to-be-forgotten night in my university life!"

As for the other 1,766 freshmen who are passionate about their transition to university, this glamorous Tuesday night may be imprinted in their minds for many other reasons.

In an effort to give the freshmen an understanding of what contributes to a successful English learner at STU, ELC ran this two hour Freshman Orientation, as it has done in previous years. This year's Orientation began with a twelve minute video clip showing an overall picture of ELC. Next ensued a brilliant speech entitled "How to Become a Good English User," given by Dr. Jun Liu, the Executive Director of the ELC.

The Orientation reached its first climax with the introduction of ELC faculty by Levels. Short but succinct, insightful yet inspiring, each staff member's brief speech met with a roar of approval resounding through the Great Hall. Then came the English learning experiences shared by Li



ELC teacher Eric Morris, first from left, impressing the freshmen with his self introductory rap

Zhimin, an STU Semester At Sea scholarship recipient, and an entertaining mime presented by seven ELC teachers. The Orientation peaked again with a promotion section put on by three ELC sponsored student organizations: English Lounge, English Corner and Creative Expression Club, which was a hit with the freshmen audience.

The festivities ended with an energizing pop song, "As long as you love me." This Orientation night, peppered with enthusiasm, marked an auspicious start for all the STU freshmen.

The Shantou Beat

The Shantou Beat is a publication of the English Language Center.

Editor-in-Chief: Jun Liu

Managing Editor: Li Yuan

Assistant Editors: Robyn Wall

Beth Rathe

Advisory Faculty: Yuan Li

Yuan Mingming

Column Editors: Ke Rensi

Huang Yuepeng

Feng Miaolan

Lin Huiling

Chen Zhile

Lin Wanqi

Art Designers: Lin Wanqi

Jiang Yuanting

Email: yuanli@stu.edu.cn

telephone: 0754-290-4639

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