

The Shantou Beat



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Public Speaking Matters!



Photo taken by Zhong Zhi

Dr. Jun Liu, ELC Executive Director

Throughout history people have used public speaking as a vital means of communication. Public speaking, as Steve Lucas puts it, "is a way of making your ideas public - by sharing them with other people and of influencing other people."

When I was about your age, I had never dreamt of becoming a public speaker, nor speaking in English as a second language. But I have given, in the last ten years, about 60 public speeches in more than twenty countries, from Thailand to Singapore, from Malaysia to Korea, from Japan to the Philippines, from Greece to Turkey, from Mexico to Canada, from Spain to Italy, from France to England, and from China to China. I had never thought about these opportunities and obligations to speak when I was your age. But things happened. You never know whether one day you may become one of the most sought-after speakers in your field. This world is full of mysteries, some of which cannot be predicted, but preparing for those uncertainties should start today.

You might argue that the recent development of the Internet and other new technologies may have reduced the need for public speaking. However, there is no substitute for face-to-face communication. Such a basic skill is always expected in one's community life. It is a way to express your ideas and to have an impact on issues that matter in society. The point is that public speaking is a form of empowerment. It can, and often does, make a difference in things people care about very much. The key phrase here is "make a difference." This is what most of us want to do in life - to make a difference, to change the world in some small way. Public speaking offers you an opportunity to make a difference in something you care about very much.

When I toured around the world over the last few years as TESOL President, I touched my audience in both big and small

ways. Most of these people are, like me, nonnative English speakers who are teaching English to speakers of other languages. They are always nervous and vulnerable in teaching when they are challenged because English is not their first language, and therefore, they always teach English with a sense of inferiority. I told them that it does not matter whether they are native or nonnative English speakers because they don't have a choice about being a native or nonnative speaker. But they do have a choice in deciding on what professional training they should receive, and what qualifications they should have in order to do the job right. They went through the process of learning the language they are teaching, and they should feel proud of this learning experience.

Touched, moved, and inspired, these teachers appreciated the message I delivered and looked up to me as their model example. If I can do this, why can't they? If I can stand in front of you this evening to deliver a speech on public speaking, why can't you, in five or ten years, stand in front of your audience and deliver the message you want them to understand and be inspired by. Perhaps you will be invited back to Shantou University, in 10 to 15 years, to deliver a speech at our graduation ceremony to persuade those graduating students to send their children to Shantou University in 2040, though they will not have to take any ELC courses that we have designed for you because by then the ELC might not need to be in existence.

It is true that success depends on effective communication. Over 5,000 executives found that communication has played and continues to play the highest overall significant role in management advancement. A survey of Fortune 500 vice presidents shows that 97.7% of them "believed that communication skills had affected their advancement to a top executive position." The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business conducted a survey of MBA graduates. MBA graduates considered the ability to communicate effectively with another person to be the single most useful skill in their career.

Communication skills are unbelievably important and public speaking is an absolute necessity. As a college student at Shantou University, if you do not realize how important your public presentation skills will be to you for your future employment and promotion, then perhaps you should challenge us as to why you are learning English.

My message today is not to teach you how to make good and effective public speeches, nor is my intention to share with you my tips for you to get a standing ovation every time you speak nor to help you make your next presentation sing.

I am here to alert you, encourage you and empower you to become good public speakers for your future in your respective fields because public speaking matters.

Thank you!

Keynote speech (abridged) by Jun Liu
The 6th English Festival at Shantou University
November 30, 2007
Shantou University

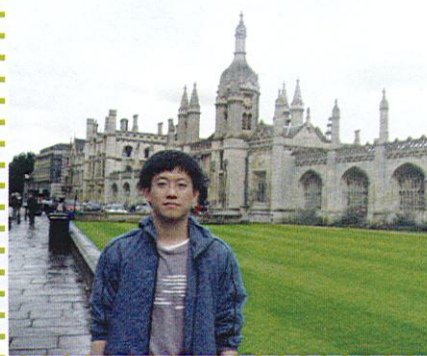
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Sitting in the Student's Chair

ELC Teacher David Stearns

One of the great things about being a teacher in the ELC at Shantou University is that the school offers us a great opportunity to improve our Chinese through a series of classes. We can choose either to take Chinese from some of our colleagues in the ELC, or we can take the Chinese classes offered by the University. Some of the foreign ELC teachers—the particularly motivated ones—choose to take both kinds of classes for extra practice. For many of us the opportunity to learn Chinese was one of the top reasons we chose to teach in China. It's definitely one of the main reasons that I chose to come to China. Other teachers are glad to take the classes so that they can learn the basics, like giving and receiving directions, ordering food and beer at East Gate, and, of course, asking where the bathroom is.

Even though we gain a lot from these classes, it's clear to me that we are not the only ones who benefit from this arrangement. I'm sure our students benefit as well. Sitting in class, I noticed that I was doing many of the things my students do that I didn't understand before. I noticed that even if an explanation was completely beyond me, I'd nod even if I understood just a word or two because I was so happy that I had caught that much. No matter what questions were being asked of me, I reflexively looked to the book as a crutch to help me because written words are so much easier to understand than spoken ones. In short, being a language learner is helping me a great deal to understand what I should do to be a better language teacher.



Foreign teachers learning Chinese from the local teacher
(From Left to Right: Ma Lan, Claudia Kunschak and David Stern)

College English Teaching Reform in Nankai University



Dr. Liu introducing Professor Yipu Wang, who exchanged teaching reform experience with ELC

Invited by Doctor Liu, Professor Yipu Wang, Director of the Non-major English Language Department of Nankai University, delivered a lecture on the reform of college English teaching in Nankai University to ELC teachers in ACC on the afternoon of November 30, 2007. Professor Wang introduced the motivations, the process and the fruitful results of their college English teaching reform, as well as the problems and difficulties they encountered during the reform. She also shared her experiences in educational administration with ELC teachers and staff.

College English teaching reform in Nankai University started in 2004, aiming at improving the English listening and speaking skills of non-English major students. To reach this goal, new teaching materials focusing on the cultivation of comprehensive language competence were adopted, new teaching methods which treat students as the center of the classroom were applied, new websites that facilitate autonomous learning were designed, and a new system of evaluation and assessment was developed. For the purpose of encouraging student autonomy in English learning, teachers worked together with their students to decide the focus of instruction for each lesson, and asked the students to

contribute relevant materials that they were interested in to the lesson. Besides, students were also encouraged to consult their teachers about English learning through the Internet or in person after classes. Changes in teaching and learning inevitably led to changes in assessment and evaluation. In 2006, Nankai University decided that undergraduate students who were recruited that year and those recruited after that year would no longer need to pass CET4 (College English Test 4) in order to get their certificates and degrees, which was a milestone in the process of their College English teaching reform.

According to Professor Wang, with the dedicated efforts of their teachers and staff, the active participation of their students, and the full use of the Internet and teaching software, they have achieved fruitful results in the reform: the students' English listening and speaking abilities have been enhanced, the teachers' teaching and research abilities have been improved, and autonomous learning and individual learning have been greatly encouraged. She thought that stimulating enthusiasm for the reform project among teachers and staff was very important to the success of the reform.

ELC Teacher Yolanda Yang

Hung Brings Knowledge along with Contestants

The last weekend in November saw the 2007 English Festival come to a glorious end with music, dance, color and T-shirts. The Friday afternoon prior to the opening of the festival was more serious for the faculty of the ELC, who attended a stimulating lecture by Dr. Tony T. N. Hung from Hong Kong Baptist University. Accompanying his university's contestants to Shantou, Dr. Hung graciously agreed to address our faculty in a presentation entitled "English as a World Language: Implications for the Teaching of Pronunciation."

Hung's message was intriguing. Starting with some numbers, Hung informed our faculty that there are about

1.4 billion English-speaking people in the world today, of whom only 400 million are native English speakers, and another 400 million use it as a second language in addition to their first language. This leaves another 600 million who use English as a foreign language. Further, all these large groups speak a variety of dialects or "Englishes," a term that Hung credited to D. Crystal in 2004.

Given these numbers, which include the teachers of English who also speak numerous varieties of English, native and non-native, the traditional question of which model of English to present and teach in textbooks and classrooms becomes fairly meaningless, according to Hung. His recommendation is to forget about teaching any one variety of English pronunciation, to accept the situation of a world that uses a variety of Englishes for its multiple purposes, and

to concentrate on what is necessary.

What is necessary is intelligibility. For teachers and others to attempt to implement a teaching program of pronunciation of some "ideal" model of English pronunciation is "unattainable, unnecessary and inappropriate."

Hung then went on to answer the question of what constitutes intelligibility. Referring to his own research, he presented statistics of various student groups. The teachers in the audience listened with great interest since they were familiar with many of the problems of their students, and Hung's figures explained why many of these errors occur.

Hung's final advice to teachers was to forget about models of English pronunciation and concentrate on phonology rather than phonetics. Any pronunciation of words that can be understood and not confused with other words should be accepted. To put it in other words: If it works, don't fix it.

ELC Teacher Ora Karee



Students performing in the English Festival Opening Night drama

EF Opening Ceremony a Hit

06 Engineering Lai Ruijing After the last dance was over and the MCs had finished their last words, the curtain was drawn on the Opening Ceremony, but the audience did not appear to be satisfied with this wonderful show, feeling that it did not last long enough. I too could not calm down. What resonated in my mind were the exhilarating scenes that I had just seen.

After the orations given by Vice President Gu and Dr. Liu, the show began. A Chinese percussion instrument performance came first. Its strong rhythms charmed all the spectators completely, including the guests from overseas who showered praises on the performers. A student written and directed drama, Shirley's Engagement, also received accolades for its creative design and excellent acting. A feast for the ears consisting of a lively Chorus number, Country ballad and intense Rock-n-Roll selection followed. Dancing took the stage next. The Chinese traditional hunting dance attracted us with its vehement moves, the Latin Dance moved us with its romantic love story and Chinese-style elegance and the Hip Hop Dance served as a crowd-pleasing grand finale.

The audience gave a big thumbs up to CEC's work, yet what CEC cares about most goes beyond this. Does everyone really understand what CEC is trying to express? Is the audience really clear about the meaning the performers are trying to convey? These are the questions CEC members contemplates. Dr. Liu said that he loved the drama because it fit the theme of this year's English Festival, which is "Diversity in a Global Village". This was what CEC exerted itself to express through this ceremony: Diversity in Cultures. They encouraged everyone to realize that we are able to make the world more colorful and wonderful. Learning how to understand and respect other cultures is important; it will surely lead to a more harmonious world.

Speeches Provide Cultural Exchange

06 Journalism Chen Yanhong The 6th Annual English Festival at Shantou University was held from November 30th to December 2nd in the Great Hall. As a focal point of EF, the Speech Contest gave the audience a rich meal for the spirit.

Because of the Speech Contest, students from Thailand, Hong Kong and Mainland China came together. The contestants' speeches contained thought-provoking ideas and eloquent language representing diverse cultures from fascinating places. It was an opportunity for students to participate in international cultural exchange. Piyanart Fuktorngpan, an Assistant Professor in the International Affairs Department at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, said the contest combined English and culture, which not only helped students to improve their English but also enabled them to enrich their cultural understanding. She said that she could feel the students' passion for English at STU that night.

The applause from the audience resounded again and again, indicating that the Speech Contest Final was indeed a success. Students received many affirming comments. Professor

Singing Contest: a Long March

06 Journalism Chen Zhile

Serving as the finale of this year's English Festival at Shantou University, the Singing Contest Final was not merely an entertaining "Top Singer" contest for students here. It was a combination of the English language, diverse cultures, stage manner, singing skills, fashion, lights, melodies, screams, laughter, thanks and, most importantly, the creation of cherished memories. Although it is finished, its enjoyable and profound significance continues to echo in people's minds.

As one of the student coordinators of the Singing Contest this year, I am still clearly sentimental about every step I took. Looking back on the Contest, it was exactly like a Long March. The first official staff meeting of the English Festival was held on September 16th, the night before the new semester began, which raised the curtain on the whole English Festival. Regular meetings were conducted every week, keeping track of progress made, as well as commencing the next phase.

The Singing Contest started with the Preliminary Round, in which application forms and recorded songs were due by October 9th. A combination of 30% online voting and 70% judge evaluation narrowed the field to twelve semi-finalists on October 18th. Once EC members were rallied, volunteers recruited, judges and criteria decided, a rundown drafted, posters and certificates designed, the Semi-Final Singing Contest presented itself to the whole campus and received big applause on November 7th. Inevitably, problems emerged. Technical equipment faltered and some other details were missed. Through discussion and innovation, the glitches were addressed and solutions finally came into being so that preparations could continue. Under the theme of "Diversity in a Global Village", three contestants from Thailand, Hong Kong and Mainland China arrived on November 30th to compete with five contestants from STU on December 2nd. The Final Contest award recipients included three of STU's very own. Hence, the curtain folded on the 6th Annual English Festival.

Happiness and exhaustion filled the three months of preparation and execution. Now, the Singing Final is over, but it continues to remind people of the laughter, cooperation and most importantly, the shared memories among all those who participated. May next year's Singing Contest be even more exciting and joyful.



Singing Final 2007

Fuktorngpan said, "The Speech Contest Final was very well-organized and everything went smoothly." She also mentioned that she had attended many English speech contests before, but it was her first time to attend such an international English speech contest. She enjoyed all the performances by students here. Gary Zhong, a sophomore from the Engineering College, said, "The Speech Contest Final was full of English language atmosphere and I enjoyed it a lot." The English Festival Co-Chair, Philippe Bierny, commented, "Compared to last year, this year's speech contestants' average level has improved." His suggestion for next year's EF chair would be to hold some special events before the actual Speech Contest to get even more students involved.

Word has it that after the Speech Contest Final, Professor Fuktorngpan talked with Dr. Liu about the possibility of holding an International English Debate at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand at some point in the future. She hopes to invite 2 to 3 students from Shantou University to participate in the debate. The opportunities for cultural exchange are opening to STU and other top universities in China or abroad.

Talk to The Beat

05 Journalism Ma Shibei

If it is true that readers judge the value of a newspaper, then their feedback will probably be a great help to bump up the value of that newspaper.

A successful newspaper can reach readers with its diverse content and attractive pictures, as well as its original layout. Is Shantou Beat, as the only second-language newspaper in the college, doing a good job in those three aspects? What are the readers' expectations for the STB?

Chuangxin Li, a senior student in the Engineering College, is doubtlessly a devoted reader of The Shantou Beat. He puts a high value on the newspaper's layout. "The layout is definitely remarkable," said Li. Though he is not an English major student, he has no difficulties in reading the newspaper. "The articles are not too hard to read," commented Li.

However, Li thinks that The Shantou Beat still leaves much room for improvement in its content. "Compared to the 21 Century," he added "Shantou Beat's content is not rich enough."

"I really appreciate the articles in the newspaper written by students", Shiyi Yang, a sophomore from the Business School, comment when she accepted our interview, "It can boost my interest in reading English news".

On the other hand, The Shantou Beat is considered to be hard by freshman Qi Hu, who is from the Medical School. "I realized that Shantou Beat is an attractive newspaper after I had read it," Hu said. Hu pointed out that sometimes the articles are so long that it can cause eyestrain. Still, she is attracted by the splendid pictures.

"It is smart to use powerful pictures to enhance the headlines," commented Shaoting Pu, a general editor of a Chinese student newspaper in the college. She is impressed by The Shantou Beat's success with incorporating numerous pictures. "If the subfields of the articles can be clearer, it will look even better."

Keeping all these comments in mind, our Shantou Beat staff will try to perfect the process and the product to meet your expectations.



Qi Hu, a STU student, reading the Shantou Beat



The Shantou Beat's Different Volumes (Photo provided by Feng Miaolan)

Happy 4th Birthday, Shantou Beat

05 Journalism Feng Miaolan

We are excited to welcome The Shantou Beat's fifteenth

volume today!

The Shantou Beat (STB), guided by the ELC Executive Dr. Liu, is an English newspaper written primarily by students and represents one aspect of the university's English Enhancement Program promoted by the English Learning Center (ELC). In order to create an English learning platform for STU students, the inaugural issue of The Shantou Beat was printed in December 2003.

During its four years of publication, this newspaper has established itself as a platform for spreading English learning skills and reporting significant events of the ELC, while also providing English language use opportunities for students to practice writing and express their views.

Over these four years, we can look back on the birth and development of the STB. In the inaugural issue, there were only 6 pages. Now it has 8 pages that are more formal and richer in content. The logo, which was created and used in

Volume 6, June 2005, has marked the top right corner of the STB ever since.

The STB staff had been trying to become more innovative when Yan Liu, a senior majoring in Journalism, became the editor of the newspaper. Liu and her fellows wanted to make the STB more suitable for reading as a student's newspaper. However, they began the process and stopped at Volume 10.

Li Yuan, an ELC faculty member who came to STU in the fall semester of 2006, became the Managing Editor of the STB for Volume 11. In her estimation, the former STB changed its art design and content too frequently. "In the past 14 Volumes, there were 4 different mastheads," said Li. "The topics of each page were also changed." Therefore, she made some new rules to guide the art design and content of each page. Due to its innovative design and substantial content, Volume 12, which was overseen by Li, was sung high praise by Dr. Liu as the best issue of ever.

Through failure and success, our Shantou Beat is growing.

Give More, Receive More

05 English ZhaiWanyi

As a staff member of The Shantou Beat, I can see that many of us work hard on it. Each time, our members try their best to get the work done. Before we start our work, we hold a meeting, do some reports and discuss matters together. Furthermore, we point out problems by giving comments and suggestions. This helps us to improve our work. In order to get information and overcome difficulties, reporters and editors keep in touch with each other through e-mail and cell phones. Therefore, we have wonderful relationships and become good partners.

Most members say that The Shantou Beat provides them with an opportunity to practice writing and communication skills. Take Yuepeng for example, she has been a reporter for The Shantou Beat since her first year in STU. Now she is an editor. She enjoys her work because she

gains experience from interacting with other members. When she checks her reporters' work, she not only finds out some problems but also shares with them how to improve it.

However, she thinks that our work is not perfect. For example, though The Shantou Beat is the only English newspaper in STU, it is not well-known among students. To bring about a solution to this problem, she suggests using posters to attract students' attention. Moreover, The Shantou Beat could be published three or four times a semester rather than twice. "Our members need to improve the quality of our writing constantly," she added, "because readers enjoy a newspaper with high quality articles".

Ultimately, we hope The Shantou Beat will become better and better. The more we give, the more we will receive.



Huang Yuepeng, a reporter to an editor in the Shantou Beat

Diversity in a Global Village

The prepared speech by Chutinan Chutima, the first place winner in the Speech Contest

It is amazing to think about the different objects in this room, and everyone including myself, with different colors, features, textures, size, and quality, all come from the same bunch of stardust. The world is amazing both because it has witnessed nature's creation of diversity and because of the presence of diversity in it. However, what makes the world even more amazing is the diversity caused by man; the different cultures, traditions, religions, lifestyles, languages, beliefs and philosophy.

For hundreds of years, the differences had existed separately from each other; each culture and philosophy serving one certain group without much recognition from the others. The Westerners ate their breads and butter and went to their churches without having much to do with the Easterners who ate rice and curry and went to temples and mosques, and vice versa. We were like families that despite living in the same area, lived rather independently from each other. But now with the help of another product caused by man called "Globalization" there is increasing interaction between the different groups. The area that we had once lived in independently from one another has now become a village. Being fully aware of the existence of one another and pushed to interact, we have become villagers of the global village, a village with a population of 6 billion people.

Being in a global village means that we share a common goal of living together with peace and harmony. But does being in a global village mean that we all have to be the same? Yes, living together does mean that it is necessary that we abide by certain common rules for the sake of peace, order and also, convenience. Such rules in our Global Village are embodied in the UN charter, Human Rights Conventions and other International laws.

But still, being in a Global Village, living together, doesn't mean that differences cannot be tolerated.

Even in a normal village, people cannot thrive without a house or without a family. It is in fact a grave mistake to say that differences and diversity are accountable for wars, bloodshed, transborder crimes, terrorism, economic oppression, and endless suffering. The real cause is the endless misunderstanding of differences amongst us. Will we be able to live together peacefully and harmoniously? Globalization, which has assisted in bringing down the borders and bringing us to be together in this global village, is the very tool that can be used to create the right understanding.

However, we must bear in mind that diversity is not just something to be tolerated, it is in itself magnificent, powerful, and something we can all wondrously benefit from. In Biology, it is genetic diversity that allows us to enjoy the beautiful colors of the different flowers, the fascinating features of the different animals, and it is also genetic diversity that is the savior of our planet's balance and survival. In the same way, it is the differences in culture and ways of thinking that has made the world the incredible and interesting place it is and that has helped us reach today's level of civilization.

To be able to move forward together, we must seek how to draw strength from this diversity we have together. This success is something that we will all be enjoying together.

Because after all, no matter what skin color, religion, race, political views, beliefs we have, what language we speak, and what lifestyle we live, we are simply neighbors living in the same village.



Chutinan Chutima in the speech contest

Photo by Shi Shaopeng

Tips on Q/A and Impromptu Speech

05 English Huang Yuepeng

The English Speech Contest of 2007 ended successfully. A speech contest includes a prepared speech, a Question /Answer and an impromptu speech. Neither the Q/A nor impromptu speech is an easy job. Here, Eric Morris, Question Master of the Speech Contest on Dec. 1st is invited to give tips on how to master those two tasks.



Eric and Yuepeng (the author)

Photo provided by Faye Morris

Q/A Section

Q: Are the questions for contestants planned ahead, or do you come up with questions on the spot?

A: They are planned ahead. I received copies of the speeches 7 or 8 hours before the contest.

Q: How do you think up the questions for the contestants?

A: I find something either interesting or missing from their written prepared speeches. Sometimes I ask for more examples and sometimes for more information about their thought process. For example, contestant No.7, Lu Heng talked about eating Tofu and ice-cream which requires money. But there are so many poor people in the world. So I asked, "Is diversity only enjoyed by the rich?"

Q: Why did several contestants fail to catch your questions in the first instance? Were they too difficult?

A: Well, I think those questions were of middle-level. I used simple words and tried to keep them short. Usually, my questions contained one or two sentences. If a question had two sentences, the purpose of the first sentence is to direct the contestant to a certain part of the speech. The second one will be the actual question itself. Some contestants failed to catch it, probably because they had trouble in processing the first sentence. For example, during the contest, two contestants might have had trouble with the word "species". I used it because it appeared in the topic itself. So the contestants should have been familiar with the word.

Q: Is it impolite for the contestants to ask for repetition of the question?

A: No. If they haven't caught the question, they should ask me to rephrase, restate or repeat the question.

Q: Will the contestant be considered slow-minded if he/she pauses before they give an answer?

A: No! They are given a certain amount of time to think. Thinking for about 15 seconds is reasonable for a 2 or 3-min speech.

Q: What are some tips for the contestants to give a good answer?

A: First, know your topic well and have a deep knowledge about your speech. In this way, you can answer almost all of the questions raised. Second, practice before the speech by having your friends or your coach ask you questions. They may not have the exact same questions, but they can give you practice in thinking quickly. Third, listen carefully and relax. Fourth, think for a few seconds and do not rush into an answer.

Impromptu Speech

Q: To give an impromptu speech, what should the contestants consider?

A: First, have a broad knowledge of current news. The questions about historical buildings, global warming, parents caring about the children and species of animals all required knowledge of current events. Second, have a lot of general knowledge about cultural history. For example, historical buildings are related to history. You should have some understanding of the value of history and culture. Third, figure out an outline in your mind and state it point by point.

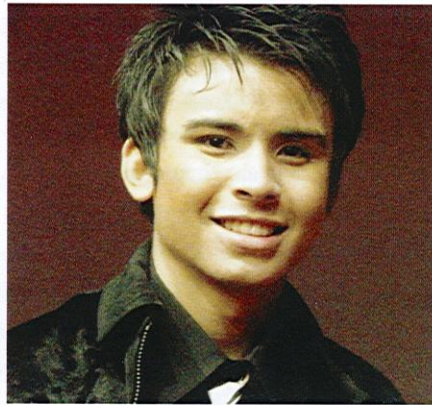
Broadway Style Wins Hearts Dreams Take Flight

05 Journalism
Yang Minyuan

On the night of Dec 2nd, Nattapol Sirisawad, a contestant from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand became the champion of the 2007 English Festival Singing Contest. The young man who said "hello" and "thank you" in Chinese on the stage impressed the audience deeply.

While he majors in the Thai language, Nattapol speaks fluent English. He considers English to be a very useful tool for him to spread his own culture. He says the best way to learn English well is to practice. "Students should practice skills like listening and speaking. Do not afraid of speaking with foreigners. I see there are many foreign teachers here, so it is beneficial to do so," said Nattapol. When hearing of the English Lounge in Shantou University, he decided to visit it the next day.

The most exciting thing for Nattapol is making friends. "I now have friends from Shantou University, friends from Hong Kong, and friends from Shanghai, and we will keep in touch by E-mail," Nattapol said happily. At the same time, Nattapol revealed that maybe Chulalongkorn University will invite a Shantou University student to participate in the English debate during their university's English Festival. "There is a



Nattapol Sirisawad

good connection between Chulalongkorn University and Shantou University."

Nattapol is a singer in the CU (Chulalongkorn University) Band. A month ago, he was selected to be the representative of Chulalongkorn University. Besides singing, Nattapol shows great interest in drawing and dancing. Like most youth, he loves pop music, and he also likes Broadway musicals very much.

Thanks to the English Festival held by Shantou University, Nattapol has come to know more about Chinese culture. He was especially impressed by Chinese Kungfu and the Chinese instrument Guzheng.



Chutinan Chutima

During her first visit to China, she did not feel "lost in translation" at all but expressed her disappointment at not having enough time to get to know Shantou University (STU) more. She moved to the UK with her engineering Dad and banking Mom in 1992, and moved back to Thailand 4 years later. From the age of nine, she has always aimed to be a practicing lawyer and would like to work for UNICEF someday.

I interviewed Chutinan Chutima, a business law student of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. As we sat together on the lawn, our relaxing conversation turned to the topic of her fascinating life, and piqued my curiosity about Thailand.

Even though this was her first exploration of China, to my surprise, she experienced no culture shock. This was probably due to the fact that Thai people have been exposed to aspects of Chinese culture very often, and in fact, the majority of Chinese living in Thailand came from Shantou, including several of her friends.

As the top winner of the sixth Intercollegiate Speech Contest, she impressed me with her beautiful voice, including characteristics of a British accent, and her bow to the audience. The sound of an English accent is something that makes me think of royalty and her smart bow, as she explained, is a typical Thai custom having ties with Indian Buddhism, from which Thai culture originated and evolved.

During our discussion, she saw a bird hauntingly soaring over the reservoir. She argued that this might be a hawk. I was not sure. One thing, notwithstanding, is that the hawk is an icon for ambitiousness and power from the Chinese point of view. Indeed, she, ahead of me, was more eager to parallel the hawk by reaching for her dreams.

PG Law
Xiao Pinghui

English Festival Winner's Reflections

06 Journalism Li Likui
06 Journalism Xu Yunhui

I was impressed by both the environment and the people here at Shantou University. People here paid attention to every detail. It was their hard work that made this event possible.

The students' English level here impressed me a lot, even though I have studied English for six years more than many of the students here.

—Aggie Ng
(HK Baptist University)



Aggie Ng, the second place winner in the Speech Contest

People have said that I sing like Fei Wong, the famous Hong Kong singer. I would like to show them that not only can I sing Fei Wong's songs, but I can also sing well in my own right.

I did learn a lot from this contest. The foreign teachers taught me a lot of things.

—April Zhai
(Shantou University)



April Zhai, the second place winner in the Singing Contest

When you learn a language, you should use it. That was the reason I came.

It was my first time doing a speech in front of so many people. I thought I might be scared on the stage but I was not. Three minutes can seem really short when you are on stage.

Standing on the stage was more like dreaming!
—Faith Yin
(East China Normal University)



Faith Yin, the third place winner in the Speech Contest

I feel so blessed because the speech contest has changed my attitude towards cultural diversity.

I learnt not only from doing research, but also from working with Robyn and Beth, the ELC foreign teachers who coached me.

Actually, I was not just standing in the spotlight talking about the beauty of diversity; I perceived it and fell in love with it!

—Rexy Ke
(Shantou University)



Rexy Ke, the third place winner in the Speech Contest

It was amazing to stand on the stage and sing the songs in front of the audience. I was nervous at the very beginning, but then tension disappeared gradually. I just reminded myself that I was an actress and kept smiling.

My throat was hurting on that day, but the foreign teachers encouraged me and helped me to regain my confidence.

—Alice Zhao
(Shantou University)



Alice Zhao, the third place winner in the Singing Contest

I really love singing. I improved my English by singing English songs in junior high school.

I put a lot of effort into finding a suitable accompanist. I was confident standing on the stage, and I felt happy that I could devote my voice to my audience.

I have already tried my best and felt no pity.
—Lena Liu
(Shantou University)



Lena Liu, the third place winner in the Singing Contest

Another Landscape: Chulalongkorn Campus

06 Journalism
Li Ziying

"You guys study so hard. I can't believe that when it is 10 o'clock students are still sitting around in EL practicing English," Chutinan Chutima giggled. "By that time every day, I have already lain on the sofa in my room and started watching TV!"

Cultures vary from country to country. Chutinan Chutima, called Fah in English, a senior student at Chulalongkorn University, who won the 2007 Shantou University English Festival Speech Contest, was happy to share her thoughts about Thailand campus culture.

Special campus life

Thailand is special because of the religious and monarchical influences throughout the country. Because of its unique cultural background, campus life has a distinctive flavor. "All people in Thailand have their beliefs. I'm a Buddhist," said Chutinan Chutima. Monks visit the campus every Thursday at seven o'clock. "There is a student organization which arranges this activity. Students

go and give the monks food. In return, monks pray and sprinkle water as a kind of ceremony to send good wishes to the students."

"And we will celebrate our king's birthday!" Chutinan Chutima explained. "Just before I came here last week. Many students gave the king big flower arrangements." She smiled, adding, "We also have a beauty contest. Every year, students hold a contest and choose a beautiful and talented female student, who will represent the students and give birthday wishes to the king. People throw flowers and banners into a lake. That's a very beautiful feeling."

Public displays of affection can cause problems

"Oh, do you guys have boyfriends or girlfriends and walk on campus hand in hand, or even hug and kiss?" Chutinan Chutima asked, surprised. She said if boys and girls hug or kiss on campus in Thailand, they may have some problems. For example, teachers will think the students are bad, and they will ask the students to discuss the behavior with them. The worst thing is that fellow

students will gossip about them. "Thailand is still a little more conservative than China," Chutinan Chutima said. "Students here tend to have a more Western style. When I saw a couple hugging on the way to ACC, I was shocked." In Thailand, a man should not touch a woman, and hugging or kissing is totally out of the question. The students who do so have a bad reputation.

Wishes and thoughts for Chinese students

"If I were to choose a gift for Chinese students, I would choose Thai traditional food, and the idea of the people's respect and love for the king as my gifts," Chutinan Chutima said proudly. "Thai food

is delicious and unique in the world, and love is so important to the world," she explained. The Thai people respect their king because he has put all his efforts into his motherland in order to make people live happily. "The king is great. And we all love anyone who loves peace, too," Chutinan Chutima added.



Source: <http://www.stickmanbangkok.com>

Chulalongkorn University

Life in the U.K.

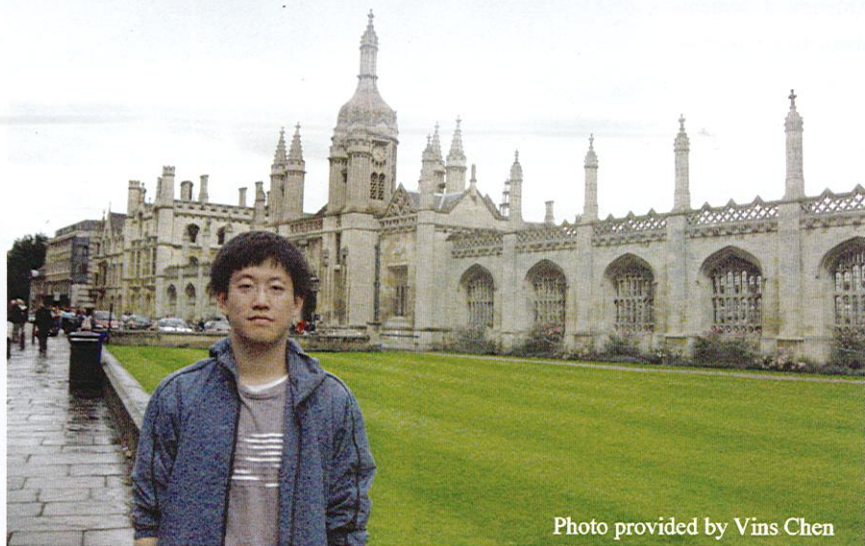


Photo provided by Vins Chen

Gabriel visiting Trinity College, University of Cambridge

ELC Teacher
Gabriel Fang

I never imagined that I could have a chance to study abroad. As I say, the English language inspired me to undertake a greater challenge of pursuing a Master's degree. Therefore, I went to the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom to continue my studies.

As we know, life is not always easy, especially when you expose yourself to a new environment - different people, a different culture and a different educational system. Our school held a hospitality meeting for all of the new students, and I can still remember when I first met my fellow students and tutors in my professor's office. All of us exchanged ideas about the programme of study. In fact, the meeting was held in a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere.

During my time at Leeds, I learnt to get used to my tutor's requirements and to work hard on my essays and dissertation. I also attended seminars of different modules. Although

sometimes life was really tough there (I must confess), I finally reached my destination - the Graduation Ceremony. I really enjoyed my graduation day: taking photos with students and tutors, walking around the campus and, of course, attending the ceremony in the Great Hall.

During my studies in the U.K., I also went travelling to other cities, such as Manchester, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford, and London. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery and friendly people there. The magnificent cathedrals, the University of Cambridge and Oxford, and the famous tourist sights in London really impressed me. My time in the U.K. was memorable and valuable because I learnt how to manage and arrange my life and studies and how to get involved with another culture and environment.

I believe that we should always pursue our dreams because that is the most important part of life. If we try to be persistent and persevering, I am sure that we all can succeed one day!

Hong Kong: International Hodgepodge

05 Law
Zheng Haidan

As an international metropolis, Hong Kong has developed rapidly under the "One country two systems" policy and attracts the interest of people all over the world. Sinyu Ng (Aggie), a student majoring in English Language and Literature at Hong Kong Baptist University, who won an excellent prize in the speech contest, shares her opinion about the HK culture.

First impression of Shantou University

"I like the people and the students here," said Aggie. "People here are so friendly, so kindhearted. It's so impressive. Students here are willing to work hard. They try their best to reach their goals." Aggie said that HK students do not work as hard as STU students, though they are smart. She also enjoyed the peaceful campus

environment, which serves as a good place for pursuing knowledge.

Opinion on culture

"HK culture is a hodgepodge. Eastern and Western cultures converge in HK. Take cuisine as an example. I love eating very much. We like to use Western ways to cook Eastern food, and vice versa.

Therefore, one kind of food can contain both Eastern and Western styles. HK people are talented innovators. For this reason, HK is also famous for its multifarious cuisine. HK has been deeply influenced by both Eastern and Western culture," said Aggie.

Being a fashionable city, HK succeeds in maintaining its Eastern heritage while absorbing the best aspects of Western culture, charming the whole world with its innovation.

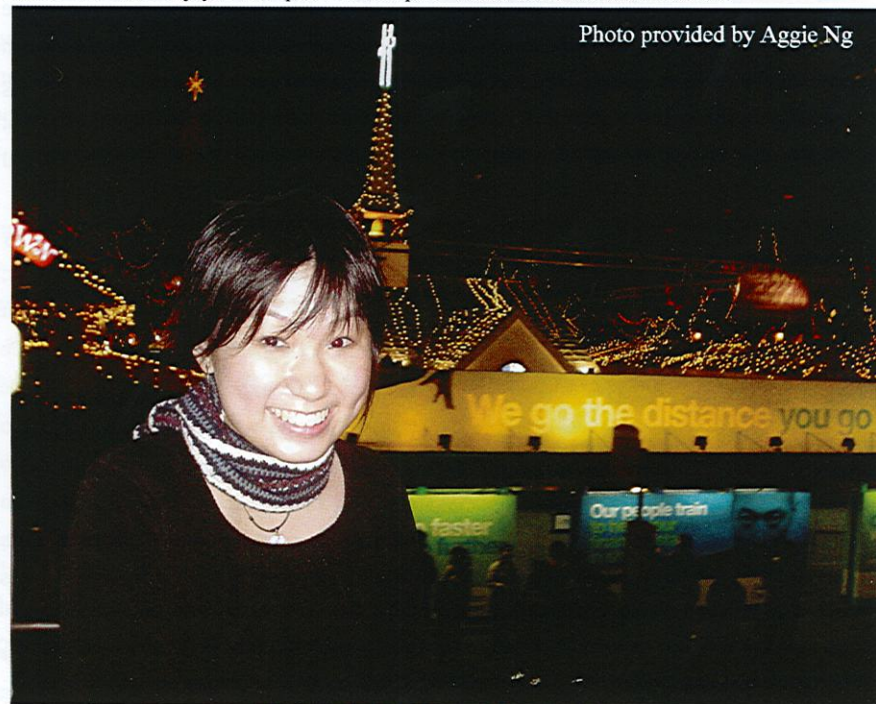


Photo provided by Aggie Ng

Aggie catching a tram at Christmastime



Photo provided by Ma Jing

Dr. Harvey P. Weingarten, who gave a lecture to Shantou University students, accompanied by Dr. Peihua Gu

New Concept of Education Echoes Drastically

While some STU students were intimidated by a thread posted on the school BBS concerning the 17 worst majors at Chinese universities, Dr. Harvey P. Weingarten, President and Vice-Chancellor of Calgary University, Canada, commented with a smile, "Don't worry about what major you're in, but your interest towards it."

Focusing on "The Promise of Education," Dr. Weingarten gave a speech in the Science Lecture Hall at STU on Nov. 11, 2007. He started the lecture with a comparison between STU and Calgary. Looking forward to more cooperation between these two young, yet fast-developing universities, Dr. Weingarten said he was happy about the contract signed to promote the inter-curriculum program between the two universities.

During the lecture, Dr. Weingarten pointed out that the undergraduate education of Calgary aims at three aspects: providing curriculum for students, doing research and offering service to the citizens. He highlighted the philosophy of education at Calgary, which is to educate leaders of Canada, to teach students to think about the internationalization of the world, and, most importantly, to have a solid ethical foundation to behave with integrity.

Furthermore, Dr. Weingarten encouraged students to be skeptical by asking, "Why should I learn this? How will it be useful for me?"

When confronted with the question of whether there was a standard to judge a good major or not, Weingarten referred to critical thinking as an effective method for solving this kind of universal question, and he emphasized a student's interest toward the major he/she has chosen and learning communication skills.

06 Journalism Ye Huitao

06 English Ke Rensi

American Teenagers Increase Understanding of US Culture

06 English
Ke Rensi

Two years after showing 1950s, until today. I think that was very important. Sometimes people prefer showing the most recent films, because they think teenagers would like them, but I think if you do that, you lose your history.

from *Rebel Without a Cause*, starring "the first American teenager" James Dean, to *High School Musical*, showing "the future of America" dominated by "tweens" (young adolescents aging 9-13), five screenplays were selected to afford a historical portrait of American youth culture.

"To understand American culture today, we must understand American teenagers," said ELC faculty Duff Johnston, the host of the film series, in conference room #3 of ACC on the evening of October 27, 2007, marking the beginning of the program.

To bring to light the stories behind the scenes, The Shantou Beat (S) talks with ELC faculty member Duff Johnston, the host of the film series.

S: Why did you choose these five films?

Duff: To understand American culture today, we must understand American teenagers. Partly I hope to provide a look at American youth culture from a historical perspective. I wanted to go back to the beginning of the

S: How do you characterize American teenagers?

Duff: Basically, I think American teenagers are asked to express themselves, to be individually unique, to find their own styles, beliefs, and personalities. I think there is one point that is common among most American teenagers: They are expected to struggle with identity to find who they are. In that sense, they are expected to be troubled.

S: What do you think of Chinese teenagers?

Duff: I've seen many Chinese young people who are asking questions about themselves, their life, and their future, which is universal among young people all around the world. I think in some way China is now going through something that happened in America. I sometimes read Chinese news about teen violence and teen suicide, which are big issues in America.

Still, cultures are different, so the traditions the Chinese students are coming from cause

them to be different than American young people. Teenagers have not been very important in China in the past, since the Confucian tradition places emphasis on authority and teenagers are considered not to have anything to say.

However, the Chinese economy is really improving, and people are more and more concerned about young people. I think in Chinese culture you will see more and more music, films, and television about and for teenagers.



Photo provided by Ke Rensi

Duff introducing the first film of the series, *Rebel Without a Cause*

ELC Hosts Professional Development Workshops for Novice Teachers

ELC Teacher
Yuan Mingming

Should grammar be taught explicitly in the classroom? Is spelling still important in the age of spellcheckers? What is the best way to fight fatigue on Monday morning when you've spent the weekend partying? If these questions intrigue you as a student, you are not alone. Throughout the semester, in the English Lounge, teachers from the English Language Center (ELC) have been meeting regularly for professional development workshops, where they discuss pedagogical issues with colleagues.

The workshops, organized and hosted by Claudia Kunschak, ELC's assistant director, are part of a professional development program designed primarily for novice teachers. According to Kunschak, the purpose of the workshop is two-fold: "to offer a framework for novice teachers to develop their teaching practice and to involve experienced teachers in a conversation about philosophy, principles and practices in the language classroom."

The topics that have been covered so far include the communicative teaching

approach, principles in language assessment, and cross-cultural communication in the classroom. Apart from the more theoretical edge, the workshops also offer a great platform for teachers to share their experiences and teaching techniques. Pat MacKenzie, an ELC teacher, commented, "As a new teacher, I can always use more information to develop my skills."

Peter Xiao, the ELC Associate Director, participates in each workshop as the resource pool. As an experienced local teacher, Xiao can offer his expertise on how pedagogical reflections meet the reality in ELC.



Photo provided by Yuan Mingming

ELC teachers in the workshop

The Shantou Beat

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