

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
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指導教授：董多芳老師

Dr. Donna Tong

Reflection on Participating 2020 Department Magazine

學生：熊靖芸撰

Audrey, Jing-Yun Shon

Audrey Shon

406110358

Learning Outcome Demonstration-Department Magazine

Professor Donna Tong

My Reflection on Department Magazine

My experience of working for the department magazine is brilliant and inspiring. At the beginning of senior year, I decided to participate in the production of the department magazine because I have the experience of publishing club magazines in High school, and I liked it a lot.



The cover of our magazine, using collaged style.

It simply brings me happiness upon seeing the articles and photos that went through countless discussions and editing are all put together as a well-organized

printing. Nevertheless, the process of making the department magazine is much more complicated than what I have undergone in high school. Considering that we have to do everything by ourselves now, including designing, layouts, choosing topics for the articles, and editing each others' work.

The advisor of the magazine is Professor Donna Tong, and I appreciate her for giving us full support and yet enough liberty to design everything we want. At the beginning of the course, Prof Donna first gave us a dedicated lecture about journalistic writing and how it should be done. Then she gave most of the meeting time for us to discuss and ponder for what we want to do for the magazine. As the making progresses, she always remembers to remind us to stick to the deadline. She also requires us to use powerpoint slides to report our progress on certain dates and share what we have contributed so that the whole production team can keep up.

Though we need to write one article minimum, many of us choose to write an additional one in order to bring abundance to the content, and I was one of them too. The two articles I wrote are about the music festival originally planned to be launched in May this year on campus, and universities facing shutdown due to declining birth rate in the country. I was a member of the student union on campus this past year, so I wanted to write articles about the current life of university students. In my *article* *"Best Before" to Reach Peace and Comfort: Music Festival on Campus*. I

interviewed a member of the coordinating team because I think that it is both bold and ambitious for them to try to plan a large-scale event like a music festival on the campus. “The team did not figure out all of the events and themes by themselves,” I wrote, “they have cooperated with the student counseling center and they agreed to provide professional advice and services for the audience of the festival. As the interviewee mentioned, this festival focuses on promoting the importance of maintaining mental health with support from surroundings and thus launched a series of related events. These special activities linked to the theme including speeches given by psychologists and experts from specific fields and workshops with association preventing commit suicide or school bullying.” This made me admire them a lot, considering that they have put so much effort in planning all the related events and inviting all the specialists to support them.

“Best Before” to Reach Peace and Comfort: Music Festival on Campus

WORDS BY AUDREY SHON

“Best Before” music festival is planned to be launched on campus in late May, arranged by a coordinating team with students from Fu-Jen trying to make it “more than just a festival.” Publicity director Aki Lim said the organizing team chose this name to remind people to seize and cherish the time now. According to Lim, while there have been other music festivals in Taiwan with different themes, such as Gongsheng Music Festival (to commemorate victims for the 228 incident) or Hsi-feng Festival (to remind people the importance of speaking mother tongue), “Best Before” is the very first festival targeting university students. This festival features famous Taiwanese bands, including Yeemao (夜貓組), Hormone Boys (荷爾蒙少年),

Constanan Change (康士坦的變化組), and Wayne’s so Sad (強心視線). The team cooperated with the student counseling center and the center agreed to provide professional advice and services for the spectators of the festival. This festival focuses on promoting the importance of maintaining mental health with support from the community and thus will launch a series of related events. These special activities linked to the theme include speeches given by psychologists and experts from specific fields and workshops with associations about preventing suicide or school bullying. One of the workshops featured Professor Chang Shu-mei from National Chia-Yi University.

“There are indeed times when we feel lonely and melancholic, but the most important thing is support from family and friends.”
— Aki Lim, publicity director.

Promotional art for the music festival.
ARTWORK BY Best Before Coordinating team.

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Promotional art for the music festival.
ARTWORK BY Best Before Coordinating team.

She is a specialist in education and teenager psychology. In spots on campus. The exhibitions included The Museum of Sad Memories, which allowed students to exhibit one or two objects related to an experience of a sad journey and memories related to their memories of sorrow. The team also plans a few movie exhibitions. The films being played are A Beautiful Mind and Marathon, both bio-pics about people suffering from mental illness who still accomplished great things in their lives. Lim says that in her perspective, being mentally healthy is not just being healthy without mental illness, but reaching a sense of peace and comfort. Apart from the workshops and film showings, the team designed interactive exhibitions at different

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My article about the music festival.

I think that by publishing this article, I will help them promote their event to the readers of our magazine as well. Though the festival is said to be postponed by the time of the completion of this article due to the pandemic, the member that I interviewed still sent her sincere invitation to those who had an interest in participating in the campaigns. She also said that the pre-sale tickets had already sold out considering there were participation limits, but there are still be a few entrance tickets provided on the day of the festival, and she looked forward to seeing readers of the magazine to join in their festival on that day. While I was writing this reflection, I received a notification saying that the event will be postponed to the end of the year or even the beginning of next year. I will not be on campus by that time and will probably have no time to join them as well, but I believe that the outcome will surely be a memorable one.

As for my second article, I wrote an article for the news section about the universities facing shutdown due to declining birth rate in the country, because I think this news is crucial and might affect the government's policy. I shared the news about a school in eastern Taiwan that issued a notification to the press, saying that they will stop accepting new students after September 2021. In my opinion, the reason that led to this consequence is that the government in the 90s tried to extend the number of

university graduates by starting many universities and colleges, but they did not consider that the birth rate would soon start to fall in the late 90s. In recent decades, many higher education institutes are facing shutdown, transformation, or merging due to the impact of the declining birth rate. These schools were all once prosperous and have thousands of students on campus. However, the deducting number of newborn babies every year leads to a decreasing number of students and thus makes these schools start to suffer from a lower registration rate and less tuition revenue and encounter obstacles when practicing different policies on campus, which make some struggle to survive. I think this topic is of vital importance for the university students nowadays, so I decide to put it in the magazine.

In the production team, each person has to write at least one article and copy-edit at least two, and we still have our own roles as publicity, art design, section editors, or layout designers. Therefore, there is actually a lot of work waiting to be completed on time, and it is necessary that all of us have to finish our work on time.

The meeting time for the team is scheduled at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Though we did not have an adequate amount of time compared with other courses, we still seized our chance to put every bit of our effort into the production of the magazine. My task in the team is the section editor for the campus section, and I worked happily together with other editors. I appreciate other peers for being

understanding and always remember to help each other catch up when there's someone being absent. It is a pity that we are not able to sell the magazine on campus in person due to the pandemic, but I think it is in the published magazines, not in the way we sell it, that our hard work will be seen.

To sum up, I really enjoyed the process of working for the department magazine. I think the team member had cooperated together and solved many obstacles and difficulties standing in the way. All, in all, I am lucky enough to have hard-working and negotiable peers that assists me to complete all the tasks of being a section editor, and I'm thankful to all the peers and professors who have assisted the team during the production period.



Staff of the department magazine 2021