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The 2019 Alumni Homecoming

By Jenny Lin



On December 7th, 2019, alumni of the English Department gathered at LB301 to celebrate the school's anniversary, and at the same time, reunited with their classmates and friends.

The Alumni Homecoming is an old tradition in the English Department. On that day, former students gather together to reminisce about the good times. The tradition also represents the significance of "bridging the past, looking to the future". This year, as usual, the reunion fell on the same day as the school's anniversary. Visitors could meet their old friends in the morning and then take a look at the markets and club performances on campus in the afternoon.

On the event's Facebook fan page, there was a schedule for the Alumni Homecoming. One of the most exciting events was the Alumni Celebration: Free Tarot Cards Divination, Wine Tasting, Board Games, and Christmas Market. Cookies with cheese and ham, cakes, and coffee were served in classroom LB301. English Department Student Association were also ready with the setup of the board games area.

First, in the opening section, Natasha Lin and Cara Lee, two senior year actresses, performed a short part of the Senior Play. The play is called "The Golden Child". The actresses, dressed in ancient Chinese clothes, impressed the audience. While they were praying on the stage, they suddenly paused and invited the audience to come to see the complete version of the play on December 26th, 27th and 28th. Their eye-catching performance won them a big round of applause.



(Photo provided by Jenny Lin)

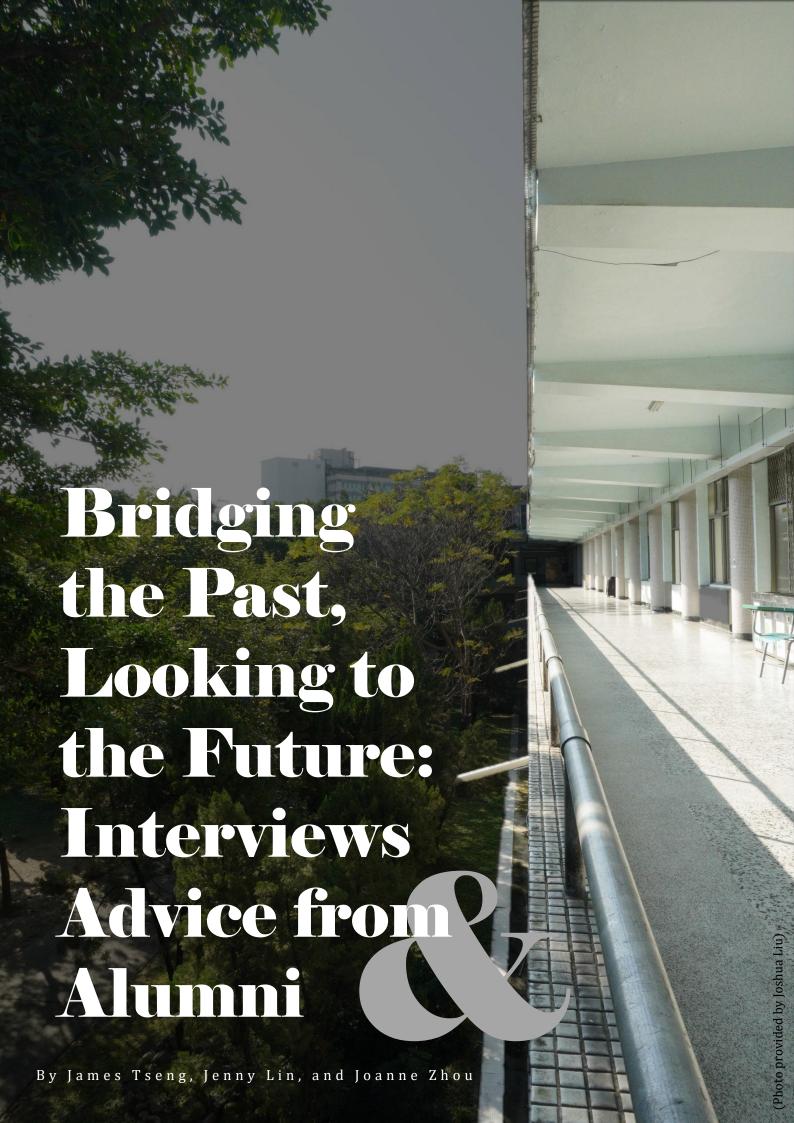
Among the various activities, one was tarot card divination. Angie Yang, the tarot diviner, and also a 1999 graduate, offered free tarot card divination for everyone. Angle is a tarot diviner, astrologist, and Angelic Reiki healer. Actually, the day before the Alumni Homecoming, she was still in Shanghai. Yet, she bought her ticket in a hurry and arrived in Taipei overnight. "I have promised Julie that I would come back no matter what," Angie said sincerely, "Time flies. Many teachers are no longer here in the department, and even Father Bauer is going to retire." However, she was happy that so many people had been interested in her tarot divination. She was able to help people see their current situation and offer some advice for their future. Angie said that this was her first time holding this activity in the department and that she hoped to have more opportunities in the future to share mysticism as well as physical and spiritual knowledge.

In addition, the Department Chair Bi-Chu Chen, Dean of the College Kate Liu, Father Bauer, and Professor Hegel each gave a speech. Some alumni shared that it was heartwarming to listen to the teachers' talk again after so many years. Kelly, a 2010 graduate, said, "Professor Sherri invited me, and then I invited my friend, Grace," she pointed at the girl beside her, "I think it is great. We come back and see so many teachers. The English Department is still welcoming and friendly like it was in the past." The two alumni sipped their coffee and continued enjoying this delightful atmosphere. Another girl, Alyson, who graduated in 2017, also shared that seeing so many teachers, classmates, and alumni, in the month of Christmas, was such a joyful experience. "What's more, playing board games with children is a lot of fun," she added while playing with an alumnus' 3-year-old daughter.



(Photo provided by Jenny Lin)

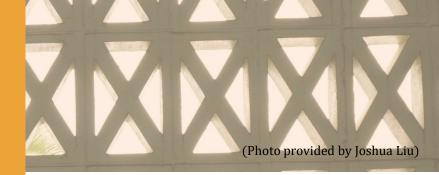
The English Department is a big family. This year, like every year, was once again a wonderful moment for former students to come back and see their old friends and professors. The reunion linked the memories of the past and the prospects of the future. The success of the 2019 Alumni Homecoming marked a memorable milestone to the end of the year.



Johnny Lo Manzoni (1999)

Johnny Lo Manzoni graduated from the English Department in 1999, and is now the vice manager of the international sales department in Forest Beauty. He lived in Venezuela and moved back to Taiwan two years ago. He speaks Chinese, Spanish and English, which gives him a good advantage as an international salesperson. In fact, he is a native speaker of Spanish, who has lived in Venezuela for about 20 years. It was a precious opportunity to practice Spanish with Johnny, a native speaker of the language. Johnny's trilingualism gives him a great leverage in being an international salesperson.

Johnny has tried many careers before ending up in his current job. When he graduated from college, he wanted to have his own cram school business. However, after he heard his classmates' personal experiences of working in cram schools, he thought that it may not be a suitable working environment for him, so he changed his mind. He has been an interpreter in embassy and worked in scanner industry. "Scanners are designed to scan QR code or other kinds of simple codes as well. They are mainly for payment, inventory, ID recognition, mail tracking and ticket tracking," Johnny explained. In the scanner industry, he was a regional international sales for the American continent. He was also assigned as the editor to write the company's product manual, labels and advertisements.



Johnny has a very special interest: flower essence remedies. After seeing more and more people being stressed out by the chaotic social situation in Venezuela, he wanted to help those people release their tension with the magical power of flower essence. Johnny uses Bach Flower Remedies, which is a treatment made from wild flowers to harmonize the mood of emotionally-troubled people. Comforting people's mind made him worthwhile.

Johnny, the versatile alumnus, gave students in the English Department two pieces of advice. First, be humble and be open-minded. He suggests college graduates try 1-2 jobs after entering society. After all, not being able to find one's ideal job at first is normal. Second, it is better to be equipped with a second skill besides English. More than one skill would grant college graduates more opportunities in their career.



Johnny Lo Manzoni
with his company's products
(Photo provided by Jenny Lin)

Emily Wang (1999)

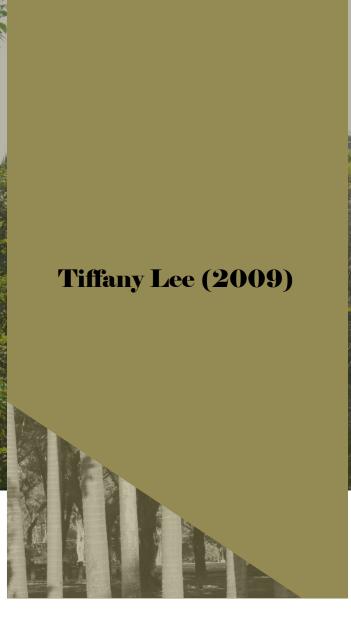
Emily Wang, an alumnus graduated from the department of English Language and Literature in 1999, is a professional interpreter. She has been an interpreter of TV news, advertisement, and even in the United States Department of State. Her current job is teaching interpreting in Tamkang University. She was determined to choose a career in the field of interpreting right after she graduated from college. Therefore, she went to California to get a master's degree in interpreting and translating.

Throughout these years, Emily has translated many books including Our Planet 《我們的星球》 (2019), Food Fights & Cultural Wars: A Secret History of Taste 《食物、文化與戰爭:十個引爆人類世紀衝突與轉折的食物歷史》 (2018), Eine Hand Voller Sterne 《手中都是星星》 (2004), Chitty Chitty Bang Bang 《飛天老爺車》 (2003), and so on. She said that translating books was like being chased by time because she had to meet the worldwide release.

"A good interpreter is able to interpret without being noticed of his or her existence," Emily said, "because fluent interpreting moves the session smoothly." She also confesses that this is a stressful job. "Every occasion of interpreting comes along with pressure. Many classmates of mine started to grow white hair when they were studying in graduate school." She has encountered various kinds of problems when interpreting. For example, sometimes the speakers' accents are hard to understand, or sometimes their content of speech is beyond her comprehension.

(Photo provided by Joshua Liu)

For students who want to choose a career in this field, or are taking relevant courses, Emily gave some suggestions. First, enlarge the knowledge of different aspects, including keywords and background information. "Interpreters may not know what their next session is about, so they need to be prepared," Emily said. Second, practice and correct errors. Through discovering a person's own errors, he or she would know how to improve.



Tiffany Lee, a graduate of the English Department in 2009, is working as an English teacher and a makeup professional. She publishes her fantasy makeup creations on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube.

Tiffany has a lot of experience in English teaching because she has already been engaged in this field since 2006. The motivation behind her career is "I love it, that's why I've done it for so long... I truly believe if you're not interested in something, it's really difficult to do it long term," Tiffany said. In fact, both her current jobs are her interests discovered back during her college years, and now they are finally "built up into careers."



In Tiffany's sophomore year, she was cast in the Annual Play of the English Department. She said that the experience had "made a real impact" on her and "woke her interest in people, humanity, and art." Her experience in theater and literature at Fu Jen Catholic University has a great impact on her professional makeup career. They are reflected in the "dramatic elements" in her work.

"Live in the moment" is Tiffany's life motto, so instead of long term aims, she prefers short-term goals about 3-4 years into the future. Most of these goals have been accomplished, including graduating from university on time, making money, being independent, and becoming the best teacher she could be. Yet, "Setting a goal is like setting a direction for your life, but it's the journey getting there that life presents itself the most interesting," Tiffany said. Therefore, the process in reaching the goal is the most valuable thing for her.



Rose Huang, an alumnus of English Department in 2009, is in charge of license acquisition in China and Taiwan, as well as the translation between Japanese and Mandarin for a video distribution company in Japan.

In the beginning, Rose was not familiar with Taiwanese dramas, so it took some time for her to get used to watching them. "This job also allows me to get into the process of drama productions that I'm very interested in," Rose said. This job is connected to her enthusiasm in theater which was fully developed when she was at university. In her college time she read some great works of literature of Shakespeare, and also participated in the Annual and Senior play.



Because of the desire of becoming a professional actress in theaters, Rose taught English in cram school while working as a theater actress after graduation. Later, she decided to apply for a graduate school in Taipei National University of the Arts. However, in Rose's second year in graduate school, she gradually had more contact with Japanese language and culture, such as the study of Kabuki documentation, and it therefore pulled her closer to Japan. As a result, Rose decided to go and stay in Japan in 2015.

Now, Rose is working in the video industry which shares great similarity with her interest in performing arts. Rose points out that "language" and "theater" are two keywords of her life. One of Rose's life goals is "to use my language skills to bridge cultural and linguistic differences between different countries and cultures." Rose's encouragement for students in the English Department is "If there's something you want to try, don't be afraid of failure because in most cases you can restart even if you've failed."

Limo Chang (2019)

Limo Chang, who had a double major in Italian, graduated this July in Italy. He spent his last year of college in Roma Tre University as an exchange student—an opportunity exclusively available to the students from the Department of Italian Language and Culture. Throughout his college career he studied diligently and relentlessly, earning him a total of six Distinguished Scholar Awards. In his Junior year when he was writing his research paper, he would go to bed at 10 p.m. and wake up at 2 a.m. to continue studying and only sleep one more hour before going to classes. As he recalled, there were only two semesters in which he did not receive this award.

When asked about the most inspiring courses and professors in his undergraduate studies, he named Professor Tong who specializes in Feminism, Professor Schulte who specializes in Shakespeare, and Professor Wu who teaches Chinese Literature. Professor Tong inspired him the most in literature and Gender Studies, while Professor Schulte brought him into the world of Shakespeare. As an English major, he finds Professor Wu's courses, Modern Interpretation of Chinese Lyric Poetry and Modern Interpretation of Chinese Narrative Poetry, equally intriguing. He also mentioned Professor Liu whose instruction in research methodology and academic writing provided a solid foundation for his academic pursuits.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree, Limo went back to Hsinchu, his hometown, to take a rest after five years of hard work studying. Since graduation he has taken on two jobs. His former job was interpreting between Chinese and Italian at the Formosa International Poetry Festival in Tamsui. At the event, he acquainted poets, professors and entrepreneurs. His present job is teaching English at a senior high school. For him, these two jobs are primarily a means of accumulating work experience, so their pay is not his main concern. After finishing his job as a substitute teacher, he plans to gain more work experience at a foreign trade company where he can learn how business works.

In the future, Limo Chang hopes to live as an expat in Europe and obtain his master's degree at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. In fact, he already received an offer from the Master's Degree Program in European, American and Postcolonial Language and Literature. He sees himself in the future working at a foreign trade company where he can put his language skills and cultural knowledge to full use.



James, Limo, and Jenny meeting at a cafe in Hsinchu (Photo provided by Limo Chang) Shelly Yang (2019)

When Shelly graduated, she was certain what she was going to do, and did not feel insecure or anxious. She began the internship at China Post starting from her second semester in her senior year; therefore, she is now a journalist.

Every day she has to write five articles: two in Chinese and three in English. Depending on the necessity, sometimes she translates the two Chinese articles into English to produce bilingual articles. Sometimes, she has to go to a press conference to write a news report, but five articles are the minimum requirement. The workload is heavy, and she does not have much time for herself. However, since she named the salary before taking the job, she feels that she is adequately paid. She takes on this job with a positive spirit, knowing that she is someone who has just entered society and there is much to learn. Moreover, the working environment is good. Her colleagues are friendly and her managers give suggestions on how things can be improved rather than directly scold her.

When asked about whether she feels stuck in a mundane routine of schedules or whether she feels motivated by a high calling, she said that many of her articles are about local tourism in Taiwan, with foreigners as the target audience. Thus, she thinks of her job as a way of promoting Taiwanese tourism.

The abilities required in her job include good English skills, being able to cope with pressure, and knowing how to prioritize one's work to make sure that nothing is accidentally left unattended to. If she could recommend this job to someone, it would be 1) those who are good at coping with stress, 2) those who are curious about everything and would like to learn about anything, and 3) those who like to read a lot. She also brought up the personality traits a journalist must have, i.e. they must be quick in response and fast in thought. Though she sees herself as an introverted person who prefers to ponder on things and reflect in solitude, she believes that it is possible to foster different personality nevertheless.



Shelly Yang (Photo provided by Shelly Yang)

Angela Wu (2019)

Angela graduated from the English Department in June this year and now works in the music section of Eslite Bookstore. She started taking on part-time jobs and internships when she was in college; for this reason, she had a very mature outlook on how life would be like once college ended. "Even before I graduated, I knew that I would not be as happy going to work as I would be in college. Because once you start working, the time you have for yourself decreases, and you must think about many practical matters such as how to earn more money, whether this job is helpful for your future career or not," Angela said.

She advises undergraduate students to begin thinking about what they want to do after graduation, starting from the third year of college. "If you only start thinking about these matters after you graduate or at the very end of the last year, oftentimes your plans cannot catch up with what you want to do in the future. If you plan to work at a corporation, you might want to start being an intern there in your senior year. If you want to go to graduate school or study abroad, you also must start preparing in advance," Angela suggested.

The courses we choose, the clubs we participate in, and the part-time jobs we take on can heavily influence our career trajectory. Angela mentioned that oftentimes recruiters look for candidates with noticeable experiences that serve as proof of qualification. If we do not meet certain requirements, it is difficult to convince others that we are fit for a position. Therefore, the earlier we start thinking about our career the wiser.

The truth is that the chances of finding an ideal job right after college are fairly low. The alumni who have achieved professionalism and prosperity in their career either pursued a higher degree or gained more experiences in the workforce before landing in their ideal job. Though the English Department provides a considerable amount of training and practice, it does not mean that graduates can walk out of college and get any job they want. The gap between what is taught at an institute and what is required for professionals in the workplace is present in all career paths. In university, students should not merely be expected to learn a set of skills, but to learn how to learn, which will enable them to cope with various situations in work and empower them in further studies.

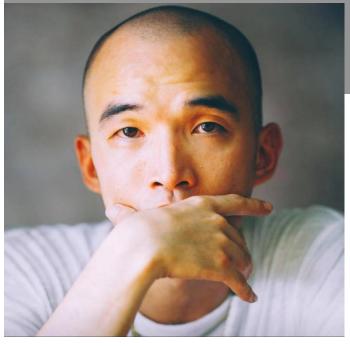


Angela Wu (Photo provided by Angela Wu)

Accepting the Past to Meet the Future: Talking with Author

Owen Wen

By James Tseng



(Photo provided by Owen Wen)

Short Bio of Owen Wen

Having grown up with schizophrenic parents, Owen Wen was used to listening to his father talking about his political fantasies and his mother talking about how she has other siblings who share a different father. During each psychotic episode, it was his maternal grandmother who would protect him from the aggression of his parents.

Though he had a tumultuous childhood that deeply scarred him, he later met people and teachers who shaped the course of his life significantly. After graduating from the Department of English Literature and Language, he pursued a master's degree in criminology at National Taipei University. In a teaching audition, the smiles on the students' faces evoked his college aspiration of becoming a teacher. After working with the non-profit organization Teach for Taiwan, he has continued to teach at a placement institute for children and youth.

In his memoir, Walking Through the Lands Barren of Love, he not only recalls the traumatic moments early in his life but also records the happy moments with his parents. The book is a daunting journey of self-realization and closure-seeking. One of my favorite lines from the book is, "If hatred is hydrogen peroxide to clean the wound, then letting go is a chance to let it scab." In the short interview below, I asked Owen about his motivation for writing this memoir and the biggest takeaways from the book.

Can you briefly introduce yourself to let the readers of the Department Newsletter get to know you better?

Normally people say, "Introduce yourself to others," but I prefer saying "Tell people something about yourself." When we say introduce ourselves, it's as if we must talk about our achievements and the positive aspects of our life. But for me, it's only sharing some things relevant to my life. What I mostly say in my self-introduction now is that I am a teacher at a placement institute for children and youth.

What made you want to write the book in the first place

Both of my parents are schizophrenic. The society has a one-sided understanding of schizophrenia. Most people understand it as a disease which causes the patient to show aggression to other people.

Now that I am in a better condition and have got my life back in order, I hope to provide others with my side of the story to let readers understand this disease in a more well-rounded manner. People won't feel ashamed to let others know that they have a cold. However, under many conditions, if your parents are schizophrenic or if they are felons or sex workers or any other of the kind which I do not have enough time to mention, you live under the pressure that society gives you in addition to the burden that you bear from your family. And I think that kind of stereotype is unnecessary. Therefore, this book, in a subvert way, serves to some stereotypes surrounding schizophrenia.

What are some internal or external obstacles that you encountered during the writing process?

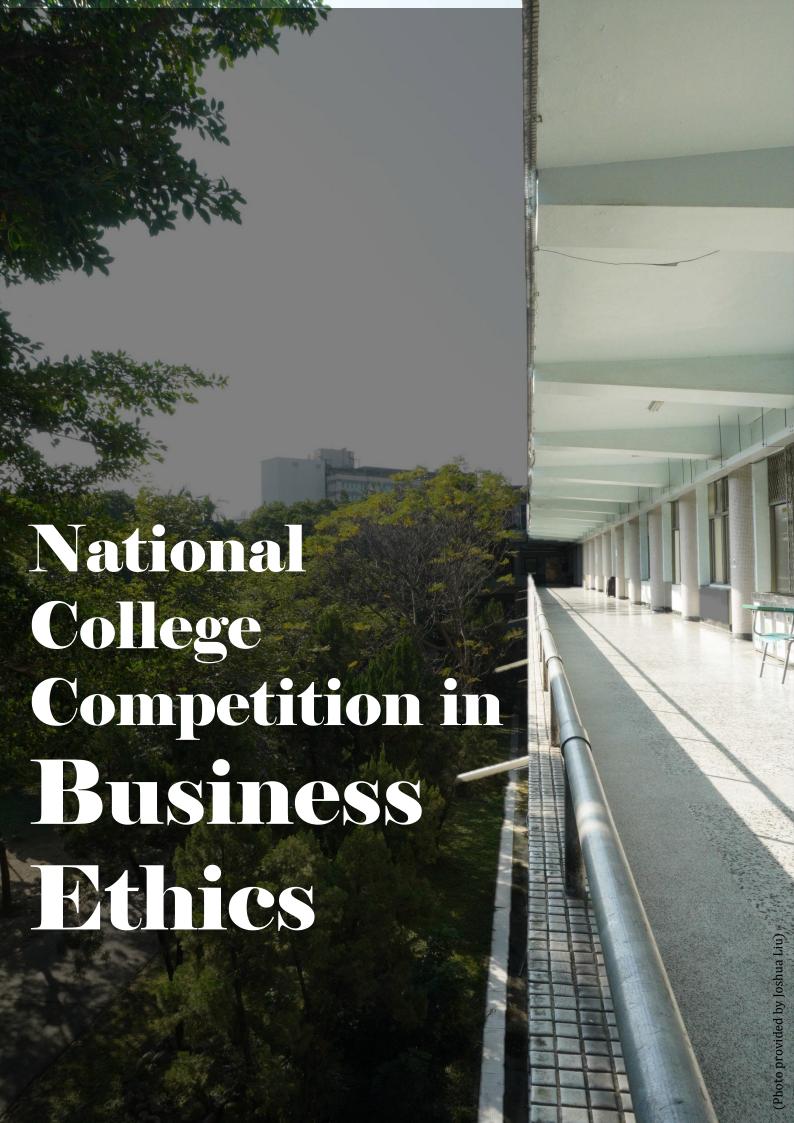
What I want to do is fully represent the life of a schizophrenic in my book. However, when I tried to recall the daily interactions between me and my parents, I found it very difficult because these were very rare occasions. Therefore, when I was writing this part, I had to interview my parents and listen to the story of their past.

When you publish a book like this, people often think of it as a motivational book. To me, this idea is absurd. If I indeed managed to overcome any great obstacle in my life, I think this is because at every stage of life I have always made an effort to accept my emotions. I was not in a rush to "get better" or find an exit to all my problems. During the four years of college, I learned that sometimes we have to learn to wait, to accept ambiguity, despite not knowing when you will find the exit to the problems in your life (someday). This is a kind of acceptance towards oneself.

After my work was published, many people thought of it as a motivational book and started recommending it to people whom they thought needed it. This, to me, is very violent. When I am in my lows, I don't need anybody to tell me how they dealt with their life problems or whatnot. What I need is someone to be at my side, listen to me, and hand me some tissue when I cry. I need a genuine company. This is something I really never expected (the fact that people think of it as a motivational book).

What do you think is the biggest takeaway from the book?

I would return to the word "acceptance" because everyone has been hurt by their family in some way. The reason why I have chosen to come face-to-face with my trauma is that I hope to live more integrally and freely. To do that, I must examine how I grew up, how I was nurtured and at the same time. how I was both intentionally unintentionally hurt. I think the reason behind digging these things out is to let myself live more freely and accept myself more. The book is valuable if it can serve as a good example for others on their road self-exploration self-healing. of and



NCCBE Part I:

Multiculturalism as a Useful Tool for a Better Understanding of Ethics

By Léo Soler

Since 2011, the College of Technology Management at National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) in Hsinchu has held an annual inter-university competition to maintain and to promote the instruction of business ethics. In the National College Competition in Business Ethics (NCCBE), competitors choose between case analysis or microfilms exams, both executed in the Chinese language. However, the 2019 NCCBE, for the first time since its creation, offered an English Case Analysis competition to allow international students and non-Chinese speakers to take part in the event. Because of this, "The Europeans" team representing Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU) could apply and compete in the 2019 NCCBE.

At the beginning of October, team members decided to compete. They said, "We decided to participate in this competition because we had the opportunity to make encounters, instructive debates, and group discussions. All of these build on multiculturalism and ethical principles. It was very attractive to us."

Indeed, any student currently enrolled in a Bachelor (BA) or Master (MA) degree program was eligible to take part in the NCCBE. The only condition of the application was that each team must have at least three students, with a maximum of seven members (inter-school and inter-department teamups were allowed). "The Europeans" NCCBE team consisted of Elise Baratte and Astrid Levivier (both from France) in the Management Department of FJCU, David Eherler and Lisa Bauer (both from Germany), and Gabrielle Dubuis and Leo Soler (also from France) in the English Department of FJCU.

On October 15, two team members were required to attend the Ethical English Case Analysis workshop, but each team had the right to add another team member to the lecture attendance list, and the Europeans decided that the more team members would go, the better it will be, so three members headed to Hsinchu that day.

At the College of Technology Management of NTHU, the competitors were seated in a large lecture hall, happily discussing and mingling before the beginning of the workshops. In order to enhance camaraderie, the speakers showed the willingness to make personal contact with as many students as possible.

The first speaker, Ying-Che Hsieh, is an associate professor from the NTHU's Institute of Technology Management. He based his lecture on a recent case that a Chinese company had to face, reinforcing how real, ethical dilemmas can appear dangerously quickly and cause the failure of a previously stable company. By including a series of key questions at the end of the given document (the case), the participants could understand clearly ethical and business-related dilemmas that the company was facing: the wrongful side versus the stakeholders.

After some debates and discussions about ethics in operating businesses, Mr. Hsieh also tried to help the students define the grey areas, those places of pushing the boundaries but not breaking the law. These grey zones or grey areas are extremely difficult to deal with for many different reasons, but especially because they often touch upon sectors that are not completely covered by the law yet. With the evolution of technology and especially of artificial intelligence (AI), the ethics of responsibility are particularly acute. For example, if a car accident occurs while the driver is using the autopilot function of his vehicle, who is responsible for the incident: the driver, the company selling the technology, or the designers of the autopilot function?

The second speaker, Shih-Ching Liu, is a research director from the College of Commerce Sinyi School, National Chengchi University. He presented upon a large variety of tools and ideas for conducting an ethical analysis and how to organize the ideas in one. He demonstrated that ethical analysis isn't really based on one technique, nor is there only one way of accomplishing it. He emphasized that one of the main difficulties in an ethical business case analysis is to take into account as many factors as possible and to cover the ethical issue as completely as possible. The ethical issue often happens suddenly. The company

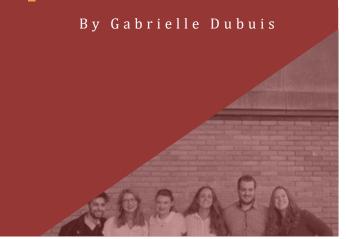
has to make an extremely fast decision and wasting time is a luxury that executives and managers can't afford.

At the end of the workshops, the competitors came to understand that debating in English with students from around the world was an excellent approach to ethics in the business world for one main reason: such cross-cultural interactions participants to open their minds and to reflect on ethics in new ways. Indeed, even people from the same nation don't think the same way, and people from different nations don't necessarily disagree. In fact, a person may feel more secure working with someone who is living on the other side of the world than with a neighbor. Ariana Chang said when asked, "Why did NTHU choose to inaugurate English Case Analysis after almost ten years of keeping the event exclusively Chinese-oriented?", she responded that the NCCBE organization wanted to make the competition a cross-cultural experience, to have the students listen to totally different points of view on the and to make students' same topic, comprehension of ethics more complete.



"The Europeans".
From left to right: Élise Baratte,
Gabrielle Dubuis, Astrid Levivier,
David Eherler, Lisa Bauer, Léo Soler.
(Photo provided by Leo Soler)

NCCBE Part II: The Day of the Competition



Friday, December 11th was a very important day for the team The Europeans, which composed of Lisa Bauer, Léo Soler, David Eherler, Astrid Levivier, Elise Barrate, and Gabrielle Dubuis. Indeed, after several weeks of preparations, discussions, stress and a lot of work, the day of the "National College Competition of Business Ethics and Microfilms" has finally arrived. The competition took place at National Tsing Hua University in Hsinchu City, located on more than an hour by bus from the capital.

The team decided to talk about biotechnology and the ethical problems that modifying the DNA of the embryos could bring while trying to bring a business point of view. During an interview, Elise, one of the team members explained that this theme was taken because everyone thought that almost no team would take it and that it would benefit The Europeans. It was a fairly new field for The Europeans because the team members were either studying foreign languages, finance or management, but no one was studying a subject related to biotechnology.

The group arrived at National Tsing Hua University and entered the building where the competition took place. Fortunately, members from the team had already come here before, which allowed them to save time finding their way. The meeting was fixed at 9 am. When the team arrived, someone had to take a number to know the order of passage of the teams. The Europeans were the penultimate among the 9 teams, so they had to wait until the afternoon to make their presentation. Before the competition, no one had an idea of what to expect how the day was going happen.

Three competitions took place at the same time in an amphitheater: the business ethic competition in Chinese, in English and the microfilms competition, so it were a lot of people. For an hour in the amphitheater, a woman introduced the teams to all the competition judges and reminded them of the rules of the presentation: each team had exactly 10 minutes to present their work and then, 7 minutes for questions and answers with the judges. Later, some judges gave speeches, but mainly in Chinese.

Around 10 am, all of the groups joined the class in which their competition took place. During the following two hours, 6 teams presented their works in front of four judges and all the other teams. Indeed, when the other teams were presenting their analysis, all of the participants had to stay in the audience and listen to it. It dawned on The Europeans that the level was really high after the first presentation was given.

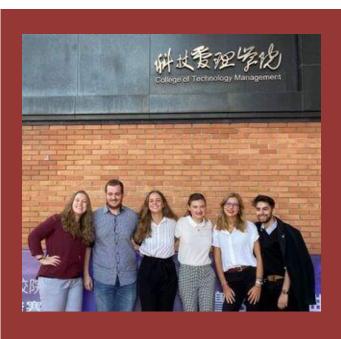
In an interview with Leo, the group leader of The Europeans, he said, "Everyone had the feeling that the competition was taking place in a good atmosphere. People from different teams spoke and encouraged each other all day long."

At this moment, The Europeans realized that other teams had taken the same theme as them, probably for the same reason, and it increased the stress because the competition among teams was strengthened. After the lunch break, the competition started again, and it was finally The Europeans' turn! The team had previously decided that only three of them should speak: Léo made an introduction in order to present the members of the team, the plan of the presentation and the questions that Lisa and David would answer later. After that, Lisa and David talked about their case analysis which the team had created. They tried to give the audience as many details as possible in a very short time: only 10 minutes to cover 25 pages of analysis. The case analysis stood out from the others because the team kept the business side. David made a survey that intrigued a lot of the judges. It was a way to know the opinion of different countries on the question of the modification of embryos. In the questions and answers part, the questions were complex, for example, "What would be the most ethical choice and the best compromise?" However, the team members managed to respond to the questions very effectively.

At 4 pm, all the teams had passed and they had an hour break while the judges were deliberating. Meanwhile, Léo, the team leader, had been interviewed about his feelings toward the competition. It was another new exercise and a new challenge for him!

Finally, the hour of the results arrived! The teams from other competitions were rewarded first so the time of waiting was really unbearable! Three teams received the congratulations from the jury before the announcement of the top 3. The Europeans were not in these three teams congratulated, so they were either in the last three or in the first three. Here is the result: FIRST PLACE! They went on stage to receive the award. The prize for the first place was a trophy and a bank not to be shared between the members of the team.

Leo shared his impressions about the competition at the end of the day: "It was a lot of emotions and happiness after so many hours of work. Many people congratulated us when we joined the stage. Benevolence was always present. All of the participants and judges spent a lot of time taking pictures with the participants and the winning teams. It was a moment when everyone's stress was gone and good humor and relief were present. As our team is composed of only foreign students from France and Germany, it was incredible for us to win an award in Taiwan in a field as complicated as biotechnology."



"The Europeans" (Photo provided by Gabrielle Dubuis)

Annual Speech Contest: Who is the Best Speaker?



Photographed and written by Gbrielle Dubuis

On Wednesday, December 11th, seven students participated in a competition at Fu Jen Catholic University: The annual English speech contest. They made a speech on the theme "No one is an island". The purpose of this competition is very important, indeed, the winner would have to undertake the mission of representing Fu Jen Catholic University in a bigger speech competition held in China.

This event took place for 16 years. This year, Kevin Tseng and Edward Yu, two junior students in the English Department, were the organizers. They were assigned at the beginning of the semester to be the coordinators of the competition.

During an interview with Kevin, he explained that the purpose of this competition is "to discover talented English-speaking students and to cultivate their speaking abilities in front of the audience."

In addition, students have the opportunity to be judged by professors from the English Department and to receive real feedback on their performance and advice for the future.

The speech contest is also where participants work on building up self-confidence because it is very difficult for most students to express themselves orally in front of the audience, especially in a foreign language. In the future, people will all have to speak in front of others and receive an evaluation, so it is essential that people practice and overcome the fear of expressing themselves.

Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in the number of participants in recent years. On the competition day, there were more people in the audience than contestants. In fact, the competition is open to the whole campus. It is not exclusive to English majors, rather, it provides all students, including foreign students, with a chance to practice English and improve their public speaking skills.

Here was another good piece of news that could motivate some people to register. First, second and third place contestants were entitled to rewards. This year, the prizes were 8000 NTD for the first place, 6000 NTD for the second and 3500 NTD for the third.

Alice Huang was one of the participants this year. She is a 22-year-old English major. When asked about her motivation, she said that last year she was one of the audience and the competition inspired her to try. She also mentioned that the English speech contest was a very interesting challenge for her and it was her first competition experience in college.

The fact that the competition is open to the public (which is not the case for many competitions) is an advantage because it encourages every student in FJCU to participate in the event on an annual basis.

The judges this year were Dr. Basourakos, Dr. Lee, and Father Bauer. They gave the participants feedback as well as encouragement, reminding them of the importance of knowing how to express themselves orally and adopt the right attitude in presenting to the public. For example, one of the judges mentioned that all of the participants were well dressed and it was a positive point.

The competition started at 12:50 pm and ended at 5:00 pm. The event was opened by a female host who gave an opening speech and explained the

rules.

One side of the room was reserved for the audience -those who wanted to attend and watch the competition (who were likely to be future participants) - and the other side was for the participants.

Each year, a theme is assigned before the competition so that participants can prepare their speech in advance. This year, the topic was "No Man is an Island". It is the title of a poem written by John Donne in 1624. This quote means that no one is alone and everyone relies on one or more communities consist of other people.

Seven students delivered their speech on this subject without scripts, due to the competition policy. Furthermore, the participants were not to speak for more than 3 minutes and 30 seconds. Therefore, they should know their speech well in order to avoid wasting time and to speak fluently without any stress.

Schedules were well respected and there were several sessions during the competition: sessions in which students delivered their speech, as well as a few breaks to let the judges calculate the score.

The first place went to Zama-ekile Lukhele, a 20-year-old foreign student from Swaziland, which is a country located next to South Africa. She studies at the Public Health Department and learned about the competition through EngNet, a university website that brings together all the English self-study activities of the year.

In the interview, she explained that she had already participated in this type of event when she was in high school and that she wanted to do it again here in FJCU. Fortunately, it turned out to be the right decision!



Mandy Lee is a senior at the Fu Jen Catholic University English Department, and she is the director of this year's Senior Play. The play this year is "Golden Child," a play written by David Henry Hwang. The play is inspired by his family story, a drama about religion and family. I had the honor to work with her as a photographer in this year's crew, which gives me personal perspective of the play and a close up observation of how Lee manages the whole team together.

Lee relates to this play personally because she grew up abroad with a very traditional Chinese grandma on her father's side, and a Christian grandma on her mother's side. Growing up in such a family, she sometimes wonders how the older generation adhere to their traditions, and see younger generations deviate from said traditions. She points out that thinking wise, we are far more individualized older in comparison to our generations. She wants to challenge us Fu Jen Catholic Department students to understand our own history, think about the privileges and comfort we have right now and how it came to be, and more importantly, how do we pass on this tradition, and reflect this collective history we share?

According to Lee, being a director is a high-pressure position since this is her first time being a director, and having no experience doing so is also a huge challenge for her. She thinks that every director has their own style of directing, so the role of being a director comes with how she interprets the script. Sometimes she worries if she would leave out important parts by making a certain decision, but that is the cost that comes with being in such a position. As opposed to being an audience, being a director has to see the play holistically, not just focusing on the drama itself. For instance, she has to take into account how the lighting, sound, costume, and the set design helps the play, not to mention the administrative, logistic part of managing the play.





When asked how she manages her team, her immediate answer is trust. According to Lee, she trusts her team wholeheartedly, and that is a crucial foundation that keeps the crew going. The team members are connected through social media platforms, and share cloud storage so that everyone can have access to all the resources that the crew has. In addition, every member of the team is notified whenever a detail is altered, and has a chatroom so that the message is instantly delivered when there's an emergency. On how she supervises her actors, she makes sure that everyone understands the script, knows their character well, and asks them to write character autobiographies. Contrary to the belief that actors spend most of the time rehearsing, they actually spend more time understanding the characters. Some actors take longer to get into character, so it's her duty to make sure everyone is one the same page when they are on stage.



(Photo provided by Joshua Liu)





The theme of the production this year is very Oriental, not what you would expect in a typical English department play production. By choosing such a play, Lee hopes that it can add a familiar touch to the production, bringing the audience and the crew back to a familiar culture, space, and time.

Midsummer Night's Team By Emily Chu and Tyler Wang

Featuring *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, the 2019 Freshman Play took place on the first Thursday of December in College Theater, Fu Jen Catholic University. Presented by first-year English majors and literature professor Dr. Bellew, the literature class activity aimed at encouraging participants to combine literature study with theatrical experience.

The Freshman Play has long been a department tradition among English majors for the Introduction to Literature course. Students are divided into several groups, in which they will compete with one another and receive evaluation based on their production. The assigned play script differs each year depending on the lecturer's decision. Following last year's *Antigone* and 2017's *Into the Woods*, Professor Bellew selected William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* not only for its literary significance, but also the expectation for students' portrayal of fictional creatures.

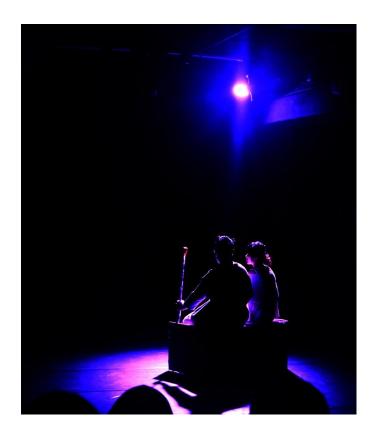
"It would be fun to see the performers adapt to characters like fairies, and it's a classic," says professor Bellew.



In celebration of the annual Freshman Play, First-year students from Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU) English department gathered in the College Theater on December 5, 2019, to showcase their own rendition of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.



The performers, on the other hand, showed interest in the interpretation of modern love in A Midsummer Night's Dream. According to Bernie, the portrayer of the love-troubled Demetrius, the plot had a rather unconventional perspective towards romantic relationships: "If you no longer love, then leave," he comments. "It is full of plot twists, a very special love story ahead of its time," said Airy, who played one of the fairy roles.



In producing the performance mostly on their own, freshmen students had shown concern regarding technical challenges. Based on an interview done with the prop crew, prop-making was indeed a labor-consuming task, especially for objects of larger size and mass, which was difficult to design and move around. Having said that, the members enjoyed the process of team-work, celebrating the creative process in the meanwhile.

All of the teams have demonstrated their own interpretation of Shakespeare's romance comedy through a 2-hour performance that drew cheering and applause.

Comedy is the hardest, its even harder than tragedy.

"I want you guys to give yourself one last round of applause," said Professor Bellew in his final speech, "Because you guys pulled it off, and pulled it together really, really well."

The curtains may have closed, but the participants are yet to begin their journey. The tradition of the Freshman Play provides first-year students with not only the practical experience of theater production, but also a chance to explore the possibilities at the very beginning of college life.





Club Exhibition: Explore Your Funiverse



By Jenny Lin

The Club Exhibition, with the theme "Explore Your Funiverse", took place at Fong Hua Square from the 16th to the 20th of September, 2019.

Actually, this swag slang "Funiverse" combines "Fu Jen Catholic University" with "Universe". The name suggests its meaning—the club exhibition was presented as a universe, with different club genres representing different galaxies. For example, there were the Sport Galaxy, Music Galaxy, Art Galaxy, Leisure Galaxy, Service Galaxy, and Academic Galaxy. This is not a coincidence. The metaphor has also been used in the theme of the 2019 graduation ceremony. Basically, it implied that students who graduated have explored the universe of knowledge, and it is time that we lead the freshmen to explore the universe of clubs.

The successful club exhibition couldn't be completed without the Office of Student Affairs-Division of Student Activities. There was a group of teachers and students working here together to put up such a big event. In the past, it was teachers being the chief organizer, but in recent years, the responsibility has fallen onto students.

They began the preparation since July, to come up with the theme and divide people into different groups in charge of administration, promotion, and performance. After the work was divided, they started to design related-activities to attract students to take a look at the club exhibition, for example, give away gifts by drawing lots. On the other hand, looking for sponsors off-campus was also essential for holding the event.

This year, they got sponsorship from Coca Cola, Woori Korean Food Kitchen, Juice Bar, Sunac Marsh Dress, and other corporations. Each sponsor offered its own benefits to FJCU students. For instance, students could share a certain post on Facebook and drink Coca-Cola the whole day for free, or they could show the page of a brochure to get discounts from stores. The purpose of cooperating with nearby stores is to enhance students' interest in joining the club exhibition and meanwhile satisfy their daily needs.



According to Lin Wei-Hung, the club advisor who was responsible for the exhibition, the main target of this event is freshmen. The purpose is to provide information for them so that they can get an idea of what kinds of clubs they can join. However, since the majority of freshmen had not entered the university before the semester started, the organizers had to promote the event in as many ways as possible, including posting information on the school website, Facebook fan page, and Instagram, as well as pasting posters on the school bulletins.

"It was interesting that most of the students who replied to the Facebook fan page were sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They wanted to get a chance to win prizes as well as spread the news of this event, so they shared the post and left comments," said Mr. Lin.

According to Wang Pin-Zhi (Luke), the chief organizer for the club exhibition, there were some obstacles during preparation and promotion.



(Photo provided by Jenny Lin)

Firstly, since the preparation time was during the summer vacation, it was hard to hold a face-to-face meeting. "We had online meetings instead, but it was still hard to find an available time for all of us," said Luke, "I suggest that in the future, we start the preparation two weeks earlier."

Secondly, the people helping out for this event were not sufficient. Therefore, sometimes they missed the time of walking the school mascot, Licca, in the afternoon to promote the club exhibition. If they had had more people to help out, they would not have spent too much time dressing the costume.

Thirdly, while they were looking for sponsors, it occurred that many stores and restaurants had already signed the sponsoring contract with some individual clubs.



(Photo provided by Jenny Lin)

Luke thought that it would be more efficient if the "sponsor hunting work" fell on them and each club only focused on recruiting new club members. "This is to prevent the sponsors from having to subsidize the event twice," Luke said.

When asked about what changes they want to make for the club exhibition in the future, Mr. Lin replied that the form of the exhibition is hard to alter due to the school rules. However, they can indeed make changes in other aspects like designing relevant games or giving different prizes to participants. Luke also mentioned that it had come to his mind that many clubs could have a collaborative performance to draw the eyes of the audience; yet, he realized that this idea came with some challenges. "It is difficult for club members to meet during the summer vacation, not to mention discussing the collaborative performance across clubs."

Something You Need to Know about the FJCU Christmas Lighting Event

By Gabrielle Dubuis

Each year, Fu Jen Catholic University organizes many important events. At the beginning of December, when Christmas season approaches, the university celebrates the holiday with colorful lightings on buildings and trees and nativity scenes.

In the past when winter approaches, people used fires and candles to cope with the long nights and shortening days. Little by little, Christians have attached these lights to a very important religious symbol: The Star of Bethlehem. This is also the star that people hang on the top of our Christmas trees each year-- the heavenly sign of a fulfilled prophecy and the hope for all humanity.

That is why Fu Jen Catholic University decorates every corner on campus, from the roundabouts to the facades of buildings, with dazzling Christmas lights. This tradition has been passed down and organized by the school church for the past 11 years.

Mr. Tsai, a teacher in Campus Ministry Center, who works at the Sacred Heart Parish, said these decorations are also intended to educate people. Indeed, many Taiwanese hold the misbelief that Christmas is a holiday to celebrate the birth of Santa Claus, rather than Jesus Christ. It is in line with this purpose that a nativity scene is placed in front of the church itself.

In addition, students can attach a small card with a message or a prayer they find important. This allows the church to understand what they are concerned about and talk about it during a mass. Most of the time, the messages are about love and relationships. Moreover, it allows people who work at the church to know how many people are attending the illuminations. On average between 18,000 and 20,000 people write cards each year.



(Photo provided by Gabrielle Dubuis)

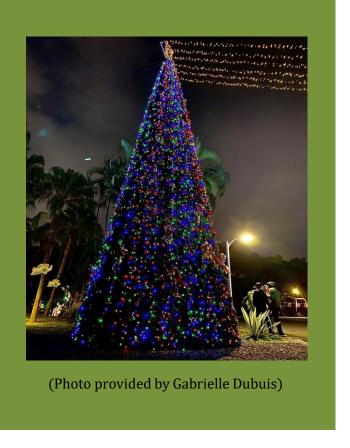
Regarding Christmas illuminations, each year the university must choose a theme. Last year the theme was « Pass the Love onto Others », this year the theme that has been chosen is « United in Joy ». In Taiwan, there are 48 Catholic schools, including elementary schools, high schools, and universities, they divest the themes so that they don't have the same one.

On Monday, December 2nd, the lights were on for the first time; it was a very mirthful moment. With joyful music, shining stars, and twinkling lights, the campus filled with Christmas spirits, and magic was in the air. As for decoration, deers were placed on the roundabout with a large fire tree decorated with red and blue lights. The building of management was also decorated with hearts and lights of all colors.

Furthermore, the lights and the nativity scene would remain in place until the first week of January. In other words, students and people who are working in Fu Jen Catholic University could have one month to enjoy the Christmas decorations.

This year is especially important and special because the faculty is celebrating the university's 50th anniversary. Its birthday is officially set on December 8th. Therefore, for the occasion of this big event, the government asked the university to keep its lights until the Chinese New Year in February.

Of course, the university needs financial means to achieve all of this celebration. Therefore, the Alumni Association gives donations to help organize the event every year. However, to prevent such meaningful equipment from being wasted, on the one hand, FJCU reuses the lights every year, while on the other hand tries to buy new lights every once in a while.



The question "Do you know the origin of these illuminations?" was asked to several persons in FJCU; yet, none of them knew the origins of these illuminations. Nevertheless, they believed that the origin takes part in the magic of Christmas They enjoyed walking in the middle of the lights in the evening.

However, the theme of the illuminations was not clearly shown, so many of the students were not even aware of its existence; it was rather a pity because the choice of decorations mattered a lot.

Something great about the nativity scene is that all the students interviewed, even foreign students had written or were going to write a card that they would put in the nativity scene. It is, therefore, a tradition that is considered important.

According to Mr. Tsai, this tradition will continue for many years, there is no question in that. It is really good news because the students and the teachers will be able to enjoy for a long time these beautiful lights and this Christmas spirit.

Carol Singing Competition: Enjoy Christmas Together with Different Foreign Cultures

Written and photographed by Hannah Yu

Freshmen from the College of Foreign Languages participated in carol singing competition which was held at Fr. Franz Giet Building hall, on December 4, 2019.

In Christmas carols were sung in Japanese, English, German, Spanish, French, and Italian. This long tradition of school aims to train students to work together and evoke Christmas spirits. In the competition, students were divided into groups by their departments, in which they would compete with one another and be evaluated based on their overall performance. The criteria include the creativity of their team costume, how they express the meaning of the song, and the quality of their teamwork. The chosen songs vary according to the team leaders' decision and each song represents the cultural meanings of Christmas in different countries.

"Our chosen song is meant to express the wonderful atmosphere of Christmas and the importance of love in human lives," said Mia, one of the team leaders from the English Department. Freshmen students also showed their positive feedbacks toward the event. Franca, who is a freshman from the Italian Department said, "Thanks to this event, I've gotten to know that carol singing is a way that God created for human beings to spread their love and happiness to their families, friends, and lovers." "Although I am not a Catholic or Christian, I appreciate the chance to attend the event with many classmates and teachers which gave me an

unforgettable memory of celebrating Christmas," said Janet, another participant from the Italian Department.

During the preparation period, some freshmen were concerned about the challenge of singing in a foreign language. Except for English majors, most freshmen students just started learning their languages for about two to three months since the beginning of the school year. However, they gradually found out that the event helps them improve their language learning skills, as well as gain more understanding of some Christmas-related stories in various cultures.

At the end of the competition, the hall was filled with laughter and applause. All the students and teachers enjoyed Christmas together. Winning or losing had become unimportant.

"In this Christmas season, the celebration of Jesus's birthday, we are all winners for this game because we are all blessed and graced by Jesus!" said Professor Riutort, a professor from the Spanish Department.





The College of Science & Engineering is expanding and building new laboratories for its students on the site of a former picnic area. The construction started during the summer of 2019 and is planned to be completed for the year of 2021. This project did not win the heart of all students, here at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei, Taiwan.

The picnic area, lying between the College of Foreign Languages and the College of Science & Engineering, was very popular amongst students of the nearby colleges. Sammie, a student of the French Department, described it as a large field of grass where students would sit in circles and eat: "There were no tables, just trees and shrubs, it was a very simple place, but it was so important to us". Indeed, students came here to have lunch, to study, to daydream, to spend time with friends, to sleep.



A classic moment at Lovers' Slope. (Photo by Cecilia Liu)

This calm and peaceful atmosphere made it a place where lovers would meet, and earned it the Chinese name 情人坡, which means "Lovers' Slope". It served many other purposes. This was the place where graduation photos were taken. Three to four times per semester, a large screen would be installed to screen movies. Biology students would always go there after graduation ceremonies to party and have water balloon fights. This is just a short list of all the activities that were held at Lovers' Slope.

Sammie expressed nostalgic feelings for this place, where she called "the most beautiful place on campus." This is where she created memories during her first 4 years at Fu Jen: "Now we eat indoors, it's a real pity, I enjoy sitting out in the sun." You might wonder why it is not possible to just go to another picnic area. James, a student in the English Department, said "There are other fields of grass, for example in front of the College of Liberal Arts, but I don't see many people sitting there, and it's far from our College. I mean, Lovers' Slope was ideal for us, it was so close to our classrooms that we could even go during a 5-minute break".



The construction site: what Lovers' Slope looks like today. (Photo provided by Niels Murawsky)

It seems that that the students were attached to this picnic area, and no other. He added "I think it's such a shame, this construction makes the campus more crowded, because it takes up a previously empty piece of land". This is what most of the students shared with me. What makes this campus so enjoyable is that it is spaced out that there are many green spaces - and the construction of new buildings gives the students the impression that from now on, there will be less and less. In order to get another point of view on all this, the Secretary of the College of Science & Engineering (CSE), Grace Chuang, who is partly responsible for this new construction site was also interviewed.

The first question was: why was this building was being built, and why now? She said that there was a huge lack of space. The CSE is over 50 years old, and the current space was originally designed for one class only, but around 20 years ago, under the government's encouragement, the number of students in the Department doubled. "As you can see if you go to the Biology Department, all the equipment is stored in the corridors, which is actually forbidden by the Government's policies" Grace Chuang added. Another reason for the construction is that the laboratories were getting very old, and the Government recently established new regulations regarding the control of laboratories. She admitted that the first idea was to renovate the labs, but the College did not have sufficient budget to move out all the old equipment, and most importantly, renovating the whole building during summer being impossible, where would the students go in the meantime?

The next question was about the location: was there no other place where they could have built these new labs? Indeed, in a previous interview, Cecilia Liu, a professor in the College of Foreign Languages (CFL), had shared her concern that the CSE had not necessarily considered every option. She was thinking that they could have chosen an alternative place, like for example, the bus parking lot, right at the entrance of the university, not far at all from the CSE. Grace Chuang replied very straightforwardly to that response: "My team and I also enjoyed the picnic area, but it was not the CSE who chose the location, the decision came from above. The school's Board Committee members told us that if we wanted a new building, it had to be built there, at a more central and logical location. Frankly, it's a pity that we couldn't choose our own space." She added that they had also thought about the bus garage: "The university is fighting with the bus company to acquire this lot, but has not won the case yet, and expanding was an urgent matter, so we couldn't wait any longer."

Grace Liu, Coordinator of Internationalization for the CSE, who facilitated the interview by being a translator, explained that she had empathy for the students and faculty staff who were upset about the new construction: "I know that this decision has caused a lot of turmoil, and I understand. I was myself an English Department student and I even had Doctor Murphy's Conversation Class at Lovers' Slope. What a great time that was!" For this exact reason, the CSE did their best to try and find the students a new place like Lovers' Slope, and it looks like the solution has been found. The somewhat useless parking lot between the CSE and Little Paris (the small set of benches in front of the CFL) will be destroyed and transformed into a lawn. This project has recently been approved by the university, and it is only a matter of time now before it sees the light of day. "We first have to finish our building, that is the priority, then we will have to think of another fundraising for the new Lovers' Slope, because it will be financed by the CSE" explained Grace Chuang. There is a 3D plan of what it will look like, but as it is not the final version yet, it is not open to the public.



3D visualization of what the new building will look like. (Photo provided by the College of Science and Engineering)

Throughout these interviews, a history of *Lovers' Slope* was gradually dug up. Back in 1981, *Lovers' Slope* was over at the Textile Department. At another time, when Professor Cecilia Liu was a student at Fu Jen, most of the buildings we know today did not exist and were empty lots instead. Professor Liu would spend time daydreaming on a lawn, and this lawn was actually at the location of the most recent *Lovers' Slope*, the one that this article talks about! Indeed, before landscape architects turned it into a beautiful place, it had for long been just a stretch of grass. This shows us that every generation has its own *Lovers' Slope*, its own place to fulfill recreation and relaxation needs.

A campus evolves with its time, and it *needs* to! In this sense, the development of the College of Science & Engineering is something positive: the new building will enhance the students' technical/professional skills, it will undoubtedly help them develop academically. However, students' and teachers' concern that their campus will eventually lose all its green spaces is understandable, and that there will soon be no more parking lots to destroy to solve this problem. It is crucial to keep empty and open spaces on campus. Every place does not necessarily have to be "used". Before cultivating students, a university cultivates humans; and it is refreshing for one's soul and spirit to walk out of a classroom and see trees and green spaces. Nevertheless, it was heart-warming to learn that the CSE was trying to find an alternative. It is important to look at things from students' perspective, and give them something to look forward to. This new place would not be able to replace their memories, but maybe it is time to accept that feelings were hurt and simply move on.