



輔大英文系系學會

FJU English Department
Student Association

ELITE 2009 MAGAZINE

...Welcome to the Freshmen Orientation!

The sky is clear and the summer wind breezes passed merrily. Three months have passed and finally a new semester has begun. Today, the English Department receives our latest intake with open arms. The freshmen are informed beforehand of the Freshmen Orientation and we are all expecting a huge turnout today. We are not disappointed as the freshmen are brought over by our co-coordinators from the University's Opening Ceremony. They look shy and yet excited, curious yet reserved. Exactly how most of us behaved one year ago.





After distributing the student cards and filling out some personal information, they are quickly seated in the classroom. The SA kicks off the orientation by introducing its members and the schedule of events planned ahead. There are Halloween Party, Christmas Party and the very much anticipated Freshmen Camp. Owen, the Master of Ceremony, lightens up the tense atmosphere by cracking a few jokes. Before long, the freshmen are comfortable enough to chat between themselves. Our considerate SA has ordered pizza for lunch and during the one hour lunch interval, the freshmen finally break the ice and start mingling with one another. Somehow they must have come to an understanding that these people standing next to them are going to be their classmates in the next four years. Life flies when one enjoys. Lunch ends amid groans of disapproval, but the freshmen are quickly hustled back into the classroom. Up next are the powerhouses giving their speeches. The department chair – Professor Yuan opens her speech by congratulating the newest members of the English Department. Professor Nash cheers everyone up with his spontaneous and hilarious speech. Ms. Beatrice – the coordinator of Composition & Conversation classes for the freshmen -- shares a few tips on how to adjust to college life quickly and efficiently. Lastly, our lovely secretaries, Charlotte and Julie, round out the speeches by inviting the freshmen to come to them if they encounter any academic difficulty.



The first day of the new semester has finally arrived. What is in store for the freshmen ahead? Elite is here to capture the glamour and excitement in the English Department of the year that followed.



IT'S 2008 freshmen camp



What is the combination of all four years of the English department plus months of preparation and two days of fun? That's right; it's this year's highly memorable Freshmen Camp! Arranged by the Students' Association, the tradition of the FMC is once again passed down and through the process every one, hosts and guests, had their share of fun.

"It rocked" were the simple words Edee used to describe the FMC and I am sure that most would not hesitate to agree, but let us go back the details so as to freshen our memories.



With the 65 facilitators along with a total of 63 freshmen, the FMC officially started with an amusingly sophisticated warm-up exercise led by Angela (senior), whose exaggerated expressions and fervent moves left a lasting impression on all the freshmen present. By the endeavor of the instructing facilitators, the big mess of limp limbs swaying around slowly turned into a harmonious, but all the more hilarious, groove.

When everyone was weary and hungry enough, barbeque came right on time but not entirely on time. Although some groups kindled a forest fire in a matter of minutes and started roasting, the majority of the people got their hands as black as the night with charcoal and yet failed to produce a tiny spark. Luckily for them, the considerate facilitators produced a flame-gun and saved everyone from their craving growls, and thus all ate and were satisfied.

Later on in the afternoon, all of the freshmen were enlisted into a site-by-site education where teachers and seniors alike shared valuable experiences about the general fundamentals of university life in the English department including food, lodging, course selection, linguistics, literature and much more. It was very rewarding for the freshmen as we took in eight different talks but to the individual site speakers, it meant repeating the message they were trying to deliver eight times over, so they really weren't to be blamed for losing count of their progress.



What followed up were a rich dinner and the long-anticipated evening party. The host and hostess of the night were Owen and Olive and they started off by introducing the common traits of the English department. From liver-busting to acting to dancing, it looked as if we English majors can do everything. And, like the quaint adage “Action speaks louder than words”, we proved it! Be it the musical struggle between a stud-wannabe and a babe-wannabe, the “workout” by good-old Tom, the sensuous prance demonstrating feminine domination, the nifty locking and picking by a seemly pair, the jaw-dropping cheerleading extravaganza or the combined bustle of the seniors and the improvised hustle of the freshmen, every turn in the show was well-done and highly amusing. Everyone, students and teachers alike, had a good time.





The jolly ambience, however, did not last long (enough) as it crashed and burned into the Haunted House nightmare. No thing more needs to be said— we waited, we dreaded, we went, we saw, we panicked and luckily we survived. However, despite the frightening nature of the event, some of the freshmen were not unnerved at all. “I think it was not all that scary, especially maybe our school brothers and sisters were too kind to us,” said Hubert matter-of-factly after the experience. Although such a comment can be disappointing to the staff that worked very hard preparing for it, we could at least find solace in the fact that every one enjoyed it in hindsight. After all the groups were through and we cleaned everything up, it was already past midnight and all of us found the way to bed with no thing else on our minds.



As early as six o'clock, the bells for the second day rung and dragged every one out of their dreams. After we were served the simplest of breakfasts, we got ourselves ready for morning exercise under the blazing sun. The exercise or dance rather, was interesting and exciting, but what was most remarkable about it was the facilitators who were, if not more, as tired as the freshmen. We put on our best smiles and spirits in order to stretch vigor into the still hazy freshmen. Our energetic performance succeeded, and the exercise ended with every one as lively as could be.



Immediately after that was time for the so-called “Site Missions”. The groups were involved in an around-the-site competition with each other. Different stations were scattered in a set area and with the completion of each quest, a riddle was given as a clue to the next destination. Action speaks louder than words; the actual activity was much more exciting than it sounds. The array of quests was indeed thrilling as many included balloons or water or both, and some of them flour, still others music, but mostly tons and tons of fun. The cooperation among team mates, the healthy competition between opposing teams, and the race against time from quest to quest, the process of the individual games stirred up a uniquely delicious flavor when it all blended together and made the whole morning delectable.



SITE MISSIONS



SITE MISIONS SITE MISIONS SITE MISIONS SITE MISIONS!!



LUNCH TIME LUNCH TIME LUNCH TIME LUNCH TIME!!

Before we moved into the afternoon, we had a hearty lunch as everyone was starving after all that excitement. However, we all knew more was coming our way, as the final event for the camp was the Closing Ceremony. The closing ceremony was basically a mini drama performance by the Juniors and the Sophomore, as well as all the freshmen teams. The themes of the performances were just a little out of the ordinary, all drawn from completely different genres of movies. From “P.S. I Love You” to “Texas Chainsaw Massacre,” there was simply no connection between the two movies. However, through the genius of imagination and creativity of the English majors, the films combined like fire and ice, producing flowing water. But that did not come without endeavor: the seniors, according to Ryan, the head of the Student Association, spent at least a month on preparing the show while the freshmen used the spare time between the activities in the two days to rehearse. All in all, the show went well and all had a couple of good laughs.



At the end of the closing ceremony, a special card was distributed to everybody present. It was called a “Turtle Card,” its meaning being the fact you had to wear it around your back like a turtle shell. This was a time to show our gratitude to everyone around us, a time to say thank-you. All we had to do was to write on each other’s backs and hope that he or she would repay you with a nice comment too. This card later became one of the most sentimental parts of the whole camp as nice things were bandied and appreciated, serving as the best event in the camp. Not surprisingly, everyone had so much to put on each other’s back that the facilitators eventually had to issue an ultimatum that no one was to write anything more or we would be late for home. Thus the curtain to the Freshman Camp drew close, with

each participant keeping a cherished memory behind.



GIVE APPLAUSE TO THE CREW!

As one of the SA members, I must say this year's Halloween Party was very different! Not to mention our pain in the process of preparation: brainstorming, props-making, decorating and scheming. We worked hard for only one goal—to bring you happiness! Our very goal was to make everyone happy! I haven't been in any Halloween party in the past; therefore this event was a new experience to me, and I was grateful to take part in such a major event.

The preparation was a bit strenuous, for the crew members had to get everything in position in a short period of time. Thanks to our fine collaboration, all the settings were done brilliantly in time. As the receptionists waved the excited freshmen in, the Halloween party was finally on track. The SA had prepared a lot of delicious food and drink for these hungry, naughty Halloween spirits who rushed hastily into the big room. From afar the scent of hot pizza was just pleasing, and also there were our smiling mixers in service! Joy was all around the frisky boys & girls.



The first activity was pumpkin-carving. Each group (two participants) had to dig out all the content of a pumpkin and then, by using a knife, carve a face on the pumpkin. So every group worked hard on their pumpkins. There were people who complained it was too stony, while others remained silent and were doing very well. All the teams were creative and efficient. Before long, four carved pumpkins were placed together on the table, some with artistic taste and some just bewildering. After a brief vote by

sticking small papers on the pumpkin artists, the outcome was: No. 1 Danny & Hubert! The prize was somehow surprising: an intact pumpkin (again)! There were also sweet potato, cucumber and loofah given to all the contenders.



The next activity was “translation,” in which the translators, upon seeing the note, had to hint to their teammates in English, leading them to the right answer ASAP. During the process, many people burst into laughter, for the notes were quite tricky and the desperate expressions on the translators' face were funny.

The third activity was Blind Fight, in which the participants must first draw lots for their queer weapons, then blindfolded and spin ten rounds to start the fight. The weapons were SA's great creation, but unfortunately some of them did not appear in the fight. Anyway, after the players were blindfolded and captured by dizziness, the fight took place amid the screams from the spectators. It was indeed very funny and exciting.

The fourth activity was Balloon Feet, in which the contestants must first tie their ankles with two small balloons respectively; then try to tread on others' balloons and evade attacks from opponents. Many SA members also joined in the battle with much bigger balloons, which, when burst, would reward the attacker with a piece of candy. The war was chaotic; people were frantic with primeval fighting instinct. The sound of balloons exploding could be heard repeatedly as the warriors chased one another fiercely. When everything was settled there were only a few survivors.

The final climax was the lottery for a brand-new iPod Touch (you may google it for its value). The champions would pick one out of six mysterious boxes (one of them contained the big prize). They failed in the first attempt, and, after given a second lifeline, still fell short of good luck. Then the SA members came forth, took one of them and proved there had been a real iPod. The champions were rather disappointed, but the SA would not let it be—each of them received an exquisite calendar with teachers' pictures on it! It was limited edition! Only the champions of the Halloween Party could have them!

The Halloween Party was very successful. Despite the absence of our dear teachers, everybody had great fun there. Judging from the fervent response of the party animals, the activities were truly well-planned and fascinating that the fun did not grow dim as the night deepened! Every second was refreshing and cheerful. I must give credit to the brilliant SA members who strove for this wonderful event. Ha! I cannot wait to see the next big party!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Thank you, SA, crew members and all participants!



Enjoy the Alumni Talk



Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language - Eunice Liao

***“I would like to teach in South Africa
if there is a position available!”***

– Eunice Liao

Are you interested in teaching? Have you considered teaching Chinese to foreigners? Graduated in 2007, Eunice Liao is now studying in the NTNU Graduate institute of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language. Hard-working and determined, she succeeded in the graduate school exam within three months. Open-minded and passionate, she is enthusiastic about her study and always eager to explore something new. “I would like to teach in South Africa if there is a position available!” said Eunice in the alumni talk in Dec. 2008. In the interview, she shared her teaching experience, exam preparation and future plan with us.

Interviewed by Amy Ke and Jessie Teng

Reported by Jessie Teng

1. Did you plan to go for further study after you graduated from college? Why did you leave your job and decide to go to graduate school?

I decided to go to work after graduating from college. On one hand, I was under financial burden; I had to earn a living by myself. On the other hand, I wasn't sure about my interest. I liked things related to language, and I wanted to explore more and have a better understanding about myself. At that time, I had three jobs. One was as English secretary in a law firm which specialized in international cases; the other was as a TOEIC teacher in a language institute. Also, I was a Chinese tutor, teaching Chinese to sons and daughters of diplomats. After half a year, I thought it was time to make a change because teaching was the job I had been doing since I was in college. At the same time, I knew people who had graduated from other departments in the law firm, and some of them had already acquired MA or PhD degrees. A certificate of a higher education is not always a guaranteed pass in careers, but the truth is, people trust people with higher degrees because they are simply better-educated. I also realized that those who obtained a higher degree performed better no matter in assignments or professions. I wanted a vision, a goal and a success. As a result, I decided to go to graduate school after more thought on the question.



2. Why did you want to study in the Graduate Institute of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at National Taiwan Normal University? Was it because of the trend or your interest?

I had plans for my future when I was in my Junior year. I had already listed the paths for my future, and one of them was to be a Chinese Teacher. I wrote a research paper concerning education in Junior Composition and Conversation class because I knew I might need it in the future. In addition, I loved Chinese culture and literature, and I even wanted to study in the Chinese Department. Nevertheless, I was happy to be in the English Department because the training equipped me fully in both Chinese and English.

3. Share the experience of preparing for the exam with us.

I believe nothing can stop you once your mind is determined. Lack of time is not an excuse. The exam was comprised of two parts, a written test and an oral test. I spent two months studying the recommended textbooks listed on the NTNU Overseas Chinese Education and Studies website. I studied at least 8 hours a day and went to the library for reference books sometimes. It was also important to have a plan because it was almost impossible to finish all the books within a short time. I identified the main point of each subject, possible questions, and techniques, and answered the mock-questions by myself. This ability derived from training in our English Department, and my work experience in the law institute. I learned to view things from a foreign learner's perspective, and to answer questions very precisely. In the written test, I combined what I had studied with my teaching experience as a Chinese tutor. This was totally different from the answers memorized from textbooks or in the cram schools. In the oral test, they asked me to read Chinese and English passages out loud. It was important to pronounce each word correctly and clearly. Besides, I transferred from a five-year college institute to Fu Jen. I think the transfer experience helped me in my preparation for the exam, since I brought back and used again my intense study in the past.

4. Did the training in the English Department help you in your studies now?

The courses I have taken in the NTNU Overseas Chinese Education and Studies do not have too many similarities to the courses in the English Department, but the spirit is the same. Due to the training in our English Department, I am more creative in choosing research issues and I view things differently. Also, critical thinking helps me think independently instead of taking others' opinions completely. I can absorb the material and internalize it easily.

5. Do you have to go for an internship before you graduated?

Yes, internship is required, and it lasts for a year. We can choose to go to a Chinese Language Center in Taiwan or teach abroad, such as in America, Germany, and Holland. The information will be given by our department, and we have to contact the target school and attend an interview by ourselves. Once you pass the interview and the test, you are hired. There is a world map on the wall in our department which shows how many countries our alumni had “conquered.” Students stick a flag with their name on it to the location they go for internship. It is really exiting to see the flags spread all over the map.



6. What's your future plan? Would you teach foreigners in Taiwan or abroad? Why?

Most alumni choose to teach Chinese abroad after they graduate. Some choose to stay in Taiwan because they already have a family, while some go back to their previous work because they are teachers who had their salaries suspended but retained their positions. As for me, I am not sure

which might be the best. There are lots of opportunities, and I am willing to try. I want to go to a place where people need me and find a job which I can bring my profession into full play. I would like to teach in South Africa if there is a position available.

7. Do you have any suggestions for students in the English department?

If you are uncertain about what you want to do in the future, give yourself one to three years to explore, and go to work first. You can meet different people and be inspired. For those who want to study in the Graduate Institute of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, I strongly suggest that you join us because of your interest instead of the trend. The mass media has exaggerated the potential job opportunity and benefit. Actually, teaching Chinese is not an easy task. We have to teach students from the basics, which is as simple as A, B, C when you first studied English. The process is repetitive, and you have to find the joy in it. As for me, I have a sense of achievement when my students make progress in learning, and I always have fun in making friends with people from countries all over the world.



Enjoy the Alumni Talk



Happy Worker – Dee Dee Wang

“Stay in a good mood and wear a smile.”

– Dee Dee Wang

“Stay in a good mood and wear a smile,” said Dee Dee Wang in the interview. Graduated in the year 2001, Dee Dee Wang is now the assistant manager of the E-commerce department in J.P. Morgan Asset Management. In 2005 and 2006, she won the prizes for “Best Worker” and “Best Service” in her company. In the year 2007, she stood out above the other competitors and won the title “Happy Worker” in an award launched by Career Magazine.

What characteristics brought her success in career and life? Dee Dee Wang shared her experience with us in a close-up interview. She talked about job applications, work, and interpersonal relationships and how these made her a better employee, colleague and friend.



Interviewed by Amy Ke and Jessie Teng

Reported by Jessie Teng

1. Did you plan to go to work after you graduated from college?

Although I wasn't sure what field I wanted to work in, I always wanted to go to work after I graduated from college. I wanted to obtain some work experience and discover my interests. Therefore, I went for job interviews actively during my senior year.

2. Why did you choose to work in the field of business and finance?

I didn't work in the business and financial field right after I graduated. My first job was as a training administrator in EDS Taiwan. I was responsible for in-house training and e-learning promotion. Since I wasn't interested in the job, I quit after 6 months. After that, I worked as a secretary in the English Department of National Central University for 2 years. I stayed young and felt like I was still a college student during those years.

Nevertheless, I wanted to find a more challenging job. At that time, J.P. Morgan Asset Management happened to sponsor a recruiting session. I had an internship there for a summer in my sophomore year. I was interested in jobs that concerned inter-personal relationships and the Internet, and I was also qualified for the criteria in the job description. Luckily, I got the job in the e-commerce department after the interview.

3. Did you take any business related course back in college?

I didn't have a minor or double major back in college, and I believed that skills could be learned through working. For instance, I learned to be patient and realized how businesses are conducted by observing in my internship experience. Also, I worked hard and had a positive attitude toward my job. Right after I was hired, I was informed that all employees are required to obtain a certificate in their professions due to the new company's policy change. To make matter worse, employees who couldn't acquire the certificate within a year would be fired. I worked in the day and went to cram school at night to study the subjects I had never had before. It wasn't easy and sometimes I wanted to give up. Finally, I earned the certificate before the deadline with sheer determination and perseverance.



4. Why do you want to work for J.P. Morgan Asset Management instead of other companies?

Applying for a job is similar to finding your better-half; fate and pursuit are both important factors. J.P. Morgan Asset Management is considered one of the best in the investment field. I can also identify with the organizational culture of the enterprise. In addition, I wanted a job in which my performance could be rewarded, and J.P. Morgan Asset Management is exactly what I needed. Since it is a foreign-based enterprise, performance determined the salary and promotion. Besides, it offers perfect benefits for employees and their family.

5. Did the training in the English Department help you in your present career?

I think the years in the English Department were the times when I accumulated skills and abilities the most. The writing practices in Composition and Conversation classes helped me in my business and public relations writing. Reading course in the freshman year cultivated my reading habits and I became more creative after mass reading. The course that impressed and influenced me the most was public speaking. I used to have severe stage fright. I blushed, sweated profusely, and trembled whenever I was asked to give a speech in front of others. In the first class, I stood on the stage for 3 minutes and cried before going back to my seat. After training for a year, I was not afraid of speaking in public anymore. This ability helped me a lot in my career since I had to do presentations in front of my employers or my clients, and the training definitely distinguished me from other co-workers.

6. In 2007, you won the title “Happy Worker.” In your opinion, what are your strengths over those who graduated from business related departments or people who worked in the company for some ten years?

Attitude. I am a member of the welfare committee in J .P. Morgan Asset Management, and I have to do extra work in my leisure time. I love to do so because I like to see others' happy faces. If I have to send a file to other departments, I never use the sending box in the office. Instead, I bring the file over in person and thus get acquainted with lots of people.

When a co-worker asks me to do him or her favors such as translating or retouching, I rarely refuse. I try to stay in a good mood and wear a smile everyday. Also, I say hello to everyone I meet, including the cleaners and the security guards in the building. I believe such small gestures bring warmth to people around me.



7. Do you have any suggestions for students in the English department?

Firstly, don't fool around all day without considering your assignments, especially journals. It is important and precious to keep every memory in your life. Secondly, experience more in college life. It could be a part-time job, clubbing, having a boyfriend or girlfriend. Don't limit yourself; try as much as you can. If you have a goal, don't put it off until tomorrow because you won't be as free as you are once you start to work. Lastly, I think it would be better to work first after graduating from college since we can hardly understand the real world unless we are in it.



2008 Fu Jen Catholic University English Speech Contest



"This is my second time in my college life to participate in the speech contest," first place winner Barry Yao, a senior in the English Department, said. "The last time was a mess. I am glad that I am more improved this time, no matter what place I get." In fact, Barry was the most surprising winner; no one had anticipated such an outcome—it was merely his hard work and resolution which made him the champion.

"I can't tell how much time I spent in preparing the speech," the second place finisher, a freshman from Clinical Psychology Dept. remarked, "It was very tiring but I really learned much." The speech contest is one of the significant annual activities of the English Student Association. It is open to every student in the university and, to make the contest fair, each participant must not have lived in an English-speaking country for more than six months. Following this criterion, the SA ensures the right of domestic students who work hard on their public speaking skills. Besides, maybe you will think the contest is exclusively for English majors, but it is not true. The contestants come from the four corners of the university, and their potential is never underestimated—in fact, last year's winner was a student from the Medical Department.

The contest took place at the Arens Performance Arts Centre during noontime. Of course, the SA had

finished decorating and setting things up in the morning—camera ready, provisions ordered, personnel checked, plastic flowers were tied onto the handrails and a big red banner hung down from the ceiling. For the judges, we invited three experienced, renowned teachers: Dr. Doris Chang, Dr. Kentei Takaya from the English department and another from the French dept. The head of the English Department, Dr. Yun-pi Yuan also appeared in the awarding ceremony as a special guest. During the course of the contest, Michael and Daisy collaborated well in running the show. The talkative duo also joked occasionally in transitions, keeping the audience attentive. Without doubt, each participant gave a well-prepared speech in order to win the judges' favor; after a sequence of intense competition, some advanced to the second round—impromptu speech, which put speakers to the ultimate test. And we all know who the winner was. Barry overcame his nervousness and delivered a moving speech; most importantly, he did improve himself as a speaker—he noted after the contest, “I remember I said some f-words on stage when I found nothing to say and felt very embarrassed in last year's speech contest.” Indeed, Barry's efforts were paid off.



So the speech contest this year drew to a close. Not only did the speakers benefit from this valuable experience, but also the audience that listened and learned much about how to give a successful speech. Congratulations to the winners! Also, the SA is looking forward to having more enthusiastic participants the next year—if you want to improve your English speaking, don't hesitate, our speech contest is your best choice! See you next year!

The Foreign Language Month

March arrived before one realized it. The weather was perhaps the only evidence the spring had approached. As customary, March was the Foreign Language Month and during the month, there were heaps of activities organized by the Foreign Language Student Association.

First of all, we had the traditional food fest. This year round, the English Student Association prepared potato mash, corn soup and light refreshments. The feedback was widely positive, from students in and outside the department. Within 3 hours, the food prepared was all but sold out.

Following up was the annual Volleyball Competition. The rules were slightly different from the previous years. This year employed the round-robin tier, which meant each department got to face the other five opponents and the top four with the best record advanced to the semi-finals.

Against the odds, the English Department Volleyball team cruised to 2nd placing overall which was a great achievement for the players and the department.



The Basketball Competition rounded off the month of March. The guys from our department looked forward to defending our title against our arch-rivals – the Japanese Department. The Basketball Team cruised to the finals effortlessly, topping the group and brushing aside the Japanese Department.



However, the favorite of this tournament got a harsh reality check; our men were brought down to earth by the French Department, surprisingly. Nonetheless, the ENG Department continued its strong tradition of earning a place in every competition in recent years.

LET'S GO ENG



LET'S GO ENG

2009 Fu Jen Catholic University Cheerleading Squad Race

Once again, the annual Cheerleading contest arrived. Amid anticipation and high expectation, our cheerleading team had nothing but glory in sight. This year's cheerleading's team was led by our veteran cheerleading captain, Dylan, who was well-assisted by the capable Trista of the sophomore.

In order to give their best for the competition, practice commenced straight after Chinese New Year, giving the participants little time to enjoy their winter vacation. But few complained as they warmed to the task ahead in the cold February days. It was interesting to note that the Cheerleading Competition was a voluntary event and the 40 vacant spots filled up quickly.

Once again, the English Cheerleading team had the privilege to invite our old friends '胖胖' and '小靜' to lead the team to victory. '胖胖' coordinated the stunts while '小靜' choreographed the dance. With these two powerhouses leading our cheerleading team, no wonder we were all quietly confident this year could be our year. According to '胖胖', the strength of our squad this year was boosted with the number of male participants on the team.



Practicing at least three times a week over a course of a month, the team improved tremendously. They were able to pull off spectacular maneuvers without breaking a sweat. The day we had all been waiting for finally arrived. Two thousand spectators crowded Zhong-Mei Hall to witness the annual Cheerleading Competition. Six language departments came together and

supported their teams fervently. The English Department students attended in numbers and were high in spirit; everyone was having a great time. When Dylan led the team out and into their positions, the supporters were screaming their lungs out. Once the music was played, everything went according to script. The students danced to the beat, they split into different formations, and basically, gave their all. We offer our sympathy for clinching runner-up, but in our eyes, the English Department will always be number 1.





The best event designed for freshmen of ENG 09' Formal Dance

Once a year, our nation comes together in celebration of the birth of our country; because only through strife and peril did we prevail over all the impossibilities and make ourselves the land where we take our stand. The English Department of Fu Jen too, comes together once a year to testify to the power of teamwork and friendship in the new blood in the department. This occasion is a tradition called the Formal Dance.

The Formal Dance is the first event hosted only by the freshmen, and it is one of the biggest highlights in all of the extracurricular activities in the English Department.

It is a highly anticipated night that everyone, professors and students alike, are eager to hear about because of the nature of the event: "formal" and "dance."

First and foremost, of course, formal attire is required and with your ties and dresses on, you must shake and bounce and boogie down. With that in mind, a majority of the students participated.

The opening to the dance started at seven in the evening, and spiraling up the stairs and the red carpet, a photo was taken for each pair entering, everyone received a golden mask as a ticket to the night of mysterious frivolity. Of course, right after the grand entrance was the main event of the night: the food. From pizza to pasta to chips and beverages that contained liquor; the night was complete with food. Amidst all the food, the people took little notice of the two fabulously dressed up hosts, Emily and Tony Huang, until they swirled into view with loud introductory music.

"Here comes the host!", they said, and after the formality of addressing the organizer of the event and thanking the various sponsors, the night started with the first bang of a dance brought by the freshmen guys. The crowd circled around the dancers as they presented a month's hard work in two minutes, but naturally, all the bravos and cheers made it worthwhile. The first blast of the formal dance was a hit and it brought a feeling of excitement that drew everyone closer to the dance ring. Then, as the mood and atmosphere of the evening demanded, the two hosts brought forth the delicately sophisticated yet elegantly simple dual dance. Step by step, every pair followed the hosts in the music: moving closer together and spreading farther apart; joining hands and enduring a length of sweet separation. The waltz was as tender as it was seasoned, and the hypnotizing effect stayed long after the dance was over.

Moving gently with the soft background music, the atmosphere slowly wore down. But all fatigue faded away as the next session began with the introduction of desserts. But all the more importantly and supremely, was the long-anticipated dance of our women students. When they prepared themselves onstage, a suppressed uproar hid within everyone's mind. When the dancers swirled their final turn,



the earth shook, the waters roared and the skies tore apart. It was hip, it was hot and it was wow: The dance of our young women was a highlight of the evening no one will soon forget.

Allowing the atmosphere to linger, the DJ of the party tuned up the right jazz and all in the department went up one by one to be conquered by the night until the party announced its end. The people were a happy bunch, the dance floor a swell spot and the evening was a success. What the night offered was more than the pleasure for the moment, but a lasting memory for all. What a night!

A Trip to BFSU – Beijing Foreign Studies University

As all of us are aware, BFSU had a rich history of producing famous politicians and educators over the years. The University's stronghold of discipline and the quality of its students has been a trademark. Our very own Jessie Teng had the opportunity to spend two weeks at BFSU as an exchange student, and here she shares with us some interesting details of life there.

Could you tell us a little bit about the school?

Jessie: The campus is divided into east and west by a road and an underground passage in between. I spent my two weeks in the western part of the campus and unfortunately, the English building was at the end of the eastern part. Therefore, I was familiar with almost every building on the campus because I had to walk through it every day. I also learnt that the Arabian language department didn't have to share classrooms with other departments because apparently the Arabians were so rich that they built their own buildings with state of the art equipment. The gym was located not far from where I lived. It was huge and fascinating. It even had a chandelier hanging in the lobby. It was strictly limited for faculty staff and students from BFSU only. In the underground passages at night, there were many stalls selling pirated English novels. It seemed like they were infringing copyrights to the maximum. They didn't even bother to change the title of the novel and sold their books at 1/8 of the original price.

What about the classes?

J: I was most impressed with these three courses – interpretation, reading and speech & debate. In interpretation, the students were required to translate Chinese sentences into English in medical related topics. They needed to know the appropriate vocabulary to use in the related field. The teacher would say 5-6 sentences in English and the students would practice through a microphone. Then the teacher would pick a student to give his or her answers. I have to say honestly, the students did really well in translation in terms of word choice, sentence structure & pronunciation. In terms of reading, the textbooks they used were similar to the ones we had in high school. Each chapter contained a short story. The teacher explained the usage of vocabulary or phrases and then made sentences. The students previewed the short story before class and marked the words they didn't know and looked them up the dictionary in advance. It was very interesting to be in their speech and debate class. Every student was required to take notes in a certain format during the debate. Students paid attention to the speakers even if they were not the debaters that day. Also, the students on the opposite side could ask questions while the speaker was still on stage speaking, and the speaker had the decision to answer the questions or not. This was quite different from the way we were trained. Another interesting phenomenon I noted was that there was less interaction between students and teachers if the teachers



were of Chinese origin. (ppt files and lectures). However, in classes where the teachers were foreigners, there was more interaction such as group discussion and Q&A.

Students at BFSU came to class early in the morning. In fact, they arrived at class so early that sometimes; the teacher started the class before the bell rang because all the students were present.

Lastly, how was the living condition?

J: It was okay I guessed. We had students who came from different provinces of China, and as a result, most of them lived in the dormitory which houses 4-5 people in a room. The place where I lived was for foreign students, including Americans, French, Korean and Japanese. It was interesting to hear different languages when I walked through the hallway.

The room was simple. A closet, desk, TV, bed and toilet. The TV programs were not as diverse and interesting as the ones in Taiwan, and there were also very limited English channels. Students watched English reality shows or dramas by downloading them from the Internet.

The Newest Star in English Department-- Professor Kentei Takaya

Written by Carol Hong

Walking into Professor Kentei Takaya's office, you might be surprised that it is decorated in a simple style, or *Wabi-sabi*, the term stands for Japanese aesthetics. In fact, the decoration tells a story of its owner, that is, the genuine and cheerful character of Professor Takaya. As the newest member in the English department, Professor Takaya has aroused a lot of curiosity among the students. Whether you are interested in learning more about this popular "star" in our department, or you simply want to get to know him, reading this article will be a chance you cannot miss.

A Cheerful Smile

Professor Kentei Takaya

✧ *Nationality:*
Japan

✧ *Education:*
*D. Phil in Applied
Linguistics and Second
Language Acquisition
M.A. in TESOL and
Foreign Language
Education
B.A. in Linguistics*

✧ *Interest:*
Basketball

It is Monday afternoon. A man dressing in shirt and trousers walks out from the Foreign Language College. He looks like a college student going home after a tiresome day. Suddenly he calls your name and greets you. Just then you realize he is not anyone else-- he is the newest professor in the English department.

It is quite surprising that whenever you see Professor Takaya in the campus, he always appears energetic. This is also true when he faces challenges. "I am always cheerful and optimistic about everything I do. I always think of the positive side," says Professor Takaya with a genuine smile.

Growing up in Taiwan and Japan, he regards both countries as his home town and loves them equally. If these two similar cultures make him a successful communicator, then studying overseas is valuable to him in terms of cross cultural communication. Perhaps that is also the reason why he is always optimistic— the chance of getting along with different people makes him confident and thus enthusiastic about everything.

Up Close with Professor Nash

1. Could you tell us why you end up as a professor in FJU?

I came to Taiwan because I had come here before as a student. My wife is a Taiwanese, so she wanted me to come here too. When I finished school, I sent letters of application to all the universities here in Taipei. There was another reason too; because one of my graduate school classmates had already been hired by the English department, but then he changed his mind and decided to go to Thailand to teach. When I sent out my applications, it was at the same time he changed his mind. Sister Helena said we had already hired one guy from the University of Hawaii, then he didn't come. So they just hired me.

2. Your learning experiences here as a professor and a student?

Well, I came here first when I was a junior. Because my father told me if I had a chance to study abroad, he would help me, although later he forgot he told me that. In my first two years of college, I didn't have a major. And I was kind of bored. So I saw a chance of studying abroad. I applied to go to England, and they rejected me. My second choice was Taiwan. I had just declared my major of anthropology. So during a Christmas vacation when I was at my home, I was getting ready to go drinking with my friends, and I got a phone call from the university and they said "Remember you applied to go to England, " "Yes, and you rejected me."

"Your second choice was Taiwan. And we needed you to write a letter to say why you want to go to Taiwan. "

Oh okay. So I sat down, wrote a letter quickly because I thought I would be rejected again. But it wasn't. So I came here and learned Mandarin, studied some anthropology, Chinese, Taiwanese society. When the first year was almost up, I begged the director to let me stay a second year, so I wouldn't forget my Chinese. Because in my American university there was no Chinese department at that time. So I might forget everything I learned. So I begged them and stayed for a second year. So obviously at that year I learned

a lot of stuff and languages and cultures and make some friends, met my future wife.

Had you considered going to Mainland China?

Not really, there was a period of time when my father wanted me to go to there. He kept sending me job advertisements. But I didn't know why. Maybe it was because the payment was much lesser, conditions were much worse. So I really didn't want to go there.

As a professor here I learned lots and lots of stuff. The department had given me a chance to teach

things that I wasn't good in. So I taught myself to be better. Linguistics was an example because I didn't major in linguistics. But at the end of my first year the chair called me and said

"Next year, you will teach linguistics."

"Why me?" So she pulled out my transcript and said casually

"Discourse sociolinguistics, discourse psycholinguistics, two courses in syntax, one course in phonology. That's linguistics, right?"

"Yeah?"

"You will teach linguistics."

So... I had to learn because I never took a course like you when you took Introduction to Linguistics. I almost started from scratch, but not entirely. I fooled many generations of students into thinking that I studied linguistics, although I wasn't trying to fool them. So if I were to teach freshmen CC, one of the assignments I would give them was to go to the department website and look me up.

3. Is there anything you find especially interesting or rewarding in your teaching?

There are many rewarding things, sure. But the most rewarding thing is working directly with students, like you. Working directly with students is the best part. So when I am working here, I always hope students will come and interrupt me because it will be more interesting. Well... Students are young, full of energy, and got lots of interesting ideas. So it is interesting to be around students.

4. How did you develop this kind of active teaching style?

Partly it must be my personality. Maybe some of my training in graduate school because in my first year I actually got into some trouble because my class was too much fun. So the chair called me and said

"Mr. Nash, I hear your class are playing games all the time."

Actually at that time, from my point of view, the chair was talking about the junior CC class. At that time, from my point of view, we hadn't played any games yet. But I scheduled the game for the next class, so I explained to the chair 'We haven't played any games.

"Oh but there is another teacher, her students say your class is playing games all the time. So they complained how come they can't play games."

I said, "Oh, okay." So I caused trouble. So I tell other teachers what we are doing. But actually we hadn't really played anything that was really a game. We hadn't played anything. It was just activities. I don't know. Learning should be interesting. It's my basic purpose.

I don't want to entertain students. I don't think I should be entertaining students. Another part of my answer (because first I just said maybe it's part of my personality) is if I enter a class as a student, and the teacher is just explaining grammar all day, it's boring. I don't know how much I can learn. So I want the teacher to give me something to do, like give me a puzzle. You know, give me something to talk

about or something to argue about, so I can engage in it. Partly also because of my active teaching, that is very true, it's just a response to the students. The students have changed over the years. Now you are not as quiet as they used to be. It's really hard to be a teacher and talk to the class and everybody sits there and there is no response. So no facial expression, nobody is saying anything, and everybody is just... You can't tell if they are there or not. So I tell stupid jokes and somebody laugh. So "Oh you are paying attention, huh?" And sometimes act silly just to get some response. So partly it's response or defense and trying to get students to be more active. Sometimes I feel like I am entertaining the class, but then I don't feel good about that because I shouldn't be doing that. Because your job is to try to learn something and for that, you have to be interested. So it's always a problem, right? Because the department decides what you have to study.

5. How do you think of the students in our department?

Students in our department are great (laugh). They have always been good. There has never been a class that I don't like. Some classes are harder to teach than other classes. Sometimes teachers have a bad habit of saying 'oh this year's freshmen, I am not talking about any group, I just... for example, they don't study so hard. Oh last year's freshmen studies so much harder' blah blah... Sometimes teachers have the bad habit of comparing students. But they are just different.

6. You seem to enjoy the activities held by the dept. very much?

Yeah, that was a change for me because when I was a student I didn't join anything. I hated activities. I didn't know why. I played trumpet at eighth grade. But I stopped. So when I did that I know how to read music but then I stopped and now I don't know how to read music. In high school I joined sports but then I didn't join anything else. In college I didn't join anything. (I heard you play the guitar.) I heard that rumor last year. You can spread it around but I don't know how to play the guitar. Twice I have taught myself three chords. Actually I have a book "Guitar for the musically helpless". So using that book I taught myself three chords but I forgot them. But I like music. In the last couple of years I have been playing the harmonica more.

7. Could you tell us why you joined "the morphemes"?

It was because Nickie invited me. Last year Nickie was in my junior CC class. One day she asked me whether I wanted to perform in their band. I thought she was joking because I am really not a good singer. But then she said she was not joking because they were going to have the singing contest in our department. And they thought if I was in the band, we could surprise everyone. Maybe that will help us. So... if you really want me to, I will do it. So I was really surprised. I am still surprised.

Music is not a spectator sport.

Music is my favorite topic.

When I was a student here, 1975 to 1977, there was no KTV. But I went on some student trips with some high school students and college students. Every time when they were on the bus, everybody was singing. Someone would come up and say "let's sing a song", and everybody would sing a song. They were all singing together. It was really fun. Everybody felt like a group, we belonged together because we just went on a trip together and we had just sung a same song.

8. Do you have any special favorite artist?

Most students might know my favorite is Bob Dylan. I like the blues of course. A lot of my musical taste was determined by my big brother. He is six years older than I am. He had a huge record collection. So when he went to college, he left a lot of records at home. I started to listen to that. When he was at home, he played the music all the time. My father and my mother hated it (laugh). I had to listen to what he was playing. When he was gone, I played those records and see what they were like, so his taste and my taste overlapped. I like any music if you can dance to it. It gives you something to think about. That's why I think Bob Dylan is good. The music is good, his delivery is fantastic. Van Morrison has many songs like that.

9. Could you tell us your plan after retirement?

My plans are still not clear, but I am looking for another kind of job. Probably editing, translating, or proofreading. Part of my job as a professor requires me to do all of these things. I think especially proofreading, I am better than most people. I think proofreading takes kind of personality because you have to pay really close attention. It's hard to do because usually you get interested in reading, you just start reading. Eventually when I am not working, I want to go around to different parts of the world to body surf. (How do you body surf?) It's just what it says. So you have to swim pretty well. You get into the water when the waves are coming in, just like somebody with the surf board. But you don't have anything except your body. Most coastal places in Taiwan are shallow. So when the waves come I just start swimming. But in a really good body surfing beach, when you start it will be over your head. So you have to tray more, stay in one place. You have to judge the right time. So when the waves are coming, you turn around and swim as fast as you can. If your timing is good, the wave will pick you up. Once it picks you up, you can stop swimming and put your arms back and look around. Depending on the wave, you might have to turn different directions. It is really fun.

10. Besides music and dance, what's your other interest?

I like basketball, swimming, body surfing in the ocean, swimming in the rivers and lakes, and everywhere except swimming pool. I like basketball because I was not very good. I am still not very good. I used to be a long-distance runner. I was still running till about 1995. So among the students here like Fr. Bauer and me and a couple of other teachers we were known for being crazy and running

in the rain. We were in little shorts. But I quit running. One year in 1995 I ran into some bad luck, I had pneumonia - I was running behind the school and a dog bit me. I used exercise to reduce stress. You do some hard exercise and you feel better in whatever you do. You have a better attitude. But I discovered for long-distance running when you are in a good shape, you can go out and run for 15 kilometers and when you come back, you are still pissed off about whatever is bothering you. But when you play basketball, you can't do that because you have to take in where the ball is and what is going to happen, and where is the person I am defending, right? So you cannot think of any other things. When you come back, you forgot all about this. So the time when you were playing you forgot all about this.

11. Do you grow beards because of family convention?

I used to say that, but it is not very true. When I was in high school, I didn't have a beard; they wouldn't let me grow beards and long hair. As soon as I finished high school, I stopped shaving. It's like protest. I don't like shaving. Another reason is because I think I look better with a beard. So I kept a beard. Originally I tried to be rebellious, but later it's just a habit. When I came here as a student, beards were very unusual. I was twenty years old. My friend's grandmother whose eye sight was not very good and she said "how old is your friend, 40 years old?" Back then people would tell me "all the old men grow beards, so you should cut your beard." It's okay. I am not a Taiwanese. I don't have to follow the same custom. One time around 1986, I went to a funeral. In the funeral the Taoist priests were chanting. And there was one young guy who had a big beard. I was just sitting there watching him chanting dot dot dot. And he stopped chanting and said "噢 鬍子好漂亮" and dot dot dot. "你也是" dot dot dot".

12. Head stand becomes a tradition?

That's something interesting about the English Department. Sometimes something could be a tradition very fast, just like that. I never practice. I just do it once a year in the Freshman Camp. Why did I do that? I don't know. Because I don't sing very well before when I had a band to play with, but students wanted us to perform but I didn't know what to perform. So I thought of that. Actually I learned that in the high school. It is just fun. I want to send one kind of message to the students: you need to do some exercise (laugh). You need to have a habit of exercise or find some kinds of exercise that you enjoy. Because now you are young you don't notice the difference. But in ten years from now, you will know the difference. You will save yourself a lot of trouble if you find the exercise you like. If you like it, it is easier to do it.

13. Anything want to tell the dept. or students?

I should thank the department. For giving me a long and interesting career. All of the many colleagues I



work with, I have learned something from each one of them. I appreciate it. Students over the years and all the students now, I have learned a lot from all of you. For you I hope you keep your intellectual curiosity wide open. Don't assume that linguistics is boring and useless. Whenever there're new things you don't know about, don't assume anything. Learn something before you decide. In all of our classes, professors give you many opportunities for some extra learning. But not many students take those opportunities. Anyway, keep your interests wide open.



Dear fellow students:

First of all, I like to offer my unreserved apologies for publishing the online magazine so late into the semester. I hope this online magazine acts as a trip that takes you back into memory lane. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Elite. Without their perseverance and commitment, this online magazine would have been impossible. Lastly, I hope you enjoy reading our articles as that would be the most satisfying reward for each and every one of us.

Warmest,

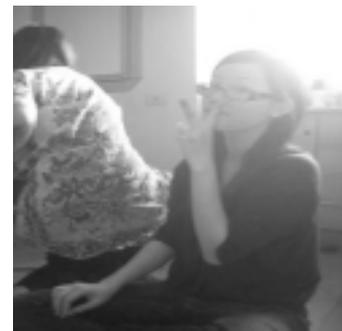
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